



LAO-WCL-CSC-P01, Champassak Province, Laos
Reporting Period: July 2018 – June 2019

Creating Strong Communities

Budget: The original budget for this first year of funding was \$40,800. Due to delays within Laos it was revised to \$10,000 (USD6,502). Fully funded.

Update:

Our partners are working to identify and confront core issues that create socio-economic poverty and reduce risks of trafficking and unsafe migration. There is a general sense of despair and hopelessness due to poverty, seasonal food and water insecurity, illiteracy and low awareness of the risks of leaving family. Economic opportunities are limited, there is a lack of vocational skills & experience and it is a culture that often excludes women and youth from family and community decisions and activities.

An integrated development program like this aims to enhance food security and economic viability for the poorest families and improve the health status of the community. There is high participation of the community in social advocacy, constant links to government and private service providers and strong community-based leadership.

Due to delayed approval of the MOU between our partners and the government of Laos, this project did not fully commence until part way through the year. The budget was revised to reflect this change. Issues that led to the delay have been evaluated and addressed where possible and our partners are implementing a 6-month plan to fast-track the project and achieve its targets.

Village Development Committees (VDCs) have been formed and received training. Community assessments and mapping of needs (picture, above right) has been conducted in participating villages and visits have been made to vulnerable households, such as people living with HIV/AIDS. As well as building capacity of staff and VDCs, our partners are focussed on the formation and training of farmer's and savings groups as well as holding awareness-raising campaigns on HIV/AIDS, nutrition, water and sanitation and health.

The photo below shows a meeting with Government representatives and village chiefs. Thank you for your commitment to these communities as they break the poverty cycle and provide for their families.

