



# Completion Report

LAO-NLH-BLL-P01 Outside Vientiane, Laos  
Reporting Period: April – September 2019

## Building Lives in Laos

**Budget:** \$22,000 for a one-year project. Fully funded.

**Update:**

The aim of this two-fold project was to create a source of income for the rehabilitation centre to become financially sustainable and to provide livelihoods for vulnerable, at-risk young people and former addicts.

The first part of the project saw the set-up of the restaurant completed and the watering system for the organic farm up and running. In the restaurant, the flooring was laid, equipment installed and furnishings acquired, ready for operation. With the farm's new watering system in place, fruit trees are growing well and organic vegetable gardens have been established. Experimentation with different plantings confirmed which vegetables thrive best in the soil and provide the best return on investment. The fruit and vegetables grown provide food for the residents of the centre (below) and what is leftover is sold at the market. Three families now earn a living working on the farm and with this extra labour a substantial harvest is anticipated in the future.



The second part of the project funded vocational training for eight people in farming, restaurant management, mechanics and general life skills. These young people are now well-equipped to run the restaurant and tend the vegetable gardens. Plans are underway for more training in marketing, hospitality, cooking, budgeting, cash flow management, understanding supply and demand and product pricing. As these activities are consolidated they hope to learn more about production, expansion, diversification and specialisation.

The project has brought new confidence and hope to the participants. Friends Tin and Van (above, right), both 17, were very downcast and timid, unable to make eye contact when they first arrived at the centre from a poor village in northern Laos. After 6 months, they have a new found purpose and are keen to attend a vocational training school to pursue further opportunities. Thank you for your support.

