

# Service Fraternel d'Entraide - Laos

Newsletter - November 2017



## WOMEN AND MEN WORKING ALONGSIDE THE PEOPLE OF LAOS

After last April's news, we are pleased to update you on how SFE's work is progressing in Laos.

### The Salavan project:

After a 2 year gestation period, the official opening ceremony of this new project took place early October in the presence of government representatives.



The province of Salavan is one of the poorest of Laos: half of the population lives below the poverty line, 54 % of the children under 5 years old suffer from chronic malnutrition. Two thirds (2/3) of the villagers do not use toilets. 2/3 of the women give birth in the villages without any assistance of qualified personnel. The medical staff from the district hospital and the 5 health centers close to the villages are not sufficiently trained to meet the needs of the local population, and they lack the necessary medical equipment and medicine. The project will include a hospital component and will provide medical and technical support to the healthcare centers. Parallel to this, a team will be involved in the community healthcare program (water supply, latrine construction, nutrition training...) directed towards the poorest villages of this district.

The objectives were numerous and various: discover another culture as well as the diverse aspects of the work of a NGO in Laos, get involved concretely through building a playground for the nursery school in the Kapeu - Thateng Province.

The youth experienced amazing things, discovered a « warm » culture where relationships are very important, while being work efficient is very often relegated to a lower priority. Though they were frustrated not to be able to communicate in Lao, they put all their hearts into deciphering a few words in order to learn the basic rules of politeness, and to work together with the Laotian volunteers at the construction of the playground. It was a meaningful experience in all respects, made possible thanks to the unconditional hospitality of our field director and his wife.

### Charity events for SFE :



Two students (one in 2016 and the other in 2017) have undergone an internship in Laos for the completion of their studies. Each of them being involved in a music band, they wished to organize charity events. The aim was to collect the necessary funds for the purchase of a vehicle for Thateng, the location of one of SFE's projects. Through these evenings, they raised the sum of 9000€ which, once added to other funds already collected, made it possible to purchase a car for Thateng.



### Lao Style camp:

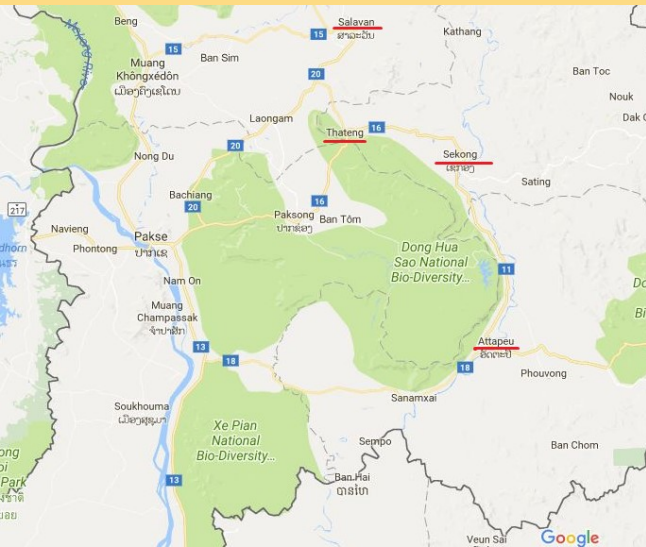
Sixteen young people with their four accompanying adults participated in a 3 week camp in Thateng.





## Our envoys in Laos:

A new director in Kapeu took over from the former one who worked with his family in the capital city of Vientiane. They returned to Europe after 6 years of service. Since the five SFE locations are located in the south of the country, having the new director in the south is completely relevant. Other challenges arise, like SFE's visibility on a central level.



## SFE in Laos counts today:

- 3 community health projects in 3 provinces: Attapeu, Thateng, Salavan
- 2 hospital projects: Sekong, Salavan
- 1 couple leading a professional training center in Savan-nakhet
- an office in Vientiane: for following up of projects and to serve as interface with the government officials
- 18 adult expatriates : 4 single persons, 7 families (with a total of 11 children in 4 families)
- 45 Lao staff split up into 5 teams.



## Christmas project:

A four-wheel-drive vehicle is needed for the work in the villages and healthcare centers of the new project in Salavan. We have not yet collected the needed funding for its purchase. If you wish to contribute to the successful launching of this project, we propose to you to support this purchase. You may watch a video on the SFE website: [sfe-laos.org](http://sfe-laos.org)

I would like to thank you for your support,  
With my best regards,

Dr Philippe Klopfenstein  
SFE Chairman



SFE : <http://www.sfe-laos.org>

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