

caritas

L U X E M B O U R G

in Laos

From vulnerability to resilience



**Improving nutrition,
securing livelihoods,
supporting disaster risk
reduction in Lao PDR**

Sustainable community development

Caritas Luxembourg in Laos strongly believes that **community development** can be strengthened by income **diversification**, increased **resilience** to disasters, strengthening of **governance** and development of adapted **infrastructure** for improved access to clean water, sanitation and health services.



Capacity building for local actors is at the heart of Caritas Luxembourg in Laos' (CLL) strategy. By supporting the elaboration of Village Development Plans, activities build village authorities' capacities in planning for development. Communities participate in the construction and management of their infrastructures, which ensures their sustainability. In addition, CLL strengthens capacities of Local Civil Society Organizations (LCSOs) and creates space for cooperation between them and local authorities.

High deforestation rates in Lao PDR foster the negative impacts of climate change over the country. CLL supports **environmental preservation** through setting-up forest protection and fish reproduction zones. Organic producer groups are supported to ensure livelihoods strengthening and environmental preservation come hand in hand.



Gender equality is at the heart of CLL's strategy. Equal benefits of projects to women and men is ensured through support to women groups for income generating activities and by channeling project activities through the Lao Women Union. Gender discrimination is addressed by raising awareness on violence against women.

Disaster risk reduction



Key activities

- Hazard Vulnerability and Capacity assessment in villages,
- Trainings on the 3 steps approach for disaster response and preparedness,
- Trainings on how to react to disasters through simulation games,
- Installation of Early Warning Systems,
- Construction and reparation of infrastructure (bridge, irrigation systems, roads...),
- Weather forecast system,
- Capacity building on DRR to local authorities at village, district and provincial levels.

Disasters in Lao PDR

As climate change impacts are rising in Laos, storms, extreme floods, landslides and drought periods become more severe and frequent. The most-affected population are poor communities in rural area, which have limited means to protect their lives and assets.

Actions for Disaster Risk Reduction

Caritas Luxembourg in Laos adopts a holistic approach whereby villagers and local authorities learn how to act before, during and after disasters. CLL builds the capacities of Village, District and Provincial Disaster Committees. Risks assessments are done in the villages to map the risks and their impacts, early warning systems are set-up in to warn on upcoming disasters, and communities are trained on protecting themselves through simulation exercises. Infrastructures are also rehabilitated to ensure villagers can access to essential services and have increased resilience to disasters.

Improved health and nutrition



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene:

Limited access to clean water and poor sanitation and hygiene practices are key factors of malnutrition. Caritas Luxembourg in Laos secures access to clean water through distribution of water filters and construction of water systems. Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation trainings are implemented to empower communities to improve hygiene behaviours and reduce diarrhoeal diseases. Health Centers' staff are also supported for improved health services to communities.

Strengthened governance

Limited coordination for nutrition across sectors limits progresses toward reducing malnutrition in Laos. CLL strengthens nutrition governance by organizing provincial meetings where civil society, INGOs, local authorities share knowledge and lessons learned on nutrition topics. Provincial nutrition governance is also strengthened through capacity building to the Provincial Nutrition Committees and increased cooperation between authorities and LCSOS.



Key activities:

- Installation of water filters and latrines,
- Construction and repairation of water systems managed by village committees,
- PHAST trainings,
- Distribution of Mother and Child Health material to health centers,
- Capacity building to local health staff,
- Provincial Partnership meetings on nutrition issues,
- Capacity building to LCSOs in nutrition,
- Capacity building to Provincial and District Nutrition committees.

Strengthening livelihoods



Reducing poverty in Laos...

In rural areas of Laos, people's livelihoods are mostly agriculture-based. However, many factors ranging from crop and animal disease to limited access to markets and natural disasters put farmers in precarious living conditions. Caritas Luxembourg in Laos supports families to regain control over their lives by supporting livestock raising, organic agriculture and handicraft production.

... through diversified livelihoods

Caritas Luxembourg in Laos implements a holistic approach at village and district levels to address all levers of poverty.

Organic vegetables, livestock and weaving production groups are supported in villages and benefit from funding, technical trainings and improved access to market. Forest and fish reproduction zones are set up with clear rules to ensure that livelihood strengthening and environmental preservation are compatible. Participatory land-use mapping and hand-over of secured land titles allow communities to use their land sustainably. Finally, good governance is fostered through the establishment of Village Development Plans and capacity building to local authorities.



Key activities:

- Access to funding opportunities for local production groups,
- Technical trainings on handicraft, organic agriculture, livestock raising,
- Village Veterinary Workers trained to provide vaccinations,
- Irrigation schemes repaired or constructed,
- Forest protection and fish reproduction zones settled,
- Increased linkage to market through market surveys and assessment of production capacities.

Caritas Luxembourg in Lao PDR

Caritas Luxembourg mission

Caritas Luxembourg acts towards social inclusion in Luxembourg and around the world. Support to vulnerable populations is the organization's primary concern. At international level, Caritas Luxembourg takes the side of victims of natural disasters and violent conflicts, supports reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts and carries out development projects.

Caritas Luxembourg in Lao PDR

In Laos, poverty rates reach 23% of the population and 33% of children under 5 suffer from chronic malnutrition. CLL's main objective in Laos is to contribute to **poverty reduction**. This is achieved through a holistic approach for income diversification, increased resilience to disasters, strengthened governance systems and development of adapted infrastructure for access to essential services such health, clean water, sanitation.

CLL is currently implementing projects in Xieng Khouang, Vientiane and Bolikhamxay provinces.



Follow Caritas Luxembourg
in Laos on Facebook



How to contact Caritas in Lao PDR

Caritas Luxembourg in Lao PDR

PO Box: 2079

Ban Sisangvone, Xaysettha District

Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR

Tel: (856-21) 417 441

Our activities are implemented thanks to the support of the Luxembourg Government, the European Union, Luxdev, and the participation of numerous generous private and institutional donors.