



# CAPACITY STATEMENT



## OVERVIEW

**T**he Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) is a global humanitarian organization with more than 130 supporting and implementing country offices worldwide. ADRA Lao PDR belongs to this network and obtained legal status to operate as an International NGO in Lao in 1992 with the core focus being to assist those most vulnerable by alleviating poverty through community driven integrated development projects.

ADRA has implemented more than 113 projects in Lao PDR worth approximately USD\$18 million since its inception in five core sectors including Health; Integrated Agriculture and Natural Resource Management; Economic Development; Education; and Emergency Management.

ADRA has gained significant knowledge and technical expertise over the past 27 years in sub sectors including Nutrition; Maternal and Child Health; Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH); Tobacco Control; Permaculture; Livestock and Income Generation; Informal Adult Education; Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction.

A local Board of Directors governs ADRA 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. ADRA uses participatory methods whilst designing, managing and implementing projects and integrates social inclusion and gender equality

principles throughout all ADRA's programs.

ADRA values collaboration and has established and maintained long lasting partnerships with a wide range of stakeholders including development agencies and donors, ADRA network partners, government counterparts at the Ministry, Provincial, District, local civil societies and Village level, community change agents, beneficiaries, and private sector clients. We currently employ a team of committed development personnel who have diverse technical and administrative expertise and capacity who strive to bring about change in not only those they work with but also in themselves.



# AREAS OF IMPACT

## HEALTH

ADRA has extensive experience working with our government partners in the health sector with key areas of focus being nutrition, mother and newborn child health (including constructing MNCH facilities at health centres), WASH, and tobacco control.

### Nutrition

ADRA Lao is committed to reducing mother and child malnutrition in Lao and supports the priorities of the Government of Lao and our donor partner which follow the National Nutrition Strategy 2025 and the National Plan of Action on Nutrition 2016-2020. ADRA uses evidence based integrated models and community based interventions which are tailored to meet the local needs and context. We have incorporated the multi-sectorial approach when providing training and raising awareness on topics such as nutrition, disease prevention, sanitation and hygiene promotion, permaculture home gardens, natural resource management, and the construction or rehabilitation of water assets.

ADRA is also implementing the Positive Deviance/Hearth model for children under 2 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 in future.

### Maternal and Newborn Child Health

ADRA 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 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.



## WASH

ADRA is considered as one of the leading pioneers in implementing rural WASH programs in Lao PDR and has a reputation of constructing some of the most sustainable and long-lasting gravity fed systems (GFS) in Lao. 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 which has benefited more than 150,000 people. We have dug more than 1,000 wells, 100+ GFS, a small number of irrigation systems, established hundreds of village water committees and water funds, and mobilised villagers to constructed more than 10,000 latrines.

## Tobacco Control

ADRA has played a significant role in promoting a national legislation for comprehensive tobacco control and strengthened the capacity of tobacco control stakeholders. ADRA have worked closely with Lao Government to support the World Health Organization (WHO) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) and in 2006 The Lao government endorsed the WHO Framework for Convention on Tobacco Control. ADRA is continuing to advance this work and is currently partnering with Loma Linda University to strengthen the capacity of Government partners to build capacity Geographic Information Systems in monitoring and collecting data in hard to reach places which will enhance public health monitoring and surveillance on Tobacco Control in Laos.

## Agriculture, Natural Resource Management

ADRA works with district and provincial agriculture and forestry offices, small scale farmers, and household home gardeners in implementing various agriculture and natural resource management initiatives. ADRA promotes sustainable agricultural practices and creates access to market opportunities which will enable communities to achieve economic wellbeing, food security, improved nutrition 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 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, peer-to-peer education on preventing STIs and HIV/AIDS, and reproductive health) 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.

## Emergency Management

ADRA has responded to numerous natural disasters in the past including the recent flooding in Attapeu Province during July – October 2018. 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 emergency.





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