

Progress Report 2023



**Humana
People to People Laos**

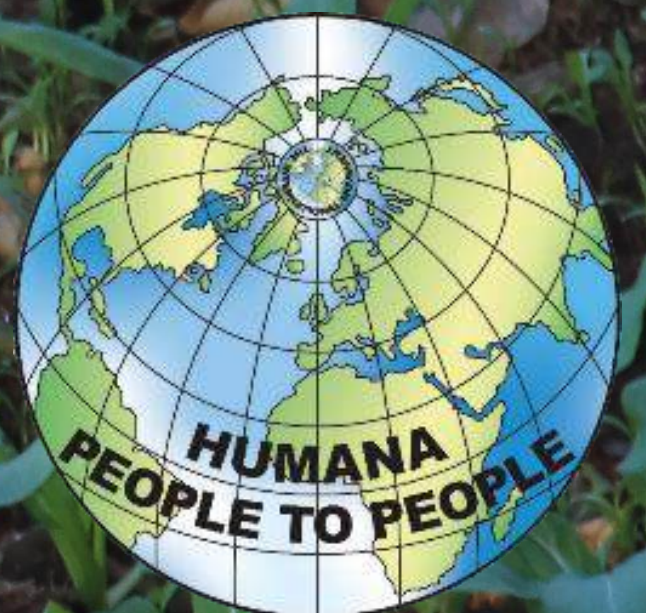


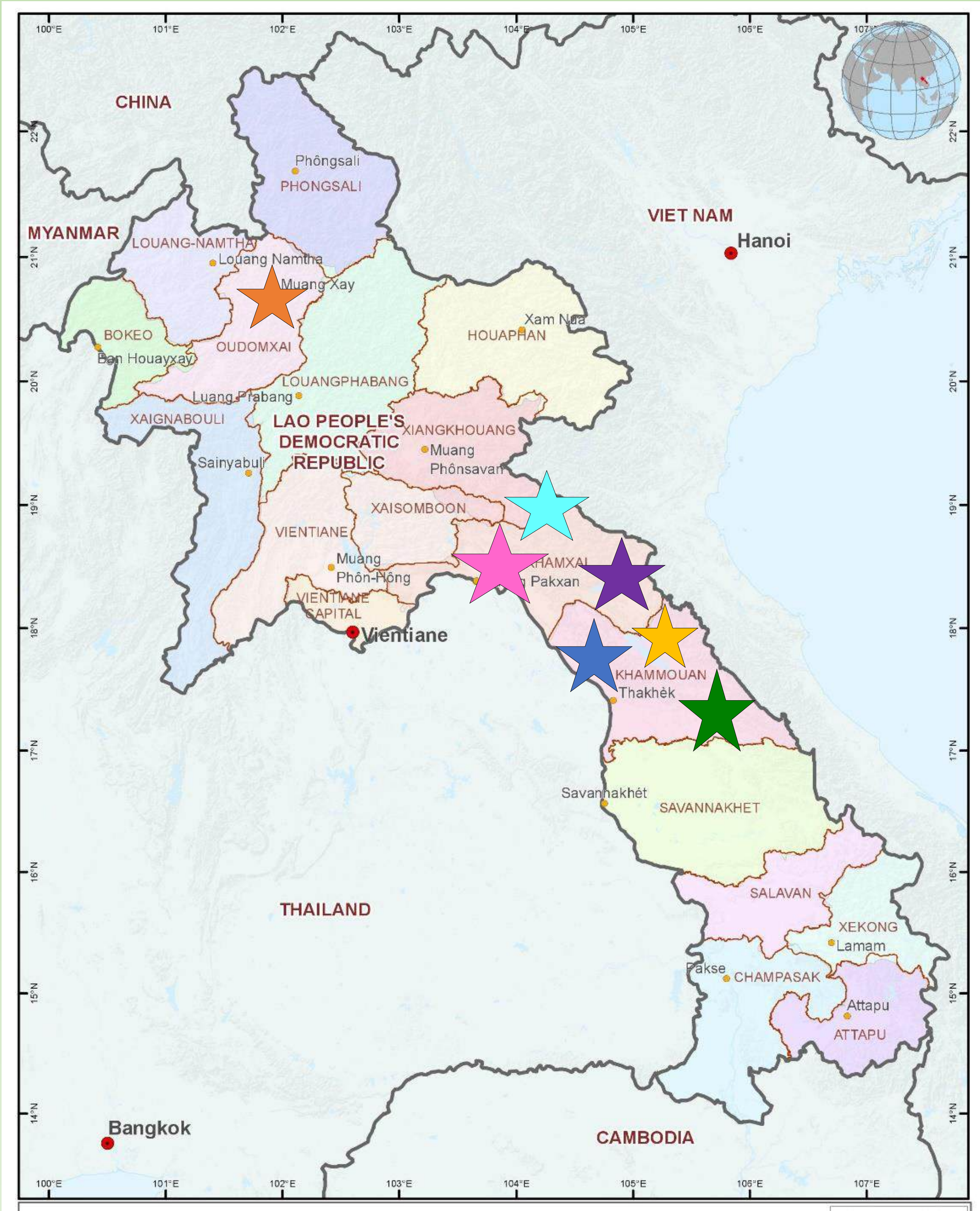




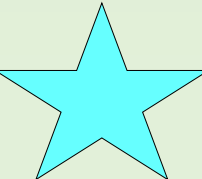
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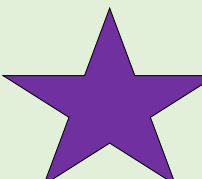
Our projects



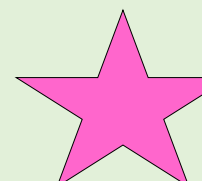
Total Control of TB Oudomxay



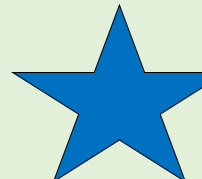
Clean Cooking and Environment



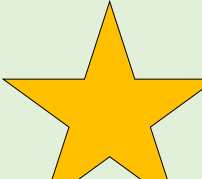
Total Control of TB Bolikhamxay



HOPE, Improve the quality of life for PLWH



Mitigating the Impact of Covid-19



Treeplanting and Protection of Forest Reserve



Farmers' Clubs Khammouane

Thematic Areas



Sustainable Agriculture and Environment

- Developing the capacity of small-scale farmers to increase agricultural production by adopting environmentally friendly and sustainable farming practices
- Support small-scale farmers to withstand and adapt to climate disasters and hazards and increase resilience
- Organizing small-scale farmers to share farming knowledge and to build mutual support in communities, clubs and associations
- Promoting improved value chains through processing of products and accessing markets.



Health and Disease Prevention

- Combatting and preventing the spread of tuberculosis through community mobilization and education and linkage to health care for remote populations
- Organize people with TB and HIV to boost their immune system and adhere to their treatment
- Supporting the adoption of better health practices by equipping people with adequate knowledge, enabling them to take control of their own health and help save the lives of others
- Training and organizing people to fight the diseases and stay healthy



Community Development

- Forming Village Action Groups who are trained and supported to tackle the challenges of the community in a collective fashion.
- Starting skills and literacy training at community level and supporting people to establish small enterprises to boost their income.
- Carrying out campaigns to improve life in the community, e.g. starting vegetable gardens to improve nutrition, initiating community campaigns to improve the village infrastructure
- Spreading knowledge about nutrition, water and sanitation and carry out actions at community level.

Humana People to People Laos

Who we are

Humana People to People Laos is an international NGO with a representative office in Laos.

Humana People to People is an international federation working in 29 countries worldwide which goes back to 1977 with its first projects in Zimbabwe and Mozambique.

Through 2023, we have celebrated numerous actions alongside people, communities, government, partners, and other stakeholders in Laos.

The actions have had a lasting impact on people's lives and have contributed to more development, greater well-being, increased economic possibilities, and greater hope for the future.

Our core value is working alongside the poor in remote and vulnerable communities, empowering them to work together and achieve the change they desire. In recent years, the climate crisis has come more and more into our focus and have become a cross cutting issue in all our projects.

We believe in people as the driving force of the development, and see it as our greatest obligation to implement projects where people are at the center of the activities and project results.

HPP Laos works for sustainable change in close collaboration with people in their communities on development projects where people's most critical concerns are addressed.

What we do

Our history goes back to 2011, where we started to implement community development projects focusing on maternal and child health and nutrition, income generation and improved livelihood.

In 2017, HPP Laos signed a contract with the EU, to implement a Farmers' Clubs project with 5,000 farmers in Khammouane Province for three years. With funding from additional partners, we have continued activities with many of the farmers through 2023.

In 2018, HPP Laos signed a contract with Global Fund through the National TB Centre to implement a TB project reaching 120,000 people in Bolikhamxay and Oudomxay Provinces with TB active case finding and follow-up care and support. The project was expanded in 2020 in partnership with the local Laotian association CHIAs and with funding from Expertise France L'Initiative to also include Khammouane Province and reach 400,000 people.

In 2022 we signed a contract with Asian Development Bank aimed at mitigating the impact of Covid-19. The project specifically aimed at improving livelihood and economic resilience for former migrant workers that returned to their villages from Thailand due to the pandemic.

Our most recent contract was signed in 2024 with Darwin Initiative, UK-Aid for a project that target biodiversity and forest projection.





**When people go together
and contribute with their
time, work and a little
money, the community
can move mountains
With the Farmers' Clubs
as the backbone, people
join hands to improve
their lives**

**We work alongside people
and the government to
prevent and eradicate
infectious diseases
Positive outcomes depend
on people themselves as
the driving force**



**Our programs call for the
community to engage in
its own development
Income generation with
marketing and sale is an
important driver of
economic development**

Sustainable Agriculture and Environment



Small scale farmers are the frontline response to the world's environmental and social crisis

that is how important they are. When conditions allow for them to earn a living, they stay on the land, and they protect it. The land is the foundation for their livelihoods and their culture



The Food Security and Nutrition Project

Farmers' Clubs

Farmers' Clubs improve climate resilience food security and nutrition

Humana HPP and Health Poverty Action in close cooperation with Khammouane Province, successfully completed the implementation of a Food Security and Nutrition project with 5,000 farmer families in 100 villages of Khammouane Province in 2021. The project was funded by the European Union, and has been extended in 2021-24 with additional funding from smaller and larger partners.

The Farmers' Clubs are the basic project structure through which activities are implemented. The overall objectives of Farmers' Clubs are to further sustainable and climate resilient agricultural production, to improve families' nutrition through a balanced diet, to increase farmers' wealth and to create a crop surplus for sale. In their clubs, farmers learn how to increase their yields, diversify their crops, work together more effectively, bargain as a collective, and support each other. They meet once a fortnight to discuss progress and issues, and to receive training.

Through close collaboration and new learning, the farmers make great progress.

The perspective is that Farmers' Clubs evolve to become self-sustaining in mutually supportive networks of farmers which last beyond project completion.

Several of the clubs have continued to join hands after the EU funding ceased 2 ½ years ago. Many farmers successfully continued to run the demonstration plots as community gardens for joint income generation and continued other bi-weekly club activities resulting in increased food security and nutrition in the families.



Smallholder farmers can play a crucial role in establishing sustainable food systems locally, fighting hunger and malnutrition in their communities

Core activities include:

- Establishment of demonstration plots for crops farming and vegetable production (1 per Farmers' Club)
- Training on climate-resilient agriculture and other sustainable practices
- Establishment of seed banks
- Adoption of small-scale water systems for irrigation
- Establishment of green houses for rainy season vegetable production
- Establishment of fish ponds
- Training in animal husbandry and set-up of animal pass-on-loan schemes
- Introduction of innovative techniques of food processing, preparation and storage
- Increased value chain and access to markets
- Joint bargaining for cheaper and better agriculture inputs
- Bi-weekly meetings among club members to discuss challenges and find solutions
- In the Farmers' Clubs the members regularly engage in field visits to assess each farmers progress



We work alongside the poor and join forces with them

When people are at the center of their own development in an organized collective process, sustainable change can be made



Protecting biodiversity and forests



Healthy forests are crucial for watersheds and water quality, including aquatic life, food and shelter for wildlife, soil protection, and erosion prevention, mitigation of flooding, and filtering runoff before entering waterways.

In partnership with **World Wildlife Foundation (WWF)** and **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**, we implemented two tree-planting projects in Khounkham District, Khammouane Province in 2022-23.

The projects mobilised and organized local farmers to contribute to the protection of Phouhai Protected Forest and secure regeneration of degraded forest in the wildlife corridor, soil protection, and erosion prevention, mitigation of flooding and filtering runoffs to waterways.

The projects organized 160 families to plant and take care of 50,000 seedlings in nurseries, to plant the seeds out in the community forests and take care of the young trees until they were strong enough to thrive.

A part of the seedlings are local hardwood species, that will eventually grow into mature trees and create regenerated ecosystems and improve the habitat for wildlife.

Another part of the seedlings are rattan that provides Non Timber Forest Products like shoots that are a popular ingredient in traditional Lao diet, and eventually rattan stems for handicraft and furniture.





Many rural families are adversely affected by loss of forest cover leading to increased flooding and mudslides during the rainy season. It takes its toll on production and livelihood. Therefore, HPP Laos includes tree-planting as an important element in all of our Farmers' Clubs projects.

The activity is countering widespread deforestation and aligns with the government's clearly expressed policy to increase the total forest cover from around 33% to 70%.

In 2024 we have signed a contract with Darwin Initiative (UK-Aid) to expand the project activities and the focus to include 600 families in 12 additional villages, plant a range of NTFPs like medicinal plants and market the plants to boost livelihoods, while assisting the Government to enforce regulations to stop illegal wildlife trade and deforestation.





We train and organize farmer communities to protect the land, the forests and rivers, use the ground water efficiently, farm the land, adopt regenerative agricultural practices, and work with nature and not against it



Clean Cooking & the Environment



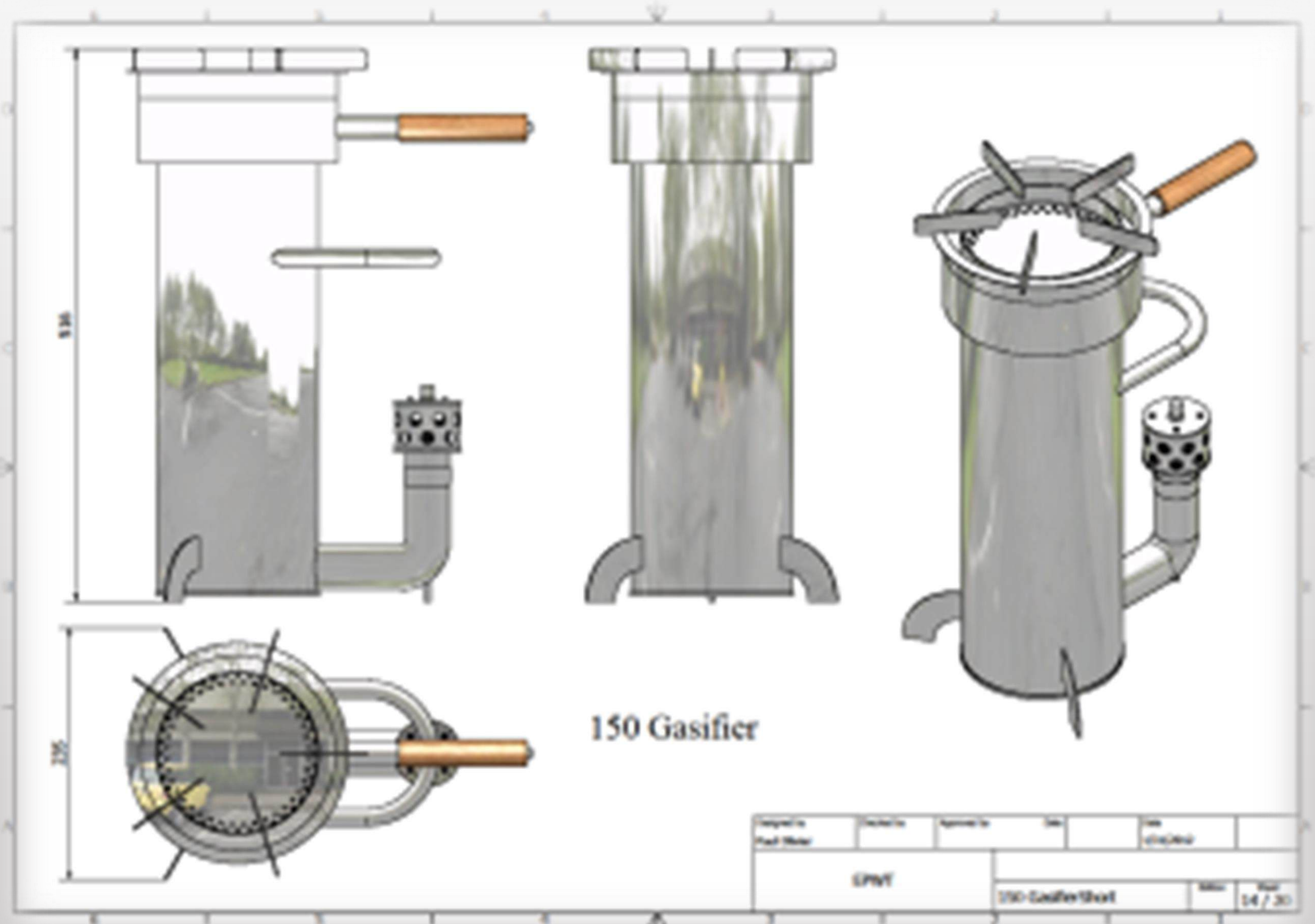
Most families in the rural areas of Laos cook food in the close quarters of the household kitchen. They fuel the stove with chopped wood from the forest or with charcoal that is locally produced. This practice has great health risks, especially to the mothers and children that usually stay in the kitchen many hours every day. Additionally, the practice of chopping wood for fuel and for production and use of charcoal has large environmental impacts.

Since 2018, HPP Laos has introduced a household biomass gasifier to 760 families in Bolikhamxay and Khammouane Province and trained the families to use it.

The gasifiers are fueled with Rice husk, a waste product from the rice harvest, that every rice farmer can store in abundance after the harvest. The husk does not burn but will gasify in a closed steel canister, that releases no smoke at all. A bi-product of the gasification is biochar, that the families are trained to use for improve the effect of compost and manure in their gardens.

Funds have been provided by the Global Environment Fund, the EU, Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives and the Australian Embassy.

An important part of the program is to raise awareness in the communities about climate change and how the use of a household biomass gasifier can contribute to both mitigation and adaptation.



Health and Disease prevention

Our health programs begin with people not with the disease

As in any other area of life, sustainable results within health rely on people as the key drivers in building and maintaining good health for all.

With our health projects we respond to how people live their lives; we work alongside them to build and maintain good health in their communities and increase well being for all





We raise awareness about tuberculosis in hundreds of rural communities. Field officers and health volunteers identify presumptive cases through screening and contact tracing, and refer them for testing at Health Centers and Clinics for professional diagnosis.

Tuberculosis - the TB Active Case Finding projects a people-centred approach to disease control and prevention

The TB Active Case Finding projects are based on HPP's Total Control of TB (TC TB) concept. TC TB has been developed and tested throughout HPP countries worldwide. TC TB is based on close community mobilisation at the grass root level, and is centred on the idea that only people can liberate themselves from the illnesses.

HPP Laos employs field staff that live and work in the villages. They arrange village meetings, when possible, and go from door to door to identify presumed TB patients and refer them to testing at the local clinics. The project team incorporates Village Health Workers in all activities and mobilises communities to support their TB affected peers through formation of TRIOs. TB patients and two family members or friends are trained in TB awareness and nutrition. TRIOs ensure daily medication intake of the patient. HPP Laos provides TRIOs with knowledge in and materials for vegetable gardening, animal raising

and improved nutrition. Improved nutrition supports TB patients' recovery and improves their overall health to decrease the risk of getting sick again.

Funded by the Global Fund, HPP Laos completed a three-year project in December 2020, followed by a new three-year project (also with Global Fund) that started in 2021.

Based on HPP Laos' successful approach and a solid partnership with Ministry of Health in Laos we signed yet another three-year contract with Expertise France, L'Initiative in 2020. The contract has been extended with a second phase from 2024-27.

All in all, HPP together with our consortium partner CHIAs, we covered 22 districts in 3 provinces from 2021-23 with our program.

Our projects play an increasingly important part in the efforts of the Ministry of Health in eradicating Tuberculosis in Laos before 2030.



Our field staff travel to hundreds of remote communities. Field officers and village health volunteers identify presumptive cases through screening and contact tracing, and refer them for testing at Health Centers and Clinics for professional diagnosis

We go from door to door in the remote villages to raise awareness about tuberculosis, so that people that suffers from the disease without knowing it, can be tested and cured





Project results TC TB, 2021-23:

TB patients notified and referred for testing:

HPP Laos' project team contributed to 671 notified TB cases .

People reached:

The project teams have reached 200,000 people and raised awareness about TB

Health Center staff and village health workers trained:

HPP Laos trained 695 health center staff and village health workers





The TRIO -

Family based adherence support

A cornerstone in our health projects is a family-based system called a TRIO that support TB and HIV/AIDS patients in treatment and care of the contagious diseases.

In HPP Laos' TC TB and HOPE projects we help patients to form a TRIO.

The TRIO consist of the patient and two family members or friends. Its main task is to ensure daily medication intake of the patient and adherence to the treatment.

The TRIO is trained in TB or HIV/AIDS awareness and nutrition and is supported to carry out its tasks in the service of the patient.

HPP Laos provides the TRIOs with knowledge in and materials for vegetable gardening, animal raising and improved nutrition. Improved nutrition supports TB and HIV patients' recovery, boost their immune system and improves their overall health to decrease the risk of getting sick again.

The project is proud to say that close to all diagnosed patients have formed TRIOs to support adherence to treatment and increased health and wellbeing. Our projects play an increasingly important part in the efforts of the Ministry of Health in eradicating Tuberculosis in Laos before 2030.

The TRIOs are supported by Village Health Workers, attached to the program.

HOPE – Improve the quality of life for people living with HIV

The objective of the HOPE project is to mobilize people that have been diagnosed with HIV to adhere to their medication and improve the quality of life and wellbeing.

The project is raising awareness about HIV in communities with the aim of decreasing the stigma that keep people living with HIV from being open about their disease.

An important part of the project is to encourage people living with HIV to boost their immune system, so they can live a long life. In Laos ART, the medicine that HIV patients must take, is free of charge, but as many patients live far away from a hospital where the medicine is administered and cannot afford the travel costs, the project team organizes the transport.

A TRIO of family and friends is set up around every patient. The TRIOs task is to support the HIV positive people to live a healthy and positive life, adhere to the medicine, and control the disease.

The patients receive seeds and small livestock and are trained and supported to set up home gardens. The project engages village Health Workers and volunteers to join forces with the TRIOs, so that positive changes are made.

In Laos, progress has been made towards the 2020 fast-track target, with 85% of the estimated 12,000 people living with HIV currently knowing their status. With the joint efforts of the Lao government, partners and civil society organisations, coverage of the services has been extended..

People living with HIV make essential contribution to the national and local response, working hand in hand with health service providers at 11 Antiretroviral Treatment sites to ensure that their peers get early treatment and good care and support.

Despite the achieved progress, challenges persist, with only 54% of the people living with HIV currently having access to treatment. Attention should also be drawn to the alarming increase in HIV prevalence among men who have sex with men from 1.7% in 2014 to 2.5% in 2017, while in Vientiane Capital this indicator stands at 7%.

“In every country, it is crucial that quality HIV prevention and treatment services reach everyone who needs them, leaving no one behind. Engaging communities is a key way of achieving this”, said Dr Mark Jacobs, WHO Representative to Laos.

Community-led organisations by and for people living with HIV can accelerate the country's progress on the path to ending AIDS, contributing to the sustainable and inclusive development for all people in Lao PDR.



Community Development

Mitigating the Impact of Covid-19 and reintegrate former migrant workers in village life

As a least developed country, Laos was hit hard during and after the Covid-19 pandemic. The country was locked down from early 2020 to early 2022, and the economic activity decreased considerably. At the same time, the country's already weak health system was challenged.

As always when disaster strikes, the brunt was bore disproportionately by the disadvantaged people living in rural areas. Livelihood and income generation that was already threatened took a downwards turn. As did an already prevalent hygiene, nutrition and sanitation insecurity. A special challenge to the families' livelihood was 300,000 migrant workers from Laos, that had to leave their workplaces in Thailand due to the pandemic. They returned to their villages in Laos where no workplaces were available.

Asian Development Bank

In 2021-2023 HPP Laos has partnered with Asian Development Bank to train, mobilise and organise former migrant workers in 5 rural communities of Khammouane Province. The project aimed at reintegrating some of the former migrant workers into their villages, and at the same time engage them in protection people in the communities

against the impact of the pandemic. The projects specifically focus is improved livelihood and economic resilience for the former migrant workers.

Small businesses were set up, and migrant workers were trained in the adequate skills. Farmer families are supported to expand, diversify and increase productivity and income.

In 2023 a similar project funded by **L'Oreal Fund for Women** was set up in 10 additional villages that will continue until 2025.





Mitigating the Impact of Covid-19 – in partnership with ADB

- 45 former migrant workers have been trained to establish low-tech production of inexpensive soap of natural materials and set up a system for local marketing and sale
- 45 former migrant workers have been trained to set up production of face masks using recycled clothing
- 45 former migrant workers have been trained as village health workers, specifically leading awareness campaigns on prevention of Covid-19
- 45 former migrant have installed community WASH points and promoted handwashing and improved hygiene and sanitation in the villages
- 230 farmers were trained and supported to increase and diversify their production with the aim that they can provide more workplaces in the family and increase income.

45 former migrant workers in five villages have been trained to establish low-tech production of inexpensive soap of natural materials and set up a system for local marketing and sale of soap. The project rented a house in each of the villages to enable the migrant workers to continue the production and sale after the end of the project.



45 former migrant workers have been trained to set up production of face masks of recycled clothing. The project provided sewing machines, and the groups expanded the production to include clothes and other textile products. The small businesses continued to be viable after the project closed at the end of 2023.



Income generation is one of our community development projects' core values; we engage people in the community to train their skills and set up small businesses; it can be a sewing workshop, a stall on the local market, a cash crop production unit and more. The savings and loan club helps making it a reality.



"I used to work in Thailand from 2017 to 2019, but I had to stop working suddenly because of the Covid-19 pandemic. I lived with my family with no job for half a year. In 2020, HPP Laos started the project "Mitigating the Impact of Covid-19 through Community-Led Interventions," so I was lucky that I could sign up as a member of the Organic Soap Production Group. The project trained us, supported materials, rented a workshop, and trained us on marketing to ensure sustainability after the project ended."



Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition

Ten years ago, HPP Laos started its quest to improve life for the under 5 years' old children.

During the ensuing years 28,000 people in 19 villages have been mobilised and trained in Community Development projects called Child Aid.

The projects are focused on health, nutrition, hygiene and sanitation and income generation.

With the support of the project, people form Village Action Groups, that are encouraged, supported and organised to advance the situation for each of the member families in the village.

The Child Aid project is focusing especially on building families' capacities to reduce malnutrition among pregnant women and children under 5 years.

The Village Action Groups work together to keep the village clean and to build water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure with the aim of improving each family's health and well-being.

In our projects thousands of families have constructed inexpensive household toilets, mainly with locally procured materials.

The Child Aid project supports women to set up and operate a rotating childcare system in the village, and to establish an early childhood development program that prepares the children for entering primary school.

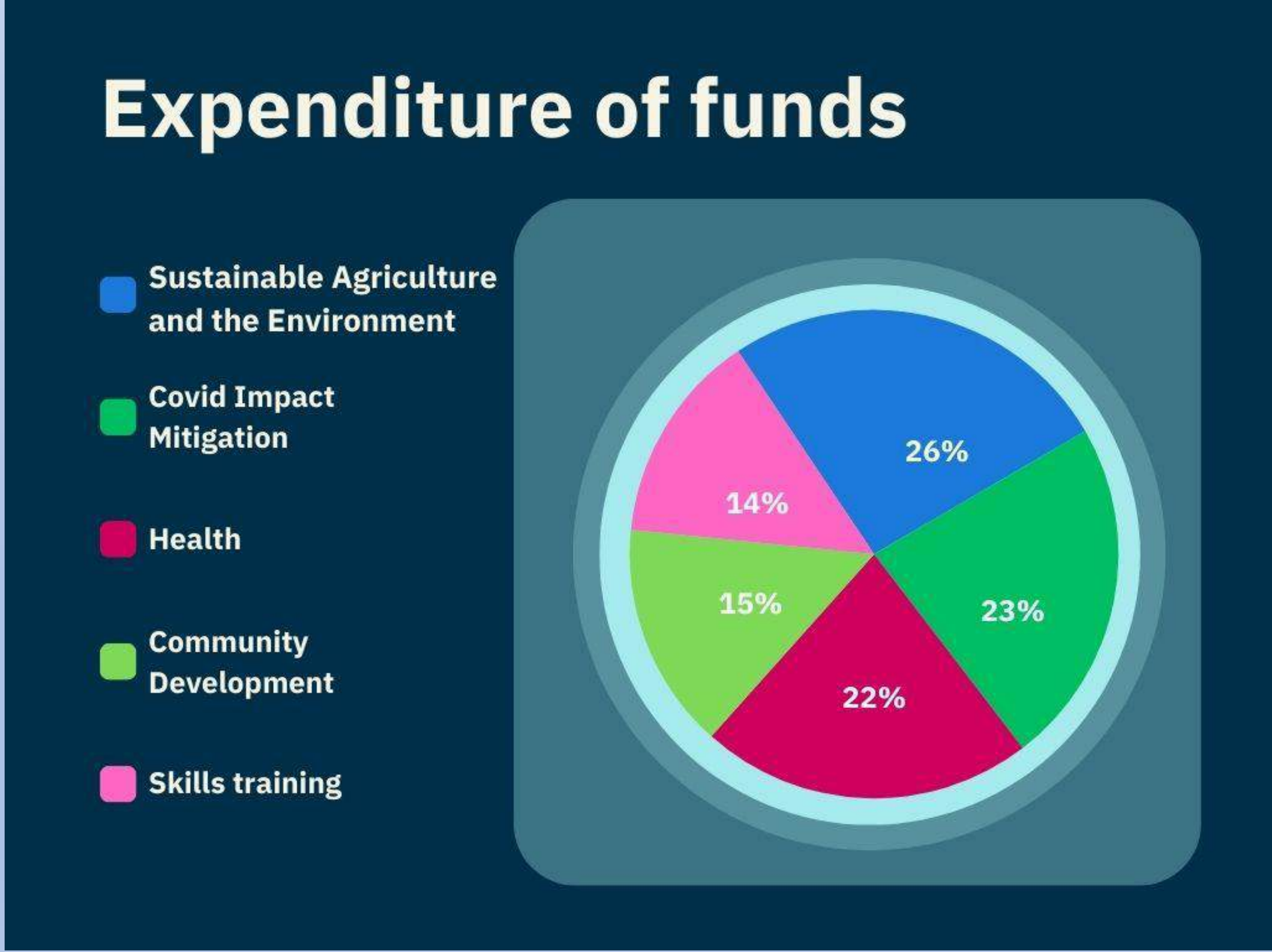
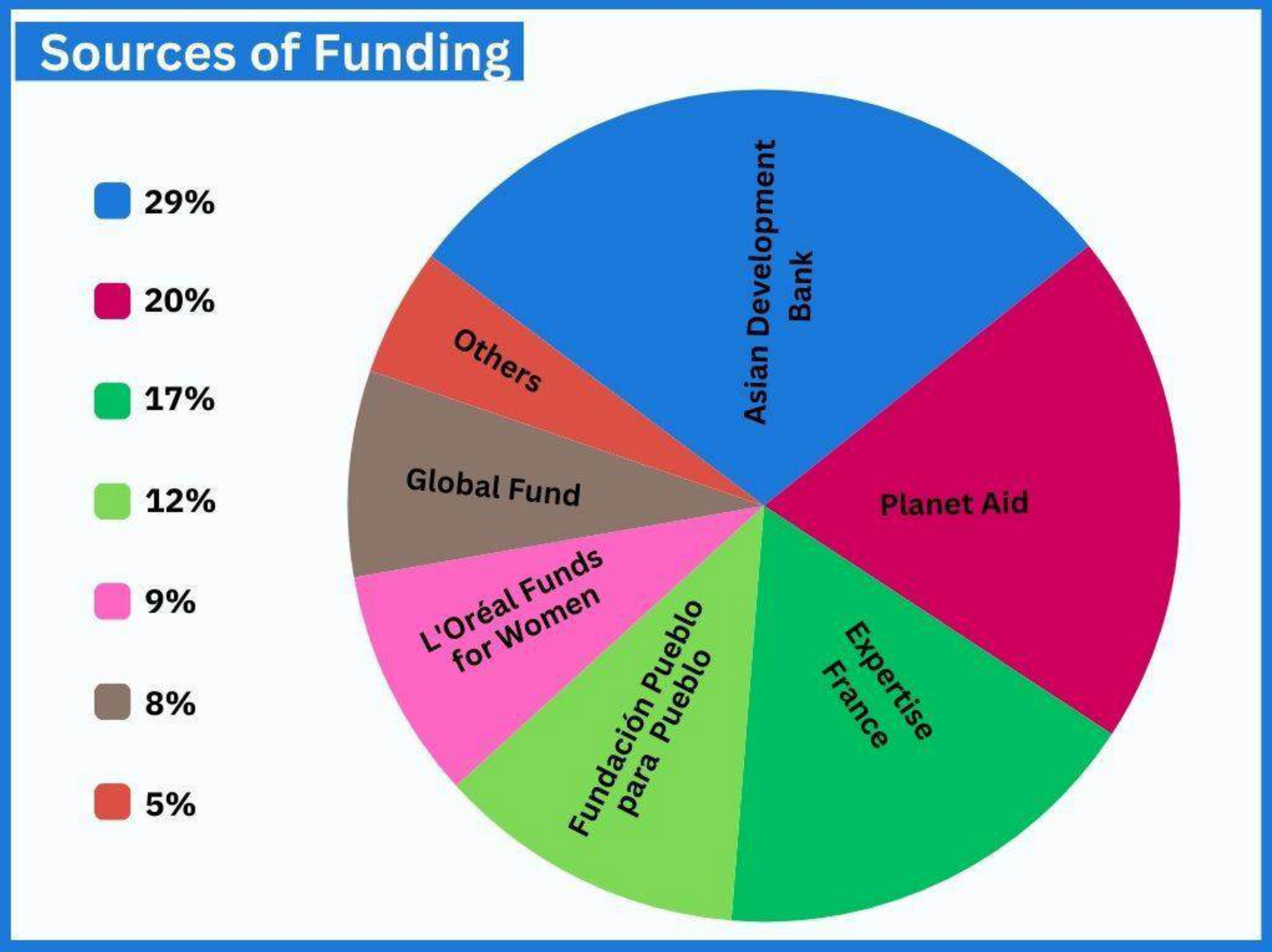
The project supports people to organize themselves in Village Action Groups to build up their skills and knowledge they need to make changes together

With the children's wellbeing on their mind, the community might build a playground together and organize the grand parents to lead a day care center for the small ones



Every child deserves to live a healthy and active life free of malnutrition and stunting. During the first thousand days of their lives, they build the foundation for a rich and good life.

Financial Overview



The Federation Humana People to People



46 countries across
5 continents



1548 development
projects



More than 17.9 million
people reached

Partnership in Development

Humana People to People Laos is proud to work with a diverse range of partners and grateful for the support they give to our social development projects.

Partnerships are a vital part of what we do and offer symbiotic relationships that help our projects to prosper. Whilst a partner often provides the necessary funding for a project, we contribute with knowledge about the needs on the ground and a close connection with the communities.

We provide the ideas, energy, experience and resources to make things happen, with tried and trusted project concepts and

processes ready to go. Partners include both national and local governments, foundations, the private sector, multilateral agencies and international organizations.

We would like to thank all our partners for their continued support and commitment to work with the people on the ground, pursuing much needed development for positive, lasting change.



Government
of Canada



The Federation Humana People to People

Humana People to People spans the globe through 29 independent member associations, each one with a firm base in their own country. We grew out of a progressive education movement in the 1970s, rooted in the struggle against apartheid and colonialism. Together with millions of people on five continents, we face the major humanitarian, social and environmental challenges of today. Since we began back in 1977, the needs of our planet and its inhabitants are more urgent and complex than ever.

The Federation for Associations connected to the International Humana People to People Movement – in short, the Humana People to People Federation – was formally established in 1996. It supports members delivering critical on-the-ground programs across Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, and South America.



Humana
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