

Service Fraternel d'Entraide - Laos Newsletter - March 2018



Women and men working alongside the people of Laos

Here we are with news from the spring season, or dry season, depending on whether you look at things from a European or Laos point of view... Our trip at the end of January gave us the opportunity to meet and visit the teams and see the projects on site, and we have come back with the latest news.

Sekong : the 2nd phase of the project started with the opening ceremony in January



The main objective is to reinforce the province's medical structure through diverse actions within the Provincial Hospital, 3 district hospitals, 3 health centers and 6 villages.

On the hospital level, the focus is on the improvement of medical diagnosis, treatments, communication with patients and mother-child health care service. Our team provides a big part of the training on site and in addition will bring in some specialists for some specific trainings. They hope to provide training scholarships at the nursing school for 3 young people coming from ethnic minorities. Another part of the project concerns improving hospital material management.



Concerning **the work in the villages,** the team will work specifically in 6 villages to improve access to water and develop healthcare centers. It will focus even more on strong local participation in all decision-making and project management.



Educational games at school

Kapeu : the education project uses the MSC method, which means « Most Significant Changes »

It is a monitoring and evaluation technique to be used by the community. It focuses on the stories of the villagers concerning the changes generated through the implementation of a SFE project. We must underline the results produced by the efforts of the people involved.



The recollection of these stories is useful for inspiring and encouraging the villagers to get involved for the good of their community. It is a good technique for communicating and publicizing the work accomplished by the developers of the community and for honoring donors and authorities.

Our teams went from village to village in order to interview the village chiefs, development committees, women unions as well as some villagers. They collected all together 24 stories that were written down. The teams returned to the villages to read them, and held a vote to determine the most significant stories. Eight stories were selected.

Hereafter one of the stories told by the teacher San Chansi of the primary school of Aling village. It is about education, one important axe of our village development projects.

Better teaching tools for better educated pupils :

“Before the implementation of the library in a corner of the school, very few books were available. My pupils were not interested in the few and old books that the school had. Very few of them would read. They spent most of their time playing.

Personally, I lacked teacher’s training skills.

The project conducted by SFE allowed me to get training on teaching and play activities about books and how to generate interest for reading. I also learned teaching techniques that gave me lots of good ideas. Practical application of new activities with my pupils helped them to develop their learning abilities for reading. They are more enthusiastic to learn with these new tools. I have learned how to implement a library and how to manage it best for the benefit of the pupils.

Once the library installed, I could encourage my pupils to read the new books that filled the shelves. The reading corner keeps up their interest and they spend quite some time there, playing less outdoors.

They have a new thirst of knowledge and they spend much more time in the library. Through books they learn a lot of new things, they are more informed and more aware

about the world around them.”



Many of you supported the Christmas action « a car for Salavan ». At present we have collected 8500 €. We are very grateful and would like to thank you for your generosity. The project started off in October with a motivated team.



Attapeu

A team of 5 young people and their 2 accompanying persons spent 12 days in the South for an introduction to development work. They were based in Attapeu and from there, visited the other projects. They were able to paint frescoes in the pediatric ward of Sekong hospital.



The community health care team carries on its work in the 10 villages of the project with just as much enthusiasm and energy as always. And it takes energy to travel on those bumpy roads and to live full long weeks in difficult conditions.



However, we need to apologize for the publicity about the online T-shirt sale. In the end, this action was not feasible because of the printer’s defection.

We would like to thank you for your faithfulness towards SFE which will celebrate its 20th anniversary this summer. SFE was founded on August 18th, 1998 and a special weekend will be organized (25th-26th August) to celebrate the event.

Best regards,



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