



Holistic Educational Improvement

Budget: \$10,590 fully funded. This is the second year of a 3-year project.

Update:

Entrust is working with several other partners in a large, holistic project aimed to improve food security in 12 of the poorest villages in Thateng District through a range of different activities. One of those activities is improving the quality of education at the local government schools. Our partners are working with the teachers in each of the schools to help them to sustainably improve their pedagogical practices. They are also adding information to the curriculum on agriculture, nutrition and hygiene, which will consolidate other components of the project and make sure the changes being introduced are owned by future generations. Finally, they are assisting the poorest students in the school with access to materials to enable them to stay at school, ensuring the benefits of the program reach those most in need.

The teacher training sessions this year focused on the Lao alphabets, interactive techniques in teaching mathematics, activities made with local recycled materials and introducing different ways of teaching topics on gardening. The 18 teachers from the 12 partner schools had a wonderful time learning together, sharing each other's ideas and encouraging one another to create effective teaching strategies. One of the primary school teachers said *"In the past I just followed the curriculum and students copied what I wrote on the board. In the teacher training sessions I had the opportunity to improve my knowledge on how to teach various activities, help children learn through games and pictures (photo, above right)...they are having fun and always come to school with excitement and joy."* The education team travelled to the schools throughout the year to supervise and monitor the teachers to ensure that they were implementing the new teaching models.



The Summer Activity Program at all 12 schools focused on teaching proper hygiene and nutrition, physical activities and literature practice. The Gardening and Fish Raising Program began in 2 schools with varying levels of success but was then extended to 4 more schools throughout the year and is now sustainable in the 6 schools. This program taught students basic agricultural skills how to be responsible for living creatures.

Mrs Lem has 4 children who are now studying at primary school (see photo, below left). She was too poor to send them to school or provide their school supplies. She says *"they are now focused on their learning, and, of course, I am so happy and proud of them. It helps lessen the financial burden on my family"*.



Her daughter also commented *"I am very happy to have these learning materials because it makes it easier for me to study. After receiving this support, I decided to study hard, attend school regularly and focus on my studies. I post the learning materials on the wall next to my bed. I am one of the good students in my class. My mum and my teachers are very proud of me"*.

Educating their children is a clear priority for most parents in the 12 communities. Thank you for helping to train teachers and educate the youth in remote areas of southern Laos.