



### Holistic Educational Improvement

**Budget:** \$11,080 fully funded.

**The Project:**

Entrust has been working with several other partners in a large, holistic project aimed to improve food security in 12 of the poorest villages in Thateng District through a range of different activities. One of those activities has been improving the quality of education at the local government schools through training of teachers in pedagogical practices and enhancing curriculum, in addition to providing material support to keep the poorest students in school.

**Outcomes and Impact:**

We are pleased to report that the final six months of the project has come to a successful completion. A summer program was held in all 12 villages during school holidays to provide a bridge between official school terms. The program included games and songs designed to highlight the importance of good nutrition and sound hygiene practices while also providing literacy practice. The day finished with lunch and students were given seeds to grow their own black beans to make a nutritious sweet snack at home.



Twenty teachers from six target schools attended an all-day training workshop run by an experienced literacy instructor on how to creatively incorporate songs into their lessons to promote effective learning. Lao culture is traditionally song-oriented so learning through song is a very effective way to reinforce what is taught and pass on information to other family and community members. The teachers were also invited to a one-day tour of a model provincial school to observe new teaching methods and exchange ideas. The training was followed up at the end of the project to measure progress in teaching effectiveness by observing classes and monitoring student participation.

Mr Pou, one of the teachers, says of the training, *“I gained some good tools to use with my students. They taught us songs and activities to teach the alphabet, parts of the body and other important things like how to wash hands completely. We also learned about playing games related to lessons in the government curriculum. The games can make learning fun for children and now all the teachers are interested in teaching songs and games.”*

What makes this project so encouraging as it concludes, is that the schools have been strengthened and positioned to continue these initiatives on their own for years to come. With strong community support, together with government input, the schools have drawn up detailed plans for future summer programs, on-going professional development of teachers as well as community forums and teacher Facebook networks for sharing concerns and ideas.

**Thank you for helping to train teachers and set up education for the future in these poor communities.**

