

Xieng Nguen Laos

Area Development Programme (ADP)

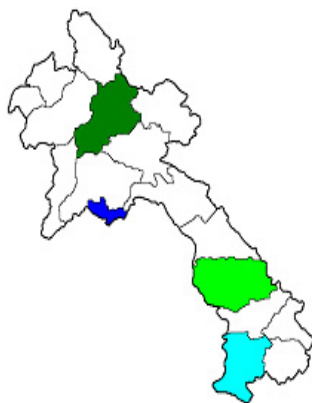


Xieng Nguen ADP

Background

World Vision has been working in the country since 1968 addressing the issue of poverty. The work began with a programme of relief distribution to displaced people. This was followed by a variety of projects including polio rehabilitation, vocational training and leprosy relief. After a break in its work from 1975 due to the revolution and the installation of Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR), World Vision began working in this country again in 1989. Currently World Vision works in four provinces -- Savannakhet, Champasak, Luang Prabang and Vientiane.

The Lao People's Democratic Republic is a land locked country inhabited officially by 47 ethnic groups, but it is believed in reality to be home to as many as 66 different ethnic groups. It has borders with Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Myanmar and China.



The population of Lao PDR is 5.2 million resulting in one of the lowest population densities in Asia (about 22 per sq. km.). The majority of the population is Lao Loum. A large number of people live in remote areas of the country that are not easily accessible so resources such as schools and health facilities are scarce.

As a result, these areas are considered least developed, bringing down the national per capita income.

The Lao Government intentionally pursues the policy of developing the least developed areas in remote provinces. Xieng Nguen District is a priority area for the

provincial authorities who welcome technical and financial assistance from NGOs and international organisations for poverty alleviation and long-term development in this district.



Children in Laos

Xieng Nguen ADP serves

Target Area : 85 villages in Xieng Nguen District

Population : 33,467 people in 5,542 households

Breakdown : Lao Loum (21.15%)
Lao Thoung (58.63%)
Lao Soung (20.22%)

Work : 100% of the population involved in subsistence rice farming

Average income per capita : US\$120.00 per year

The project will first target 17 villages along National Highway 13. The nearest village is 37 km from Luang Prabang and the furthest 94 km from Luang Prabang town.

While the target population is mainly involved in subsistence agriculture, the area offers considerable opportunities for alternative livelihood options and economic development, especially cash crops such as mulberry trees, vegetables, fruit and local handicrafts.



Children in front of their school building

Our vision for every child, life in all its fullness; our prayer for every heart, the will to make it so.

Local customs in the community have created a high level of social bonding that can be built upon to develop community based organisations that can take ownership for their own development in the long term.

The provincial governments have considerable autonomy in relation to their social and economic development, whereas national policies, defense and foreign affairs are under the central government.

Key Problems / Development Opportunities



Poverty is a major problem in Xieng Nguen District.

Housing conditions are poor, income is low and a large section of the population does not produce sufficient rice for household to be self-sufficiency. Sources of income are still limited to the sale of rice, a few cash crops and some livestock.

Previous projects have introduced some opportunities of livelihood improvement for the

communities in Xieng Nguen.

These opportunities include access to loans and introduction of cash crops such as mulberry, soybean and jobs tear.

Great opportunities exist in the area of livestock production. Also in this area some concepts have been introduced which can be replicated further in the district.

New crops such as the Irish potato provide new opportunities for cash production in the area.

Much work still needs to be done in the following:

- access to clean water in communities to help decrease the workload of women and children.
- improvement of health services in the villages, especially in the areas of sanitation, malaria control, and mother and child health.
- HIV/AIDS awareness training.
- Permanent school buildings hardly exist and existing materials are very basic.

There is a need to assist the district with the improvement of education provided in the school.

Current priorities of the district and provincial government are:

- decrease the number of households below the poverty line.
- stop shifting cultivation and the destruction of forests for upland rice farming; and
- stop the cultivation and misuse of opium.
- encourage crop substitution (with cash crops) and livestock raising
- improve the access to health services for the ethnic minority groups in the district.

All these problems and opportunities have been taken into consideration in the preparation of the first 5-year operating plan for Xieng Nguen ADP.

Development Strategy



Goal: *To alleviate poverty of the population, in particular of children in Xieng Nguen District, Luang Prabang by decreasing the number of households living under the poverty line from 28% to less than 5%.*

Objective: *Sustainable improvement of the food, health and general livelihood security of the people in Xieng Nguen District by increasing and diversifying food production, improving mother and child health care and building and encouraging local capacity to address poverty issues*

The following outputs of the project are expected to lead to the achievement of this objective:

- Output 1:** Increase and diversify household livelihood system and food security
- Output 2:** Improve health of villagers in particular mothers and children
- Output 3:** Improve education level of children
- Output 4:** Improve village level structure and understanding for sustainable development
- Output 5:** Support program management system and develop staff and counterpart capacity

To achieve the goal of poverty alleviation special attention will be given to targeting the poorest households in the selected communities and introducing /developing intervention that are most appropriate to impact their livelihood.

Xieng Nguen ADP is expected to phase out in 2017. World Vision will be conducting an evaluation after the first five years of the programme. The estimated budget needed for the first five years is about US\$600,000.

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