

## From Despair to Hope

LAO-TRA-DTH-P01



Vientiane, Laos



Economic Empowerment

Budget \$17,900

Project Timeline

Fully funded

JAN 20

DEC 20



### Overview

Our partner exists to assist the poor, disadvantaged and broken people of Laos, with particular emphasis on those addicted to drugs. Three facilities currently operate in the surrounds of the capital Vientiane, one of which is a newly opened Women and Children's Centre set up to provide a nurturing environment for both women and children. This project supported women addicted to drugs through rehabilitation and vocational training. The centre worked on self-sustainability and built rapport with the local village leadership. They started a soccer academy for youth in the village and invited the villagers to community events at the centre.

### Objectives



Rehabilitation & restoration for 9 women

### Impact

A total of 9 women and 5 dependent children lived at the centre in 2020 (fewer residents than expected due to COVID-19 restrictions). The women recovered well and some have left after completing their one year rehabilitation period.



Vocational training & sustainability projects

The women were trained in sewing and baking. A vegetable garden was planted and produced ample food for the centre. Chickens and quail were raised to produce eggs for the centre and for sale.



### A life transformed!

Coming off amphetamines is hard! When Noi first arrived at the centre she was very anxious and agitated. It seemed she would 'abandon ship' and flee at any moment. Today, Noi is a peaceful, content person - the contrast couldn't be more drastic! Our partners attribute this transformation to Noi's determination to turn her life around and the centre being there to point the way and accompany her on the journey. Community, sacrificial love, suffering, boundaries, courage, care, training, time and much more went into restoring Noi's life (with her parents, right).



### Life change

- The women's centre thrived (not just survived) in the midst of adversity due to the COVID-19 pandemic and a change in leadership in 2020. These problems became an opportunity for personal growth, corporate maturity and unification.
- Women have recovered successfully and have returned home to their villages equipped with new life skills, vocational training and a renewed sense of self-worth.

