



Completion Report

LAO-WCL-HTS-P01, Sekong Province, Laos
Reporting Period: October 2017 – September 2018

Holistic Educational Improvement

Budget: \$14,100 fully funded. This was the final year funding for the water and sanitation component of a 3-year project.

Update:

Our partners worked with six cluster villages located in remote hill tribe areas, close to the border of Vietnam. This area was selected for its extreme poverty and limited support from other NGOs and government that comes with isolated ethnic villages in remote mountainous regions. Our partners ran an integrated community development project that enabled villages to create a sustainable livelihood for themselves and their families.

With this funding, gravity-fed water systems were installed and repaired in the 6 villages, consumption of clean and safe water was promoted and water filters were provided to each family. Water management committees were set up to regulate the systems and villagers and teachers worked together to construct latrines in the local schools.

Li Hyea (right) speaks from experience when she says that the overall health of children and hygiene in her village in rural Laos has drastically improved over recent years. Common sicknesses like severe diarrhea, fevers and chills plagued many young children who were drinking unclean water and defecating in open fields. Today, with a trained health village volunteer, a medicine box and new knowledge on how to stay healthy by using newly-built latrines and drinking from a fresh-spring water source pumped to the village centre, families are much healthier.

Mothers like Li Hyea are also benefitting from the support and help of trained birth attendants who make sure that mothers and babies are eating nutritious foods, having regular check-ups and are staying healthy before, during and after birth. When Li Hyea isn't taking care of her children, she is working in the coffee and rice farms in the nearby hillsides, tending to her home garden or her pigs and chickens, all of which ensure her a secure income and enough nutritious food for her and her growing family to enjoy. This has all been made possible through the integrated community development projects that her village has embraced.

Li Hyea is excited to finish her education through the non-formal education program that is offered to men and women of all ages in her village. She hopes to gain a greater sense of confidence as she learns to read and write and sets an example for her children who she is already saving money for so that they can go to school.

Thank you for your commitment to these communities as they break the poverty cycle and provide for their families.

