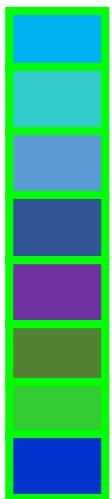




# Humana People to People Laos Year report 2016





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## Message from the Country Representative

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### Welcome to our 2015 Annual Report

Humana People to People in Laos is hereby sending our Greetings to all our member families, our project leaders and our partners and good friends.

2015 has been a year with abundant activities and achievements. By the end of 2015, Humana People to People Laos was reaching out to 2,000 participating families – approximately 11,000 people - through the Child Aid project and the Farmers' Clubs project in Bolikhan District. The second Child Aid project in Laos has completed its first year in 5 villages: Ban Bor, Ban Phonsai, Ban Phonnieng, Ban Phonsong and Ban Nahan. The Farmers' Clubs program is for the first time implemented in 2 villages: Ban Phamueng og Ban Phadai.

It has been a busy year where everybody involved has participated in creating new possibilities towards a better future.

The member families have collaborated in identifying the families' needs, they have joined hands to improve their own situation as well as other families' around them. In the process the families have experienced that people can be the driving force of their own development, and that sustainable change can be created through a collaborative process.

The project leaders and the Government staff at the Province, District and Village level have contributed to the joint efforts, by supporting, educating and encouraging every single family, the 35 Village Action Groups and the 18 Farmers' Clubs. Through the joint efforts, the people involved have already gained valuable experiences and learned that: When people are involved and play an active role, they change and develop personally. Even with small means poor people can improve their livelihood for the better. New knowledge about health, sanitation, nutrition and agriculture are important tools in the fight against poverty.

We would like to use the opportunity to thank our Government partners for their continued collaboration. We are grateful for the effort.

And we would like to thank Planet Aid Inc. and Fundación Pueblo para Pueblo for their continuing financial support of our projects. The grants from these two member organizations have been the backbone and foundation of our work in Laos.

We would also like to thank a range of local Partners in Development: Luxembourg Development, The German Embassy, US Embassy, W.I.G., RMAAsia, CKL Shoe Factory, Lao State Fuel Company, Langxane Petroleum Co. and Agricultural Development Bank who have also contributed economically to the activities in our projects. Every contribution have had a remarkable impact.

Many Greetings,  
Inger Damkjaer



# The Child Aid program

## Improve the lives of the under 5 year old children

Humana People to People has since 2011 implemented 2 Child Aid projects in Laos, both of them in Bolikhampasay Province in the central part of the country. The first project ran from 2011-2015, the second project started in August 2015 and will run for 2 more years.

The Child Aid project in Laos is a community based project involving around 1,000 families (5,500 people), where the children, the families, and their communities organise themselves and take action within 5 lines of development to improve the lives of the under 5 year old children, ensure their survival and create opportunities for them to develop and use their full potential.

The project is located in 5 poor villages in Bolikhampasay District, Ban Bor, Ban Phonsai, Ban Phonnieng, Ban Phonsong and Ban Nahan. 1,000 families i.e. 5,500 people has signed up as members in the program.

The families are organized in Village Action Groups, and many of the project activities go on in these groups. Humana People to People's project leaders and staff from the District and the Province conduct bi-weekly practical and theoretical training and lead common discussions in the Groups; the aim being to empower and organize every family to take matters into its own hands and take action as a community to improve the condition for the children.



# Main focus points in the Programme :

## Line 1: Health

- The project has educated the families in important mother and child issues.
- The project has endeavoured to build up the trust of the women so many more are using the public health system during pregnancy and child birth.
- The project has educated and encouraged the families to get all children under 5 years to the clinics for health check up
- The families were mobilised to get their children vaccinated and the Health Centre succeeded in immunizing all the children.
- The families have learnt about the importance of good hygiene, and hand-washing campaigns in the schools have been organised
- The mothers have been trained in improved practices during pregnancy and child birth and with their new born children.
- The families have been trained in family planning

## Line 2: Water and sanitation

- The families have learnt about the necessity of clean water and good sanitary practices
- The project has supported 25% of the families with materials and guidelines and organised construction of simple and cheap household toilets. Support for the rest of the families in need will be organised later in 2016. A number of wells have also been constructed.
- In 4 of the 5 villages the project in collaboration with the Province has organized repair and re-instalment of a water system which supply water from mountain streams. Each village has selected a water committee, to manage questions about proper use and maintenance of the system; to ensure future maintenance each family will pay a small monthly fee to the committee.



## Line 3: Nutrition

- The project has promoted and supported the families to establish extended home gardens in order to improve nutrition and secure access to a higher variety of food stuff.
- The families have received education and training in production of organic fertilizer and biological pesticide.
- The project is supporting the families with ducklings, frogs and other small animals to enable production of much needed protein in the diet.
- - The families have monthly lessons about the importance of good nutrition, how to prevent malnutrition, the value of breast feeding, the human biology etc.
- - The project has supported teachers and students in the primary schools in establishing school gardens with the aim of providing healthy meals for the children.

## Line 4: Income Generation

- The project see promotion of income generating activities as a very important part of the programme. Even a small income to be saved for school fees or unforeseen expenses as illness in the family or natural disasters, is crucial.
- The project has encouraged the families to increase production of vegetables above the family's needs, and raise ducks, rabbits, fish and frogs for sale. Income generation will be the main focus point in the program's third year.



## Child Aid - the 5 lines:

- 1. Health**
- 2. Water and Sanitation**
- 3. Nutrition**
- 4. Active children in the society**
- 5. Income Generation**

### Polio Prevention:

In September 2015 Polio broke out in Ban Phamueng, Bolikhan District, one of the villages where we were about to start up the Farmer's Clubs project.

Laos was declared polio free in 1996. The disease was caused by a new strain called "type 1 vaccine-derived poliovirus (VDPV1)". The virus was derived from the polio vaccine itself because of children that were not immunized despite of previous nation-wide campaigns. Naturally the situation was considered extremely serious and was acted upon immediately by the Ministry of Health, WHO and UNICEF who enacted a country wide successful immunization campaign.

Humana People to People with a staff of 3 project leaders and additional volunteers supported the village and health authorities, as best we could, first and foremost by motivating and mobilising the families to send their children to the clinic for vaccination as fast as possible. As good hygiene and sanitation is clearly preventing the virulent virus from spreading, we have assisted the village authorities and the families to build toilets the 80 families out of a total of 940 that did not have one.

Within a month the staff in the health clinic, the village leaders and we succeeded in getting all children vaccinated.

With the aim of preventing the disease to spread to other villages in the neighbourhood, and we secured funds, so that the families in the nearest village to Phamueng could also build the toilets that were missing.

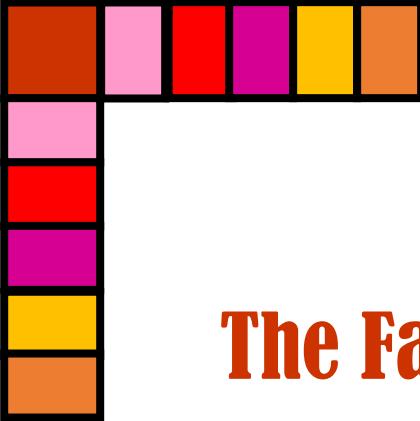
In order to secure permanent water and hygiene in the surrounding villages we secured funding for repair of a broken gravity fed water system that covers 4 villages in the polio stricken area.

It is the plan to continue the campaign in Bolikhan to secure immunisation and improved hygiene and sanitation and that all children get immunized also in the future.



The villagers, Humana and the Province joined hands to repair the broken water system





# The Farmers' Clubs program

## Income Generation through Agriculture

Humana People to People in Laos started to implement its first Farmers' Clubs program in September 2015. It is implemented in Ban Phamueng and Ban Phadai, Bolikhhan District, and has enrolled 1,000 participating farmers for 3 year.

Farmers' Clubs aim at organizing small-scale farmers to join forces and resources together, to further the agricultural production of each farmer to enable them to improve their living standard. The program teaches farmers to be efficient in food production, to create surplus and to sell the produce. It introduces low cost solutions and low technological farming methods, provides financial support systems to trigger the process of economic development. It improves the overall living conditions of the farmer families within nutrition, health, disease prevention and sanitation.

The Farmers' Clubs program works directly with farmers to increase yields, improve crop variation, raise product quality and develop simple and sustainable farming methods. It organizes and trains the farmers to collectively bargain for better seeds and transport prices and to market their crops more effectively.

In the Farmers' Clubs, modern knowledge is acquired and used, results from year to year are recorded and analysed and new methods put into practice.

The experiences from this endeavour have been used in developing the Farmers' Clubs program which Humana People to People has spread across Africa, Asia and Latin America through more than 15 years.

More than 180.000 rural farmers have received trainings under the program in Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and South America.

The Farmers' Clubs members in Laos are organised in 18 Clubs of 55 farmers in average. They are supported by three project leaders who live in the community. The project leaders provide theoretical and practical agricultural training to the club members. The project leader also facilitates the organization of the farmers and trains them in self-organizing, so that lasting structures are built among them in the project period. Monthly club meetings and bi-weekly training sessions, actions and events with agricultural topics frame the program of the project.





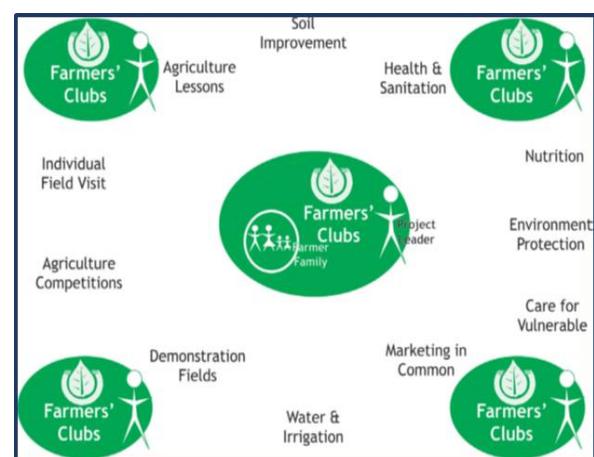
## Diversification:

Diversification has been a top priority in 2015. Traditionally the farmers use to rely on only production of rice which is a threat to the families' food security. If the harvest fail, or the yield is too low food gets scarce and the family suffers. Even if the harvest is good and the farmers have enough to eat, lack of diversification cause the daily meals to have two little protein, vitamins and minerals.

In its first year, almost all of the Farmers' Club members grow 2 crops or more during the rainy season.

More than 70% of the farmers grow cassava and maize apart from rice.

Lemon tree production has been introduced with intercropping of peanuts and taro. Peanuts improve the soil by adding nitrogen and taro prevent some insects in the trees and both plants have good nutrients.



The Project Leaders have taught the farmers about cultivation of small animals and 200 farmers have received ducklings and rabbits to breed. The animals are given as pass-on loans with an obligation for the farmers to pass-on some of the offspring they produce to new families in the villages. It is a way to expand the benefits of the project to many more families.

Production of fish and frogs has been initiated in 2016. In 1 of the villages 4 farmers have received new hatched fish and frogs, and have learned to grow them. The idea is that they will be in charge of 4 breeding stations that next year can deliver fish and frog fry to all the farmers who want to grow them.

### **Income Generation:**

Income generation is the program's main focus area, and farmers are encouraged to produce cash crops for sale.

116 farmers have started to cultivate Rattan, a sort of bamboo which provides shoots to eat after 2 years and can be cut and sold. After 6 years of growth the rattan can be cut and sold and used for furniture production.

The Farmers' Clubs project leaders together with some of the members are running demonstration lots that are used as inspiration and promotion for the cultivation of new crops.

Apart from the agricultural program, the project has trained and supported the families in construction of toilets for those who did not have one. So by now all families in the 2 Farmers' Club villages have toilets.





# The project leaders

An essential part of Humana People to People Laos is its Project Leaders.

Each project is an independent unit with clearly defined goals and objectives.

The Project Leader is 100% responsible for achieving the planned results with his or her project staff team.

Every community member's contribution is important. The Project Leader is therefore the mainstay of the projects, as is always the case with all Humana People to People projects in Laos and around the world. He or she lives in the community and works alongside the people, contributing to the solutions and building people's capacity to identify problems and organize the actions that can create development.

The Project Leaders form a collective leadership of the movement. Their joint forces, common experiences, and support of each other are the main strength of the organization.

Humana People to People employs currently 8 persons. 4 project leaders has been granted a 1 year scholarship at Frontline Institute in Zimbabwe through 2014-2015.





# About Humana People to people

Humana People to People is a network of 32 organizations engaged in international solidarity, cooperation and development in Africa, Asia, the Americas and Europe. Our development work is rooted in a commitment to fight alongside the poor in a collective process that supports the people to make changes, improve their lives and solve their problems. More than 12 million are reached annually.

We believe that poverty can be overcome through coordinated communitywide approaches, which combine education, adult literacy, improved livelihoods, increased production, health, women empowerment and environment protection.

With the base for the struggle being the poor engaged in changing their own fate, we join forces with them, with governments, progressive forces nationally and internationally in a collective effort to transform and in the long run erase the existing conditions of the poor.

Humana People to People in Laos got its first office permit in 2011, and has signed consecutive MOU's with the Government of Lao PDR. Until now 19 poor villages with more than 15,000 people in Bolikhamxay Province have been active participants in our projects.

Through experience and a long history we are aware that we share a mutual interest in development with many people, governments, international and national donors, and businesses.

If you are interested in contributing to our work, we invite you to join hands with us in the fight against poverty.

**Many greetings from:**

**Humana People to People, Laos**

Ban Huaysiat, Pakxan District, Bolikhamxay, Laos

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