



**ADRA LAOS  
2023**

**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 Laos belongs to the global ADRA network, comprised of 110 supporting and implementing country offices. ADRA Laos's core sectors include Health; Agriculture and Natural Resource Management; Livelihoods; and Emergency Management. ADRA Laos has expertise in Nutrition, Reproductive, Mother, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH), Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Tobacco Control, Agriculture (Good Agriculture Practices (GAP) Organic Agriculture (OA) and Climate Smart Agriculture, Livestock, Livelihoods, Value Chains, Market Linkage and Business Development.

ADRA Laos employs a team of experienced and committed development staff that design, manage, and implement projects using participatory methods in accordance with donor, government, and ADRA policies and requirements. A local Board of Directors governs ADRA Laos and the organization upholds the laws and regulations of the Lao Government while demonstrating accountability and transparency in delivering high-quality, evidence-based, and impact-driven programs.



**'Connected, Courageous, Compassionate'**

# Technical Expertise



## Health

**ADRA Laos has adopted a One Health approach to our health programming which encompasses human, animal, and environmental health and well-being. We are committed to strengthening the capacity of Lao health professionals and stakeholders in Nutrition, RMNCAH, Tobacco Control, and WASH and support the expansion of Mother and Children facilities at Health Centers.**

### Nutrition & RMNCAH

Since 2013, ADRA Laos has incorporated a multi-sectorial approach that encompasses integrated nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive models and community-based interventions that are tailored to meet local needs and contexts. Over the past decade, we have gained solid evidence to show our nutrition interventions have reduced malnutrition in target areas with results showing that: acute malnutrition dropped from 6.2% to 2.2%; chronic malnutrition from 45% to 37.8%; and underweight from 22.4% to 8.2%

ADRA Laos's nutrition-specific interventions include conducting Community Nutrition Rehabilitation Programs for children under 5 (CU5) and pregnant/lactating mothers by collaborating with health centre staff and training and empowering village health volunteers, caregivers and pregnant/lactating mothers to facilitate timely growth monitoring promotion, and good nutrition practices which will prevent undernutrition in children and mothers in future. Social Behaviour and Communication Change (SBCC) approaches are applied to trainings and awareness

raising that focuses on the first 1000 days of life, from conception to two years of age, family nutrition messaging of supply and diversification of food, feeding and caring practices, and disease prevention and treatment.

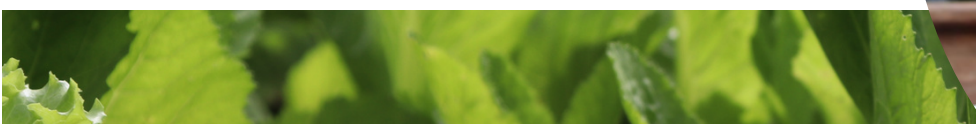
Nutrition-sensitive initiatives include organic home gardens, school reproductive education sessions for adolescents, gender equity, and construction/ rehabilitation of water facilities and household latrines.

### Health Facilities

ADRA Laos is dedicated to improving the quality of facilities and medical equipment for mothers and children. Thanks to ADRA's network and private donors, existing Health Centres in Mok Mai and Phoukoud Districts, Xiengkhouang Province have been renovated and new mother and children health facilities have been constructed.

### Tobacco Control

ADRA Laos played a significant role in promoting national legislation for comprehensive tobacco control and strengthened the capacity of government tobacco control stakeholders. Partnering and working closely with the GOL ADRA helped support the World Health Organization (WHO) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) to be endorsed in 2006. ADRA encourages healthy living through it's programming and is always looking at ways to support tobacco control in Laos with the hope of securing tobacco control funding in future.





## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Since ADRA Laos began in 1992 it has been implementing rural WASH projects and has a reputation for 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) and local disability service providers, 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, and a small number of irrigation systems, installed handwashing stations in schools, established hundreds of village water committees and water funds, and mobilized villagers to construct more than 10,000 latrines. Our current focus is on creating accessible facilities for all.



## Agriculture, Natural Resource Management (NRM)

ADRA Laos is committed to improving agriculture practices through applying a Nature Based Solutions approach. Through our programming, ADRA partners with local Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), government agencies, and local farmers and farmer groups to improve agriculture and environment stewardship and promote human well-being.

ADRA's interventions support national standards of Good Agriculture Practices (GAP), Organic Agriculture (OA) and Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) production, sustainable livestock, grazing, and water management, value chains, and market access and linkage. Our NRM interventions focus on reforestation and protection of forests, fisheries management and conservation, Non-timber Forest Products (NTFPs) and ecosystems conservation.



## Livelihoods and Income Generation

ADRA has implemented various projects to improve the economic well-being of those most vulnerable, particularly women and people with disability (PWD). 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 livelihood activities which will assist them to become more financially self-sufficient.





# Emergency Management

ADRA has responded to numerous natural disasters in recent years including the COVID19 global pandemic in 2020-2021 and the flooding in Attapeu Province in 2018.

For COVID-19 ADRA supported Xiengkhouang Health Department to distribute disease prevention messaging materials provincial-wide. In Phoukoud District ADRA supported procurement of PPEs and equipment for border control checkpoints and distributed IEC materials to all villages, health centers, and schools. In Salavan Province, ADRA distributed materials for quarantine centres including medical equipment, PPEs for health staff, water filters, blankets, and pillows.

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

ADRA is committed to effectively preparing communities to reduce the risk of loss from disasters and provide assistance during and after emergencies. ADRA has a National Emergency Management Plan and can access small-scale funds from the ADRA 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 from the macro-meso-micro level (ministry, provincial, district, and village), private sector clients, community groups, donors, ADRA network partners, and other INGOs in Laos. 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.



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