



ADRA LAOS 2021

Capacity Statement

Introduction

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) is a global humanitarian organization with a mission to work with people in poverty and distress to create just and positive change. ADRA Lao PDR belongs to the worldwide ADRA network, comprised of 120 supporting and implementing country offices. ADRA Laos's five core sectors include Health; Agriculture and Natural Resource Management; Economic Growth; Education; and Emergency Management. ADRA Laos has expertise in these sectors and in various sub-sectors, specifically in Nutrition, Maternal and Child Health (MCH), Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Tobacco Control, Permaculture, Livestock and Income Generation, Informal Adult Education, Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR).

ADRA Laos employs a team of experienced and committed development staff that design, manage, and implements programs using participatory methods in accordance with donor, government, and ADRA Laos policies and requirements.

A local Board of Directors governs ADRA Laos and the organization upholds the laws and regulations of the Lao Government, and demonstrates accountability and transparency in the delivery of high quality and impact driven programs.

**'Connected,
Courageous,
Compassionate'**

Health



ADRA Laos has extensive experience collaborating with government partners in the health sector with key areas of focus being nutrition, MCH facilities at health centres), WASH, and tobacco control.

Nutrition

ADRA Laos is committed to reducing mother and child malnutrition in Lao and supports the priorities of the Government of Lao (GOL) and our donor partners outlined in the National Nutrition Strategy 2025 and the National Plan of Action on Nutrition 2021-2025. ADRA Laos uses evidence based integrated models and community based interventions which are tailored to meet the local needs and context. Through our Enhanced Nutrition and Health for Upland Phoukoud (ENHUP) Project, we have incorporated a multi-sectorial approach when providing training and raising awareness on topics such as nutrition, disease prevention and treatment, sanitation and hygiene promotion, permaculture home gardens, natural resource management, and the construction of water facilities and latrines.

ADRA Laos is also implementing the Community Nutrition Rehabilitation Program for children under 5 by collaborating with health centre staff and empowering community health volunteers, caregivers and pregnant mothers to promote good nutrition practices which will prevent undernutrition in children and mothers in future.

Maternal and Child Health

ADRA Laos is dedicated to improving the quality of services, facilities and medical equipment for mothers and children. Thanks to ADRA and private donors, existing Health Centres in Mok Mai and Phoukoud, Xiengkhouang Province have been renovated and mother and children health facilities have been constructed. ADRA also invests at the village level by supporting health centre outreach that visits the homes of pregnant women and children, and provides training and capacity building to Village Health Volunteers.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Since ADRA Laos began it has been implementing rural WASH programs in Laos and has a reputation of constructing some of the most sustainable and long-lasting gravity fed systems (GFS) in Laos. Through effective partnerships with the Ministry of Health and the National Water Supply and Environmental Health Programme (Nam Saat), ADRA has been able to deliver more than 30 WASH specific projects that have benefited more than 150,000 people. We have dug more than 1,000 wells, 100+ GFS, a small number of irrigation systems, installed handwashing Stations in Schools, established hundreds of village water committees and water funds, and mobilised villagers to constructed more than 10,000 latrines.

Tobacco Control

ADRA Laos has played a significant role in promoting national legislation for comprehensive tobacco control and strengthened the capacity of government tobacco control stakeholders. We have worked closely with the GOL to support the World Health Organization (WHO) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) which was endorsed in 2006. ADRA is always looking at ways to support tobacco control in Laos and is currently partnering with Loma Linda University to strengthen the capacity of Government partners.

Agriculture, Natural Resource Management



Through our Phoukoud Integrated Climate Resilient Agriculture and Improved Livelihood (PICRAIL) Project, ADRA partners with district and provincial agriculture and forestry offices, the Sustainable Agriculture & Environment Development Association (SAEDA), small holder farmers, and household home gardeners are implementing various agriculture and natural resource management initiatives. PICRAIL promotes sustainable agricultural practices and creates access to market opportunities which will enable communities to achieve economic wellbeing, food security, improved nutrition consumption and enhanced yield crops through integrated agricultural livestock systems and climate resilient crop diversification.



Economic Development



ADRA has implemented various projects to improve the economic wellbeing of those most vulnerable, particularly women. From small enterprise initiatives, to saving and revolving cow and small livestock funds, to skills training and development, to village income generating programs, ADRA has provided the tools, knowledge and support to empower individuals to engage in diverse economic activities which will assist them to become more financially self-sufficient. Currently ADRA is implementing such activities through PICRAIL in Xiengkhouang Province.

Education



Over the years ADRA has provided school infrastructure, water and sanitation facilities, furniture and equipment, and hygiene and health education (including anti-smoking health messaging and peer-to-peer education on preventing STIs and HIV/AIDS) to primary and secondary school students. ADRA has also provided English training to Lao teachers and youth, and conducted non-formal adult literacy training to ethnic minority women. Through ENHUP, ADRA is training adolescent girls and boys in schools on sexual reproductive health using UNFPA and government approved curriculum.

Emergency Management



ADRA has responded to numerous natural disasters in recent years including the COVID19 global pandemic in 2020 and the flooding in Attapeu Province in 2018.

For COVID-19 ADRA supported Xiengkhouang Health Department to procure PPEs and distribute and promote disease prevention messaging materials provincial-wide and through ENHUP supported Phoukoud District to procure PPEs, set-up border control checkpoints, and distribute IEC materials to villages, health centres and schools.

For the Attapeu flood, ADRA Laos provided Non-Food items (NFI) to 200 households and latrines and washrooms for the Pingdong Evacuation Camp.

ADRA is committed to effectively preparing communities to reduce the risk of loss from disasters and to provide life assistance during and after emergencies. ADRA has a National Emergency Management Plan and can access small scale funds from the ADRA Global Network to respond quickly to emergencies. This mechanism enables ADRA to facilitate the best use of resources and support with a well-coordinated humanitarian response during the time of an emergency.

Partnerships and Participation



ADRA Laos values collaboration and has established and maintained long lasting partnerships with local civil societies, government agencies at village, district, provincial and ministry level, private sectors clients, ADRA network partners and donors. We view collaboration as a cost-effective and timesaving means for implementing projects, sharing lessons, and combining technical experience and expertise for maximum project impact.

ADRA has developed excellent relationships with local non-profit association, community, groups and international non-government organizations in Laos, and partners with organizations and government agencies to further common goals and objectives.



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