



LAO-NLH-LSD-P01

Reporting period: July 2016 to January 2017

Building new lives

Budget: \$19,440 – fully funded!

Update:

This is a two-fold project, aimed at providing livelihoods for ex-addicts coming out of a rehabilitation centre, as well as providing a source of income to the rehabilitation centre, assisting it to develop financial sustainability.

The first part of the project provides carpentry tools and equipment to the Rehabilitation centre's half way house. This has enabled the leader of the half-way house to set up a business building houses and furniture. In the last six months the team at the half way house have built 3 houses, and have two more on order. The leader and 15 young men have all learnt new trades, and four of these young men have now graduated, and set up their own small business doing repairs and building houses in their village. Not only have the men learnt trades, but they have also learnt how to run a business. Our partner reports that these young men have such a sense of pride in what they have achieved, and the fact that they can now support themselves and stand on their own two feet. This is so exciting for us!



The first house built by the young men

One of the rehabilitants, Yung, was a drug user from the age of 8! Through the centre, he came off drugs and dealt with his anger. He moved to the half way house, and learnt a trade. He has gone from being a school drop out addict with no future, to starting his own business!

The second part of the project provided equipment to build a cow barn, and fish and frog ponds at the rehabilitation centre. The government then gave our partner five cows as they had demonstrated they could look after them. The cows have had calves, and the herd has grown, even while some have been sold to provide income to run the centre. Again, the recovering addicts have learnt new skills as they have taken care of the animals and sold produce at the market. They have a new sense of pride and optimism in their ability to make it once they leave the centre.

Our partner also plans to train the surrounding villagers on how to look after cows, fish and frogs, and the government views this farm as a model! The plan is to conduct training in the first half of this year, now that the rehabilitants are trained up. We love that our partners aren't just looking to help their charges, but are keen to improve the lives of those living around them.



Ponds for fish and frogs

Nearly 300 people have benefited from the project in the last six months. Many more will benefit going forward. And our partner reports that 50% of their running costs are now being covered from their own efforts. We are so thankful to you for all that you have enabled, and the lives you have transformed, through your donation!