



Project Location

Phoukoud District, Xiengkhouang Province.

Donors

The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and ADRA Deutschland e.V. (ADRA Germany)

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Help for *Three Disabled Brothers*

Imagine you have three disabled children in your family, and you are in your sixties, but you still have to take care of them for the rest of your advanced age. No one understands this hardship more than Mr. Vansy Sayasin, a PICRAIL project beneficiary. Mr. Sayasin, now 68, primarily grows rice, raises animals, and plants seasonal vegetables and spices. He has three disabled sons and two non-disabled daughters. Not long ago, his wife and a son, a non-disabled one, died. His first born, a daughter, is married and has moved out on her own. He is now left to take care of the handicapped trio while living with his second non-disabled daughter and a son-in-law.

The brothers were all born abnormal. Buaphan, 43, the oldest among the three, can neither walk nor speak. The farthest venture from home he has ever made was to participate in a PICRAIL social inclusion event held in his village. Saykham, 28, has no idea what speech is. Though his legs are a little better compared to his brothers, he can only walk a short distance, from home to their fish ponds and animal pens located nearby. Khamphaeng, 24, walks on four and can barely make a sound. House-bound, like, Buaphan, he can only get outside when someone helps him down their stilt house.

Poor, old and weary, Mr. Sayasin is now desperate for help more than ever. Looking back to the day his first disabled son was born, he said he had never received any formal support. Two of the brothers have wheelchairs, but they are old, flat, and broken; they were donated by two of their neighbors whose disabled members had died. Mr. Sayasin recalled 35 years ago a government agency visited him and promised to send some wheelchairs, but that promise never came true. He hoped someday help would come.

“Before no one [projects/agency] visited or set foot in my door. I am incredibly happy that ADRA/[PICRAIL] came and visited my home, asked about my needs, and provided help,” said Mr. Sayasin gratefully.

June 2019 came, and the long wait was over. The Sayasins were selected for PICRAIL activities. Mr. Sayasin learned from a village meeting that a project named PICRAIL was coming. He shared the news with his wife with a sense of relief and hope. “Finally, help is coming,” said his wife who was still alive at the time. The two wasted no time withholding their participation. Failed hope, disappointment, and poverty only served to remind them that they needed to join the project and that the ball was in their court.

Mr. Sayasin, as a household leader, took part in PICRAIL community planning, disability survey, trainings, and meetings. Based on their potentials, the family was chosen for fish farming. They received a total of 1,600 fishlings, and Mr. Sayasin was thrilled to put what he had learned from PICRAIL into practice—farming techniques, feed production, pest control, water management, etc. Testifying to the results, Mr. Sayasin said his fish grows faster and bigger and has very low loss rate.



Mr. Sayasin enjoys sharing his practical knowledge with neighbors and the community at meetings and other collective gatherings. He also shares some fish with his visitors who drop by to see him at his ponds. His sons, at the same time, love eating the healthy fish. Saykham, whose legs are stronger, for instance, likes feeding and catching it. Though not easy, he can grill his catch for lunch with his two brothers—Buaphan and Khamphaeng.

After more than a year with the project, Mr. Sayasin feels he can maximize the given capital. He wants to construct a greenhouse and a pig pen near the ponds. In his view, the greenhouse can draw water from the ponds and produce leftover vegetables for both pigs and fish. The pigs in turn can produce manure for compost and fertilize the vegetables. At the same time, vegetables and pig manure are good source of feed. Mr. Sayasin hopes PICRAIL can help him achieve this dream and create an agricultural system that ensures his family's steady food supply and additional income.

While their father enjoys implementing project lessons, the brothers miss the social inclusion

celebration they participated in December 2019. “When will you take us again?”, Buaphan strugglingly asked an ADRA officer. The event was probably the only time they met so many people, more 120. There were a lot of games, smiles, and other disabled people. The brothers were examined by a team from Xiengkhouang Provincial Center for Medical Rehabilitation. The interaction gave the them a hope of new wheelchairs.

“Are you bringing us wheelchairs?” continued Buaphan indistinctively.

Mr. Sayasin sets high expectation for the project. He wants to see his livelihood and food security improved. He intends to make sure he has enough food for his family, particularly the three disabled siblings. He as well as his disabled children also hope that PICRAIL/ADRA will coordinate with the center or any potential donors to find two wheelchairs for them.

To donors, Mr. Sayasin said, “Thank you for helping my family, thank you for lifting us up from poverty and giving us the opportunity to improve our lives.”