

## Laos

Nationale level,  
Vientiane and  
southern provinces

### Inclusive eye healthcare in Laos



### Inclusive eye healthcare on a national level, in Vientiane and the southern provinces, Laos



**We strengthen the inclusion of people with disabilities**



**We promote and demand human rights**



**We work closely together with local partners**

#### Project goal

The overarching goal of the project is to strengthen the Laotian ophthalmological health services in their ability to ensure that ophthalmological care is accessible to everyone.

#### Why this project?

Although the country has made progress in healthcare in recent years, significant gaps remain, particularly in the area of preventable blindness. The last study on avoidable blindness in Laos from 2017 showed, among other things, that only around 54% of the required cataract operations could be carried out. There remains a great deficit in supply, especially in the registration and treatment of people with cataracts. The backlog has not been reduced and the COVID-19 pandemic has further diminished the availability of eye healthcare.

## Laos in figures



### Area

236,800 km<sup>2</sup>

### Population

7.6 Million

### GDP per Capita

2,630 USD (LU: 72,712 USD)

### Percentage of population below national poverty line

18.3% (LU: 17.5%)

### Life expectancy

66 years (LU: 82.3 years)

### Literacy rate

84.7% of the population over 15 years of age

### Doctor density

0.37 per 1,000 inhabitants (LU: 3)

### Development Index

137th Rank from 189 countries



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### Tax deductible donations

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The project must therefore aim to expand eye healthcare: through the training of additional staff, improved registration of affected people and more efficient allocation of resources at both the community and district levels.

## How does the project help?

In order to achieve this, three goals have been established:

- › The first goal is to reduce avoidable blindness. To achieve this goal, the training of health workers is promoted.
- › The second goal is to increase the accessibility of the services, especially for people with disabilities. To support this goal, the barriers to access services are identified and removed.
- › The third goal is to improve the quality of eye healthcare services. First and foremost, national treatment standards are to be developed and introduced. Furthermore, quality control and higher quality goals are to be targeted over the project period from 2022 to 2024.

## What does the project achieve?

From 2022 to 2024:

- › 44 specialists from the healthcare system receive ophthalmological training and corresponding scholarships.
- › 6,000 people with cataracts are given the treatment they need.
- › 75 people with other eye diseases are treated surgically.
- › 5 Disability organizations receive support for campaigns to identify treatment needs and ensure accessibility of services.
- › 120 particularly poor and vulnerable patients receive additional support in addition to treatment in order to enable them to access treatment.

## Local partners

The project consists of two parts. The national parts are managed and implemented by the Ophthalmological Center of the Ministry of Health (NOC) in the capital, Vientiane. The southern provinces part of the project, in Champasak, Sekong, Sarava and Attepu, is implemented by the provincial hospital in Champasak in cooperation with district hospitals and health centers in the surrounding villages. The project is part of a national program coordinated between the NOC, CBM (southern provinces, center and national level) and two other non-governmental organizations: the Fred Hollow's Foundation (northern and central provinces) and the Eye Care Foundation (Northeast Province).

## Budget

CBM Switzerland is leading the project in Laos. According to the financial resources of Fondation CBM Luxembourg, the project will be supported from 2022 to 2024 by an annual minimal budget of €35,000 (approximately 12% of the Laos project.)