

Project Name:

“Awareness Raising on Disability Inclusion”

Lao Ngam District, Salavan Province, Laos

AIG5



Chayphet Phanthakesone

Deputy head of
Champasak Medical Rehabilitation Centre



With a Master's Degree in Disability Policy and Practice from Flinders University,

Chayphet Phanthakesone is the deputy head of the Champasak Medical Rehabilitation Centre and a longtime advocate for people living with disability. Now, with an Australia-funded Innovation Grant, Chayphet is using her experience providing disability services to raise awareness of disability inclusion in Salavan Province.

Chayphet has collaborated with local groups in Salavan Province to enhance inclusion and disability awareness through workshops on disability types and services attended by 32 professionals from the health, education, and sports sectors and village authorities, as well as disability screening sessions attended by 210 locals, including people with physical disabilities and their caregivers, who received assessments, health education, counselling, and recommendations, with 150 participants identified with physical impairments receiving further guidance.

Additionally, Chayphet has made public services more accessible to disadvantaged populations and individuals with disabilities by designating three coordinators who will follow up and help with referrals to the Medical Rehabilitation Centre.

Congratulations Chayphet on an excellent Alumni Innovation Grant project!

Project Name:

“ Heritage Organic Seed Bank Promotion ”

Nambak Village, Ngoy District, LouangPrabang Province, Laos

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Phaeng Xaphokham

Agriculture extension officer

LouangPrabang Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office



Australia Alumni Phaeng Xaphokham works as an Agriculture extension officer at the LouangPrabang Provincial agriculture and forestry Office. Now, with an Australia-funded Innovation Grant, Phaeng is using his Diploma in Permaculture to help farmers in Nambak and Ngoy Districts, Luang Prabang to prepare for the future.

Over the past six months, he has collaborated with local farmers to preserve native seeds and showcase modern food resilience systems. His project's results show the collection and preservation of 67 local variety vegetable seeds through the efforts of 42 farmers, training for 23 farmers in basic agroecology, and a one-day educational tour for 47 students, 8 teachers, and 13 general practice farmers.

Phaeng also used his grant money to install new water tanks and watering systems, build seed nurseries, worm farms, new permanent vegetable beds and provided seed storage equipment to local farmers.

What a great project! Congratulations Phaeng for sharing your skills, knowledge and passion for sustainable farming with your local community!

Project Name:

**“Improving Media Capacity in Producing News
on ASEAN Chairmanship Preparation
and other International Events ”**

Chommany Village, Saythani District, Vientiane Capital, Laos

AIG5



Vienglaty Ketsattha

News Reporter
Lao National Television



Vienglaty Ketsattha is an experienced journalist with Lao National Television.

She completed a Masters in Journalism in 2010 with an #AustraliaAwards scholarship and has used her #AlumniInnovationGrant funds to improve the capacity of Lao journalists as Laos prepares to chair ASEAN this year.

Vienglaty has implemented a training program in Vientiane to improve the capacity and technical skills of Lao media workers across all platforms including television, radio, and newspaper. The training covered using new technology for producing news stories and increasing awareness and understanding of issues related to the ASEAN meetings.

In November 2023, a group of 34 Lao journalists underwent specialized training to enhance their reporting and producing skills, particularly on ASEAN-related issues. As a practical exercise, all trainees produced ASEAN-focused news, which was then broadcast on social media and Lao National Television.

Congratulations Vienglaty!! You have delivered timely and innovative training for Lao media workers, supporting Laos on the world stage during #ASEAN2024

Project Name:

“Clean Drinking Water Supply and Awareness Raising for Students”

Hinheup Secondary School, Vientiane Province, Laos

AIG5



Phingsaliao Sithiengtham

Technical Planning Officer
Department of Water Resources
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment



Mr Phingsaliao Sithiengtham completed a Master of Science (Water Resources Management) at Flinders University in 2019 supported by an #AustraliaAwards Scholarship. Today he works as a technical planning officer for the Department of Water Resources, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.

With his knowledge of water management, Phingsaliao could see that the people of Hinheup District in Vientiane province were relying on groundwater for drinking - groundwater that can often be contaminated with harmful pollutants, poses a serious health risk, especially to children. For his #AlumniInnovationGrant project, Phingsaliao installed clean drinking water filters, pumped with solar power and provide training on water quality monitoring at the Hinheup Secondary School. This project has enabled 787 students and 45 teachers to access free and clean drinking water, while simultaneously reducing power consumption and plastic waste.

Phingsaliao also trained the teachers and students in water conservation practices, empowering them to become water stewards. The students now regularly monitor and report on groundwater quality.

Congratulations Phingsaliao! This project serves as a model for other communities to follow to improve access to clean water and promote sustainable water usage.

Project Name:

**“ Project to Promote Family Members
Participation in Strengthening
Household Economy ”**

Nathao Village, Pek District, Xiengkhouang Province, Laos

AIG 5



Mardam Thor

Head of Social Welfare Unit
People with Disabilities Development
Association of Xiengkhouang (PDDA XKH)

Mardam Thor completed a General English course at Vientiane College with the Australia-funded Disability Inclusive Development English Program.

He is now the Head of Social Welfare for the People with Disabilities Development Association in Xiengkhouang Province.

With a passion for helping disadvantaged families in rural areas, Mardam has used his #AlumniInnovationGrant to strengthen gender equality and livelihoods for villagers at Nathao and Nady Village, Pek District, Xiengkhouang Province.

Through this project, 40 families attended a 3-day training on gender roles through the Gender Action Learning System tool (GALS tool), aiming to unite families, ensuring that women and men are valued equally and helping them to pursue common goals. The project also provided weaving materials such as cotton and silk to each family so they could produce handicraft products and sell them at local markets, increasing income for the family.

Congratulations Mardam! You should be proud of your achievements and the leadership that you have shown in your community in Xiengkhouang.



Project Name:

“ Solar Health: A Brighter Future for Rural Laos ”

Pong Village, Kongsedon District, Salavan Province, Laos

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Sengthida Sivilay

Technical Officer

The Department of Health Personnel
Ministry of Health

Sengthida Sivilay is an Australia Awards Alumni with a vision for a brighter future in Salavan Province.

When visiting the Pong Village Health Centre, Sengthida noticed the poor infrastructure, especially the limited lighting for the 24-hour health service. Talking to the doctors and staff, she found that patients could not access good service at night, especially if there was an emergency.

With funding from the Alumni Innovation Grants, Sengthida has used her leadership skills and her team members' technical skills to improve the facilities of the Pong Village Health Centre. This innovative project has delivered new, sustainable lighting for the health center, pharmacy and staff dormitory. There are new outdoor spotlights for increased safety and as a result, more people feel comfortable accessing the health center at night, with nighttime services increasing by 50%. In addition, the solar lighting system has reduced the electricity bill for the Center by 50%.

Through this project, three communities with a population of 3,629 can have access to better health services.
What a fantastic outcome!

Congratulations Sengthida, your leadership and innovation have made a real positive difference in the community!