



ANNUAL REPORT

2022

ສະມາຄົມ ເພື່ອການສະໜັບສະໜູນ ແລະ ປັບປຸງຊີວິດ
ASSOCIATION FOR RURAL MOBILISATION AND IMPROVEMENT



About us

In 2022, we implemented 11 programs and projects related to poverty reduction, hygiene and nutrition, protection of the environment and natural resources, education, and inclusiveness for people with disabilities. The Association for Rural Mobilisation and Improvement (ARMI) has been actively implementing in Vientiane and nine other provinces: Xayaburi, Luangprabang, Xiengkhouang, Houaphan, Vientiane, Borikhamxay, Savannakhet, Champasak, and Sekong. ARMI has collaborated with various related offices and departments, including agriculture and forestry, education and sports, public health, labor and social welfare, the women's union, energy and mines, and others, with support from international organizations both domestically and abroad.



Vision

ARMI aims to contribute to the well-being of all-ethnic groups based on mutual respect, equal opportunities, care for the environment, and the sustainable use of resources



Mission

To build capacities amongst target groups to improve their quality of life for their well-being in green and sustainable ways

Background

Association for Rural Mobilisation and Improvement (ARMI) is a Nationwide Membership Lao Civil Society Organization that was established in 2006 under the Lao Union of Science and Engineering Associations (LUSEA) and re-registered under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) license No. 511/MoHA on August 12, 2012.



Target groups

Rural communities and the poor and disadvantaged, especially children, youth, women, and people with disabilities (PWDs)



Values

Solidarity, Participation, Transparency, Effectiveness, and Opportunities for All



Human Resource

In 2022, there are a total of 108 members (43 females and 2 disabled), 5 board members (3 females), 3 inspection committee members (1 female), 85 employees (35 females and 4 disabled), and 18 volunteers (7 females)

Letter from the President of ARMI

It has been 16 years since we established the association (since October 2006 until 2022) to support and improve the livelihood of the people of the ethnic groups, especially the communities in the rural areas, to have a prosperous life. In 2022, we continued to implement various plans to meet the set goals despite encountering various obstacles, problems, and challenges, such as climate change, economic problems, and others. However, these things didn't slow us down in the performance of our duties. We would like to thank all donors, international organizations, and various civil society organizations, especially the authorities at all levels who provide support and facilitate our ability to achieve as planned.



Ms. Phetlamphone Phalakhone,
President of ARMI



Content

Words from ARMI's Executive Director

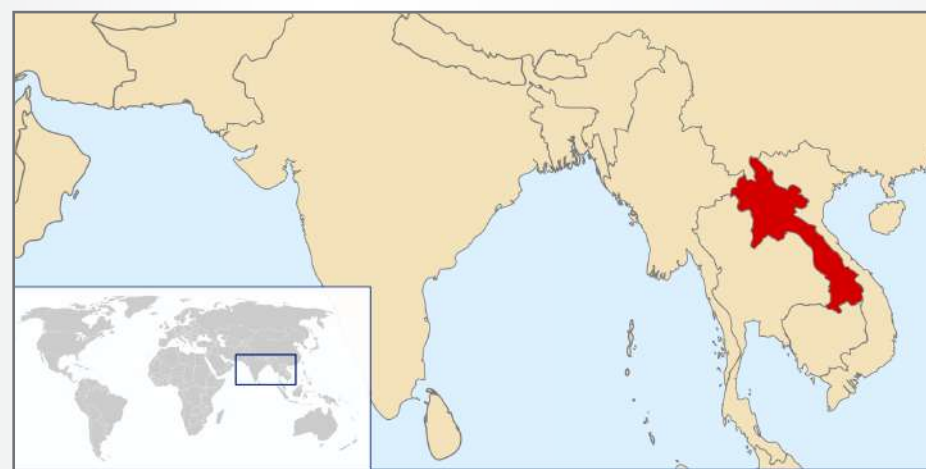


Mr. Amphone Souvannalath,
Director of ARMI

In 2022, ARMI continued to focus on the 5 strategic goals of the association for the 5-year period (2021-2025), with 11 projects/programs being implemented in 11 provinces from north to south through close cooperation from the local level to the center of the agriculture and forestry sector, public health, labor and social welfare, teachers and sports, women's union, industry-trade, energy and mining, and other related sectors, with strong support from 13 donor agencies that have representative offices in both domestic and foreign countries. This year, 85 employees and 18 volunteers have concentrated their efforts to achieve the plan and contribute to the implementation of the IX 5-year national social economic development plan and sustainable development goals, or SDG 10 goals.

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Project and Programme in 2022



1

Hong Hien Ban Hao (School Development) Project

12 Primary schools in Atsaphone district,
Savannakhet province

2

COVID-19 Vaccination Support in Laos Project

10 Village-Thapangthong district, 10 Village-Atsaphone
district, 10 Village-Nong district, 10 Village-Xayphouthong
district, Savannakhet province

3

Improved Cookstove Programme in Lao PDR

7 Province: Luang Prabang, Xayaboury,
Xiengkhouang, Vientiane, Savannakhet,
Campasak and Vientiane Capital

Enabling the Lao CSO FLEGT civil society networks to support forest-user CBO to protect and promote their rights in Lao PDR Project

7 Village 3 District in 3 Province:
Bokeo, Xayaboury and Savannakhet province

5

Community-Based Inclusive Development Project

18 Village-Samneua district, Houaphan province and
25 Village-Kaysone Phomvihane, Savannakhet province

6

Strengthening the Implementation of the Lao National Nu- trition Strategy project

17 Village-Phaxay district, Xiengkhouang Province,
13 Village-Thoulakhom district, Vientiane Province,
16 Village-Xaychamphone district, Bolikhamxay province

7

Community Based Inclusive Development Project

16 Village-Xayphouthong district, Savannakhet province

8

Community Based Inclusive Development Project

10 Village-Chomphet district, Luang Prabang province

9

The mitigation, response, prevention, and control of the epidemic of COVID-19 in Luang Prabang Project

10 Village-Chomphet district, 10 Village-Pakou district,
10 Village-Xiengngeun district, Luang Prabang province

10

Participatory Community Development for Livelihoods Improvement and Nutrition Promotion in Rural Areas Project

11 Village-Thapangthong district,
14 Village-Atsaphone district, Savannakhet province
5 Village-Dakcheung district, Sekong province

11

Programme to promote the establish- ment of protected areas and the sustain- able use of natural resources

5 Village-Dakcheung district, Sekong province

5 Years of Strategic Goals (2021-2025)

And what is accomplished in 2022

To promote nutrition and sanitation for good health for all in communities

- 1,803 people received Knowledge about gender equality was provided
- 2,013 People were Vaccinated Against Covid-19
- 476 Households have been Hygienic Latrines
- 143 families received the necessary consumer goods
- 28 boreholes to use the water

2

5 Years of Strategic Goals

To protect the environment and natural resources in green and sustainable ways

- 8 use forest area: 3,805 hectares
- 8 fish pool conservation area: 32,338 hectares
- 9 forest conservation area: 1,462 hectares
- 28 cookstove producers can produce 147,458 stoves
- have 2,717 retailers nationwide

4

To promote community participation for the quality of education

- Provided study resources for Elementary students 735 people
- Build capacity for teachers 38 people



To reduce poverty by improving food security

- Plant rice 96 families
- Plant crops 188 families
- Plant mushroom 70 families
- Giving 584 goats
- Giving 27,799 fishes
- Giving 21,500 frogs

1

To promote community development with the participation of PWDs

- Promote income-generating and provide support equipment for Disability 1,106 people



Goal 1

To reduce poverty by improving food security

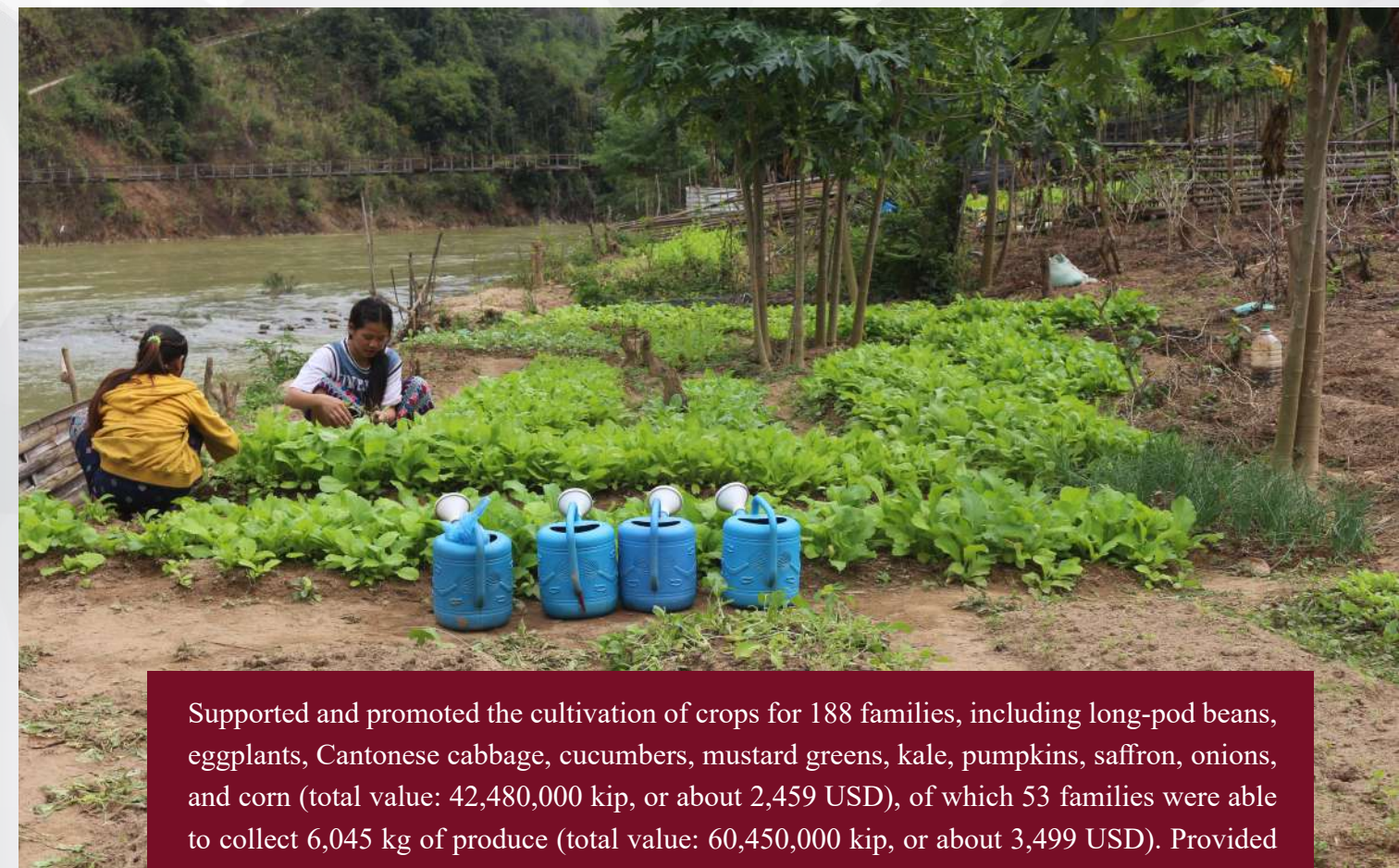
The way of life of Lao people in rural areas still relies on nature, and they earn a living according to the season. Due to a lack of habit, some families do not consume food throughout the year, while others continue to raise livestock and engage in farming using local techniques. This results in productivity that is lower than it should be, which has an impact on the local population's ability to support themselves, leading to hunger and poverty at all levels,

from the family to the village and community. Therefore, in order to contribute to the reduction of poverty by upgrading the food security for the people in rural areas to get better development gradually, continue to develop the countryside and solve the poverty of the people universally by promoting the production of goods, promoting the professions, and using advanced technical techniques in order to raise the production along with stable occupations and a sustainable livelihood.

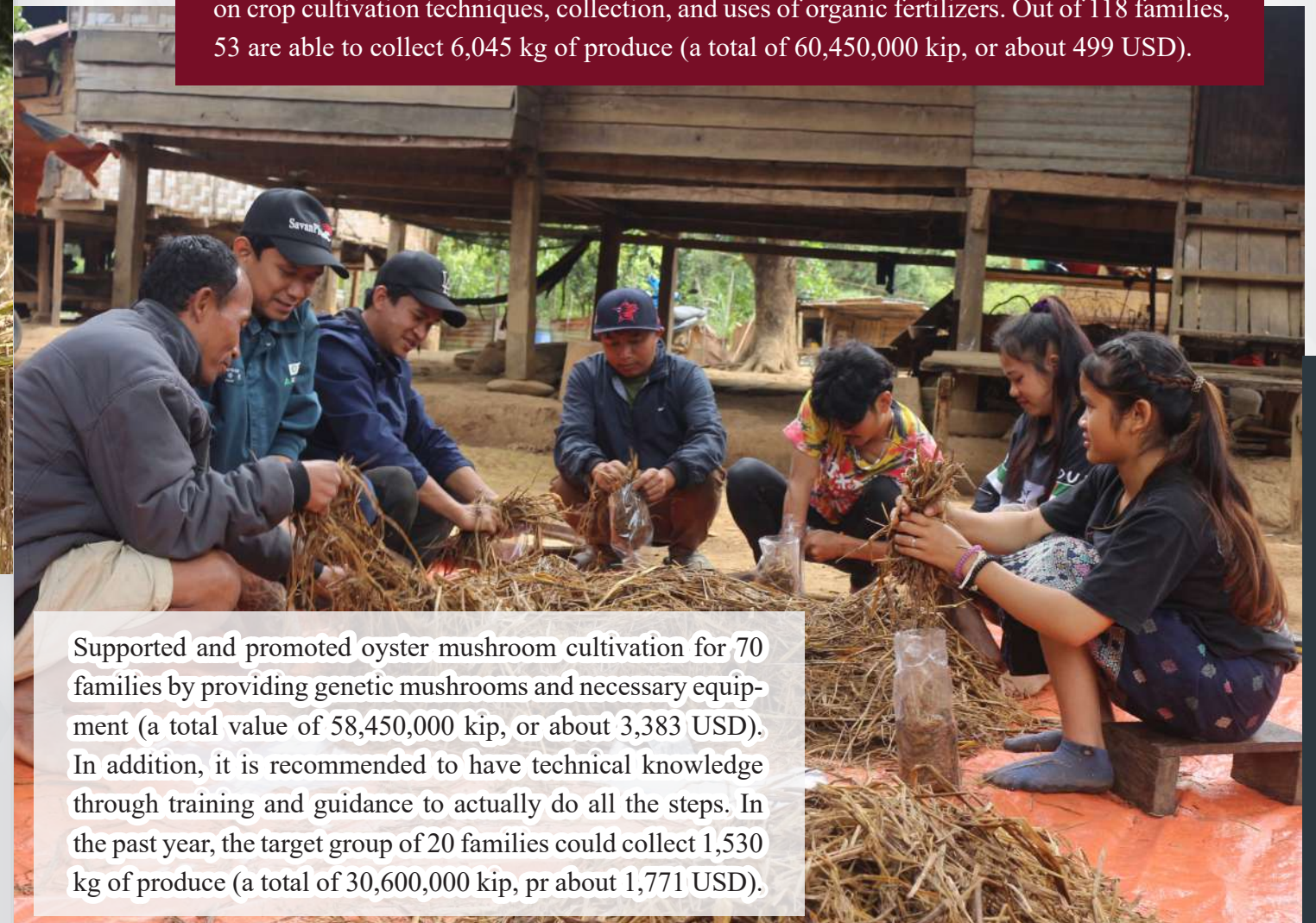


Participatory Community Development for Livelihoods Improvement and Nutrition Promotion in Rural Areas (LAN) has been implemented in 30 villages in Atsaphone and Thapangthong Districts of Savannakhet Province, and Dak Cheung District of Sekong Province (Project 10 on the map on page VI). In 2022, the following actions will have been completed:

Supported and promoted the cultivation of organic rice for 96 families by expanding the rice field by 16.48 hectares (average 1,600 square meters per family) and providing 1,440 kg of rice seeds, 1,695 kg of milled rice as food for work, 960 liters of molasses, 12 hoe and spades, and 192 black tanks for biological extraction. (Total value: 294,000,000 kip, or about 17,020 USD). Over the past year, they were able to harvest 14,945 tons of rice.



Supported and promoted the cultivation of crops for 188 families, including long-pod beans, eggplants, Cantonese cabbage, cucumbers, mustard greens, kale, pumpkins, saffron, onions, and corn (total value: 42,480,000 kip, or about 2,459 USD), of which 53 families were able to collect 6,045 kg of produce (total value: 60,450,000 kip, or about 3,499 USD). Provided 1,180 liters of molasses (valued at 7,080,000 kip, or about 409 USD), 376 Plastic tank for biological extraction (valued at 18,800,000 kip, or about 1,088 USD), and provided training on crop cultivation techniques, collection, and uses of organic fertilizers. Out of 118 families, 53 are able to collect 6,045 kg of produce (a total of 60,450,000 kip, or about 499 USD).



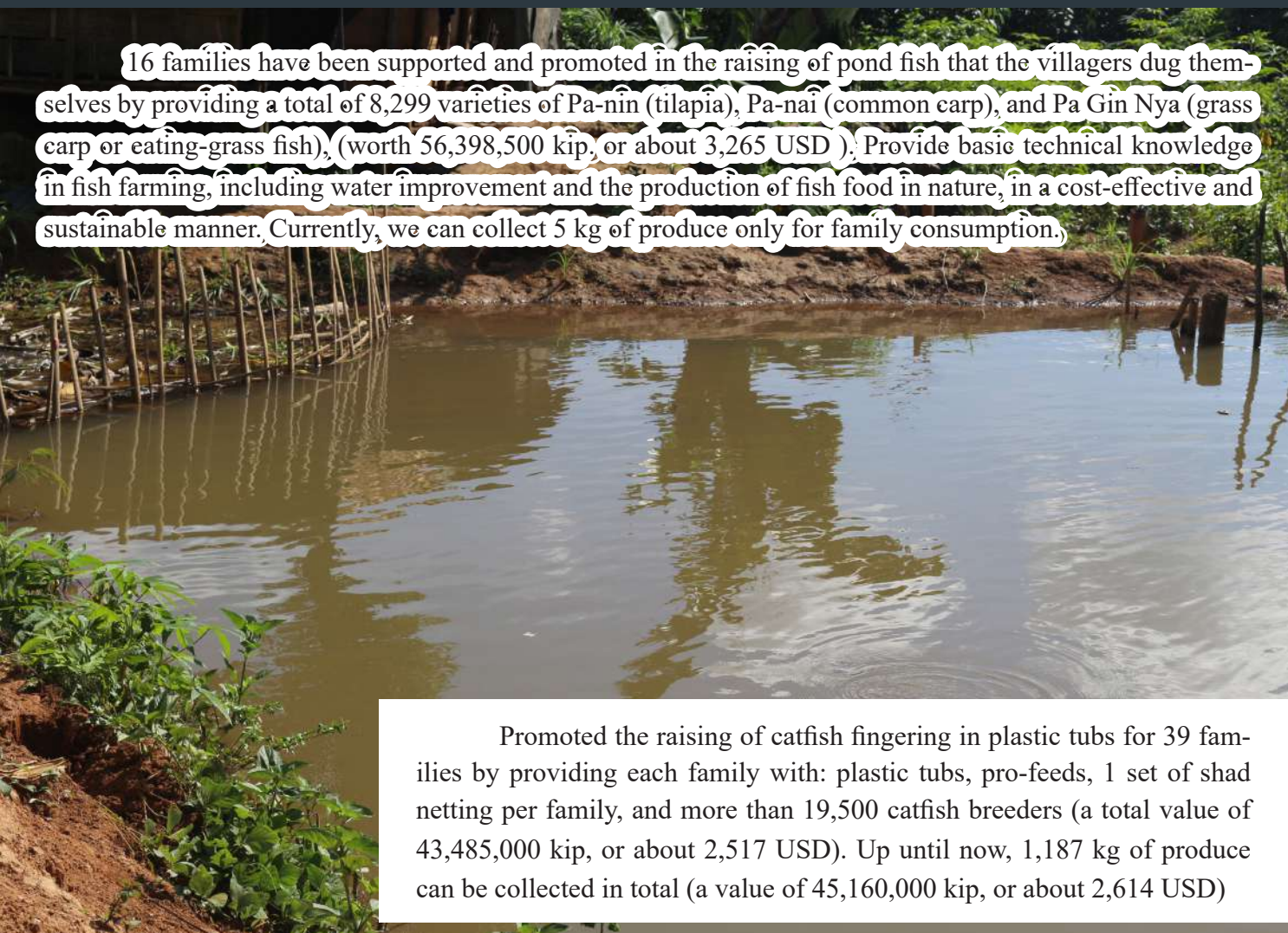
Supported and promoted oyster mushroom cultivation for 70 families by providing genetic mushrooms and necessary equipment (a total value of 58,450,000 kip, or about 3,383 USD). In addition, it is recommended to have technical knowledge through training and guidance to actually do all the steps. In the past year, the target group of 20 families could collect 1,530 kg of produce (a total of 30,600,000 kip, or about 1,771 USD).

Promoted goat farming by giving 584 goats to 146 families and distributing syringes, needles, and goat-specific preventive and therapeutic medications, totaling 846,800,000 kip or about 49,024 USD.



Hand out the fundamental information about taking care of goat, including treatment, food production, and disease treatment. The target group has successfully raised 202 new goats over the course of the past year.

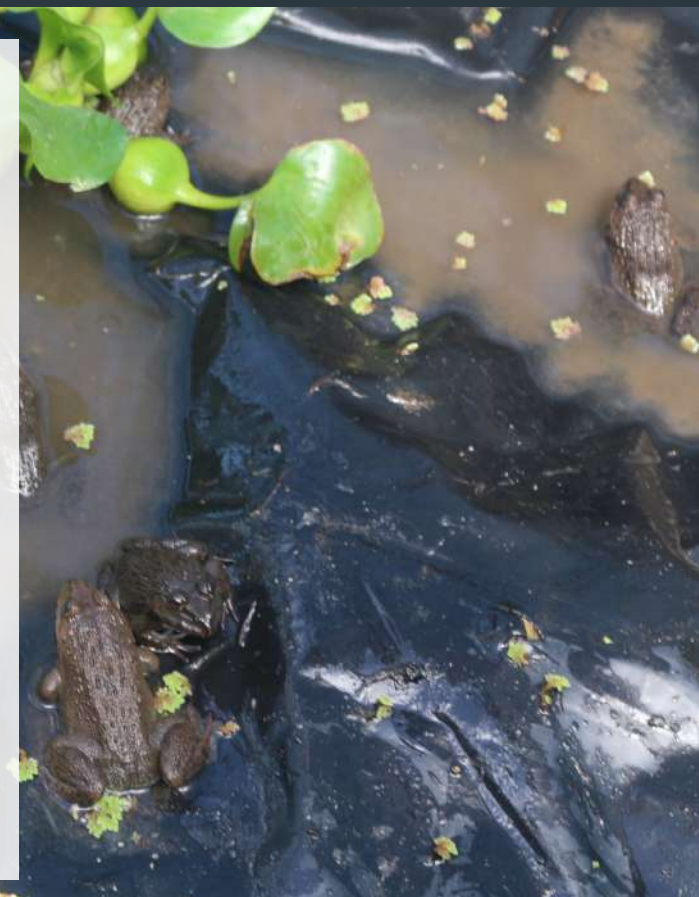
16 families have been supported and promoted in the raising of pond fish that the villagers dug themselves by providing a total of 8,299 varieties of Pa-nin (tilapia), Pa-nai (common carp), and Pa Gin Nya (grass carp or eating-grass fish), (worth 56,398,500 kip, or about 3,265 USD). Provide basic technical knowledge in fish farming, including water improvement and the production of fish food in nature, in a cost-effective and sustainable manner. Currently, we can collect 5 kg of produce only for family consumption.



Promoted the raising of catfish fingerling in plastic tubs for 39 families by providing each family with: plastic tubs, pro-feeds, 1 set of shad netting per family, and more than 19,500 catfish breeders (a total value of 43,485,000 kip, or about 2,517 USD). Up until now, 1,187 kg of produce can be collected in total (a value of 45,160,000 kip, or about 2,614 USD)

42 families have been promoted to raise frogs in plastic pond by providing plastic pond, pro-feeds, 1 set of shading nets for each family, and 21,500 frog breeders (a total of 46,830,000 kip, or about 2,711 USD). In addition, there was also training in the technique of raising froglet (baby frog) and creating supplemental food by raising mosquito ferns and bringing termites, which can be found in local areas, as food for the frogs. Up until now, 1,704 kg of produce have been collected (for a total value of 59,640,000 kip, or about 3,452 USD).

Completed the establishment of one craft group to produce brooms and plan to plant tall reed, which facilitated the establishment by the department of agriculture and forestry and the department of industry and commerce in its districts. Within the group, there are 4 members of the group's executive committee and 13 members of the initial group.



This goal is to contribute to the 9th National Social-Economic Development Plan, or NSED (2021-2025), in output 1: poverty alleviation in rural and remote areas, and people's livelihoods, cultural values, and media work improved; which is under outcome 3: The enhanced well-being of the people, including their living requirements and mental conditions, has been gradually upgraded. Moreover, it is also a contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere, and SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.



Goal 2

To promote nutrition and sanitation for good health for all in communities

When compared to metropolitan areas, the problem of malnutrition in rural areas is still relatively frequent, with 89% of the population having an appropriate food consumption pattern and another 11% of rural households consuming innutritious food. In 2015, 35.6% of children under the age of five had stunted growth, 25.5% were underweight, and 9.6% were wasting. As we know, rural areas are remote,

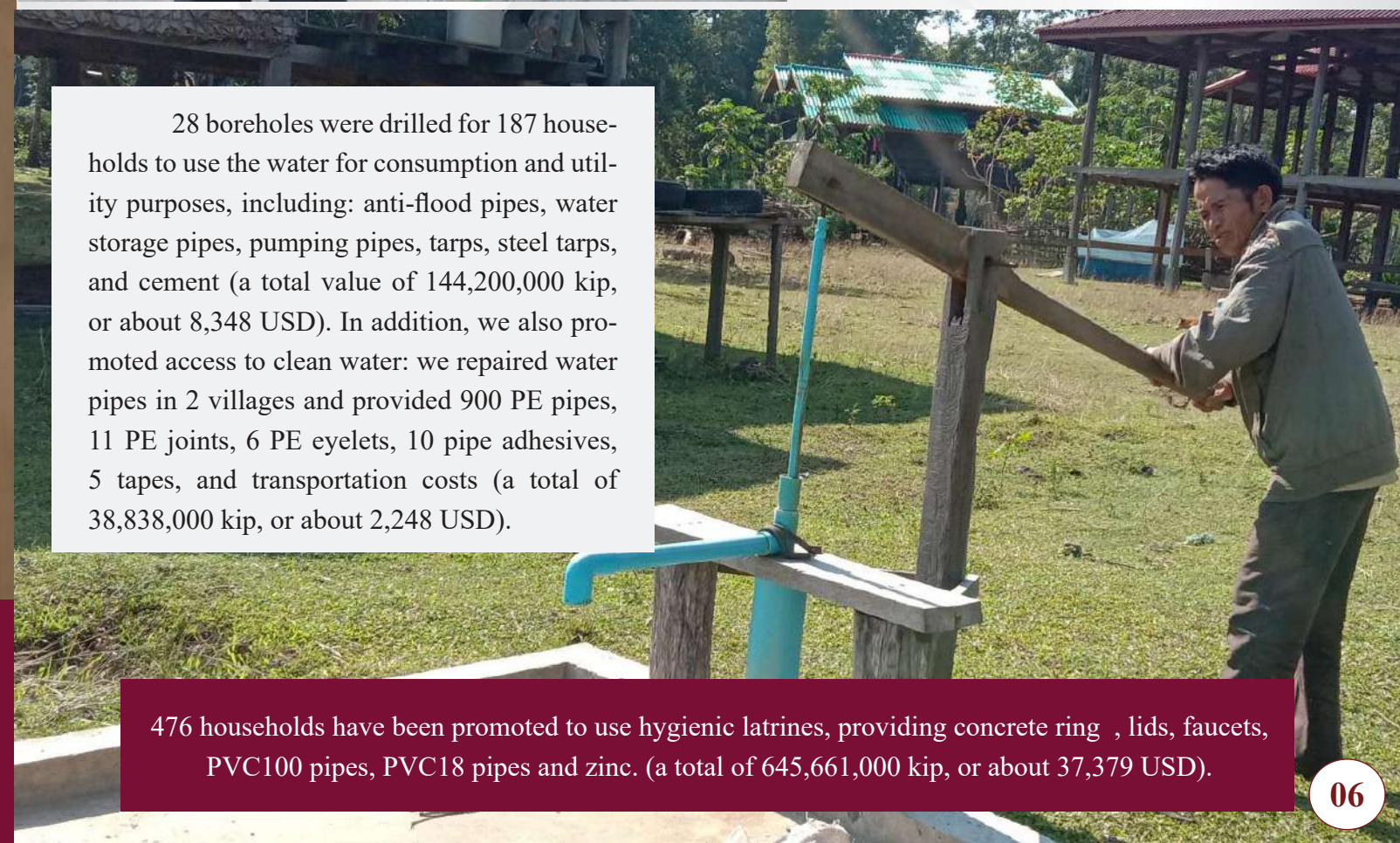
and some places do not have access roads, making it difficult for health services to reach, so this health problem spreads among children in the poorest families three times faster than in families with a good status. Therefore, we have implemented activities to promote nutrition in the community to reduce food shortages, and public health work needs to be continuously developed.

Facilitated the creation of a group of women of reproductive age to transmit knowledge about nutrition in 30 villages, with 20 volunteers per village selected to be a group committee of 3 people per village to collect information on children under the standard age of 5 years and below, a total of 1,802 people (1,319 households), in which the rate of underweight children is 32.79% (591 people) and the rate of children with height below the standard is 29.35% (529 people).



Knowledge about nutrition, health care, and gender equality was provided to the target group in 30 villages with 1,803 participants (1,119 women) through demonstrations of cooking, preserving food, planning planting and rearing, and supplying essential equipment. 2 days of nutrition and gender linking workshops for volunteers at village level (VVL) in 30 villages with 56 participants (13 women).

28 boreholes were drilled for 187 households to use the water for consumption and utility purposes, including: anti-flood pipes, water storage pipes, pumping pipes, tarps, steel tarps, and cement (a total value of 144,200,000 kip, or about 8,348 USD). In addition, we also promoted access to clean water: we repaired water pipes in 2 villages and provided 900 PE pipes, 11 PE joints, 6 PE eyelets, 10 pipe adhesives, 5 tapes, and transportation costs (a total of 38,838,000 kip, or about 2,248 USD).



The Participatory Community Development for Livelihoods Improvement and Nutrition Promotion in Rural Areas project has been implemented in 30 villages in Atsaphone and Thapangthong Districts of Savannakhet Province and Dak Cheung District of Sekong Province (Project 10 on the map on page VI). In 2022, the following actions will have been completed:

476 households have been promoted to use hygienic latrines, providing concrete ring , lids, faucets, PVC100 pipes, PVC18 pipes and zinc. (a total of 645,661,000 kip, or about 37,379 USD).

The mitigation, response, prevention, and control of the epidemic of COVID-19 in Luang Prabang is implemented in 3 districts of Luang Prabang Province: Chomphet, Pak Ou, and Xieng Ngeun (Project 9 on the map on page VI). In 2022, the following actions will have been completed:

Provided the necessary consumer goods to the community, especially the poor families, the disadvantaged, and the people with disabilities, numbering 143 families in the target village, Xieng Ngeun district, including: masks, soap, instant noodles, duck eggs, sardines, palm oil, salt, and rice flour. (The total value is 31,464,000 kip, or about 1,832 USD).

successfully created a short documentary video to spread knowledge about the prevention of COVID-19 and understanding of the rights of infected people so that they can live together in society after receiving better treatment and reduce discrimination and separation from society.

organized community event surveillance training, monitoring treatment of people infected with COVID-19 at home, how to detect COVID-19 with a rapid test kit (antigen test kit-ATK), and online registration of people infected with COVID-19 for doctors at small local hospitals and village volunteers in 3 target districts of the project with a total of 59 participants (25 females).



Concerning the Project on Access to COVID-19 Vaccine Support in Lao PDR

has been implemented in 160 villages in 16 districts in 4 provinces (Khammouane, Savannakhet, Saravan, and Champasak) with the participation of many parties, such as the Department of Hygiene and Health Promotion (DHHP), the Ministry of Health, international non-governmental organizations, including OXFAM Laos, CRS, the Association of People Living with HIV and AIDS, and CHIAS.



The ARMI is working in 40 villages in 4 districts, namely: Atsaphone, Nong, Thapangthong, and Xayphouthong in Savannakhet Province. (Project 2 on the map, page VI). In 2022, the following actions will have been completed

Completed the campaign to educate the community about vaccination against COVID-19 and health education in 40 villages between November and December 2022 with a total of 2,013 participants (1,024 women). We completed the vaccination of COVID-19 in the community in 40 villages with a total of 740 participants (404 females). Despite that, we also distributed necessary supplies to the audience and facilities for providing vaccination services at each service point, including cloths, soap, detergent, water dippers, toothpaste, and medicines. (a total of 122,675,000 kip, or about 7,102 USD). People are paying a lot of attention to getting vaccinated, especially those who have never been vaccinated before, the elderly, children, and people with disabilities.



The Strengthening the Implementation of the Lao National Nutrition Strategy project is being implemented in three districts of three provinces, including Vientiane Province, Bolikhamxay Province, and Xiangkhouang Province. (Project 6 on the map, page VI) In 2022

The ARMI will be responsible for monitoring and supporting capacity building for nine Lao civil society organizations and four associations that have received sub-grants in the following topics:

“Project Cycle Management, Finance, and Communication Under the European Union Regulations” was held in Vientiane with 26 participants (13 females). In this topic, the participants learned how to use the draft report of activities, finances, rules for using donor logos, etc., and the financial management policy in the standard form of the European Union.

“The organization’s filing system and media production”. held in Xiangkhouang and Vientiane provinces, with 26 participants (including 13 females). The participants learned how to use it in managing and storing project information so that it does not get damaged and learned about good-quality photography.

“Community Working Skills,” held in Xiangkhouang province. There were 23 participants (15 females). The participants coordinated with more partners, especially the village authorities, and planned together with the community to make the activities appropriate to the situation and get good results.



“Monitoring and Evaluation Skills,” held in Bolikhamxay and Vientiane Province, with 18 participants (10 females). Participants learned how to revise the project framework, create a schedule to monitor project progress, and monitor and plan for solutions.

“Human Resource Management,” which was held in Vientiane Province, with 24 participants (16 females). The participants improved the recruitment criteria, which led to the improvement of the policies in the organization to meet the standards of the government and donors.

“Communication, teamwork, and leadership” in Xiangkhouang province, with 25 participants (12 females). Participants learned how to work efficiently, allocate tasks, and plan work to fit each person’s abilities, self-understanding, and others.

“Effective Organizational Model,” which was held in Luang Prabang province, with 15 participants (5 females). The participants gained knowledge to disseminate within the organization and among its employees, as well as how to improve the organization to be efficient and suitable for donors.

“inclusiveness of disability, child protection, and rights,” which was organized in Luang Prabang province, with 17 participants (8 females). The participants had advocated for the community about children’s rights and gender roles; improved and disseminated policies; and continued to support children and people with disabilities to access more policies and equality.



In addition to training to strengthen nine civil society organizations and four associations in Laos that have received sub-grants, the project monitors and supports technical training activities on nutrition on the topic “The first 1000 days of life, monitoring the growth of children, good nutrition for young people and mothers of reproductive age, water and hygiene work by the community” to the head of the Mother Support Groups at the village level, in 10 villages in Thulakhom district, Vientiane province; in 10 villages in Phaxay district, Xiangkhouang province; and in 17 villages in Xaychamphone district, Bolikhamxay province. We also participated in capacity building, knowledge development, and the development of many tools to work with nutrition-related areas, such as monitoring and evaluation, data collection using the Kobo Tools Box tool, providing clean water and sanitation related to nutrition work, and how to request support and fundraise that can be used in actual projects in the organization to generate better benefits.



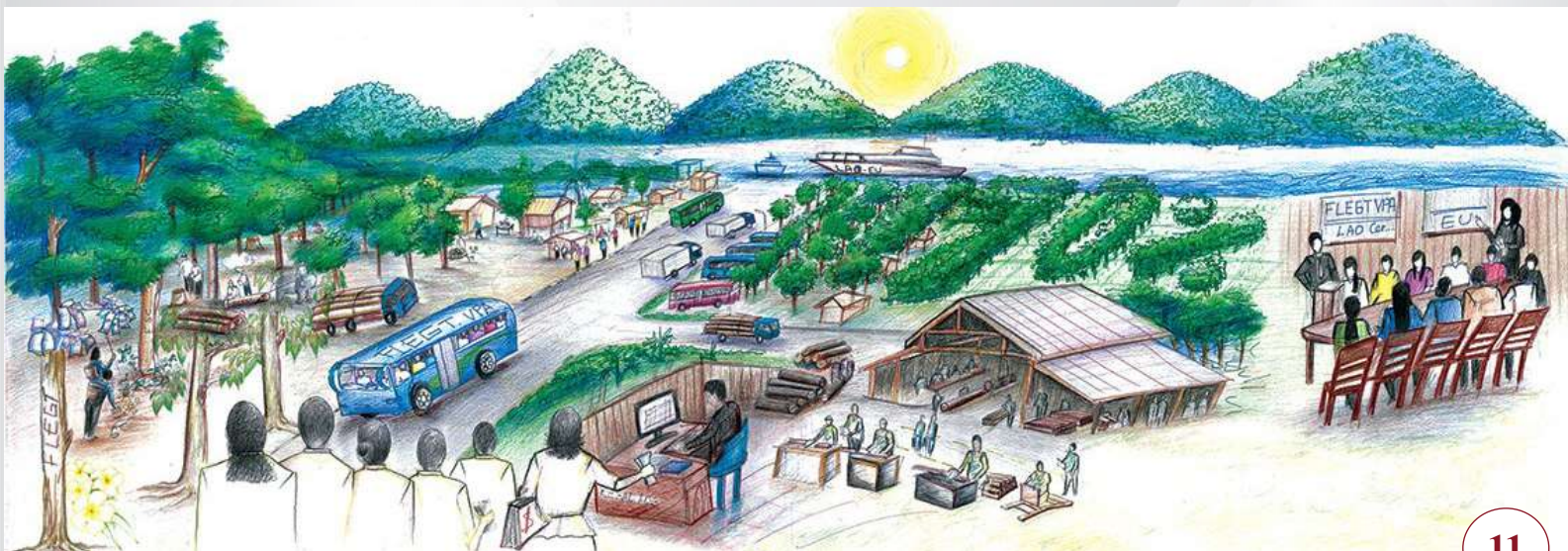
This goal contributes to the organization of nutrition and health strategies for the target community to have better health gradually and to contribute to the ninth 5-year National Social-Economic Development Plan (NSED-9) (2021-2025), which is mentioned in the output 1: More inclusive and better-quality healthcare services and nutrition under outcome 2: Improved quality of human resources to meet development, research capacity, science, and technology needs, and create value-added production and services. In addition, it also contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals. SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture; SDG 3: To ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages; and SDG 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

Goal 3

To protect the environment and natural resources in green and sustainable ways



People in rural areas continue to rely on agricultural production and forest resources as a source of food and to survive. As a result, natural resources, particularly forest products, are diminishing. Therefore, this goal aims to contribute to promoting community participation in the sustainable management and use of natural resources, to contribute to risk reduction and post-disaster recovery, to contribute to the implementation of green growth strategies, and to solve climate change problems, ARMI has implemented some projects, including:



Enabling the Lao CSO FLEGT civil society networks to support forest-user CBO to protect and promote their rights in Lao PDR is implemented in 7 villages and 3 districts in 3 provinces: Bo-keo, Xayyabouly, and Savannakhet Province. (Project 4 on the map, page VI) The following actions were taken in 2022:

completing capacity building in organizational management and project monitoring and evaluation by training four partner organizations four times on topics such as financial management and management, human resource and administrative management, project monitoring and evaluation, and case study writing.



After the training for employees in four organizations was completed, it was discovered that they applied the knowledge, skills, and techniques taught in the training to their daily duties. They have completed five case studies and offered information in the process of promoting agriculture and forestry units in seven target villages in order to improve capacity for the target group to establish better forest management plans,

Completed the creation of advertising and communication materials for the project, such as building an online database and a website for the Lao CSO FLEGT Network, which was activated in December 2022; five case studies were written, created, and published; designed and produced 252 shirts to be used for distribution in the project activities; designed, produced, and installed 11 project signs; and created and maintained advertising information through social media through the Lao CSO FLEGT Facebook page, which currently has a total of 12,415 users. Successfully filming, creating a video about the changes in agriculture and forestry units at the village level in 7 target villages of the project, includ-

ing 3 videos, and publishing them through Facebook and YouTube. Completed monitoring and checking of financial and expenditure reports for all 3 partner organizations for 3 times, including: the QuickBooks accounting application was used to update and upgrade the accounting management system, which allowed for the monitoring and verification of all project expenditures' related documentation; each organization should have the QuickBooks accounting program installed and properly trained on how to use it so that staff members can gain technical expertise, create project proposals, find funding through various fundraising strategies, manage projects, create activity and financial section reports, and effectively manage project budgets.

The Participatory Community Development for Livelihoods Improvement and Nutrition Promotion in Rural Areas project has been implemented in 30 villages in Atsaphone and Thapangthong Districts of Savannakhet Province, and Dak Cheung District of Sekong Province (Project 10 on the map on page VI). In 2022, the following actions will have been completed:



Completing the creation of natural resource conservation areas and control use areas or village-level forests for the use of (Non-timber Forest Product (NTFP) in 7 villages, 8 (total area 3,805 hectares), 9 villages, 9 forest conservation (total area 1,462 hectares), and 8 villages, 8 fish conservation areas (total area 32,338 hectares). Trained on the practical learning system of good leadership, gender equality, and forest management with a total of 87 participants (15 females)

supported the creation of 27 maps, printed 509 small and big signs, bought 117 sets (clothing, shoes, hats, and backpacks), supported the creation of 3 seeding plants, and assisted in the purchase of 1 GPS unit (worth 5,500,000 kip, or about 318 USD) to promote natural resource conservation efforts in Dak Chang. (a total of 221,560,000 kip, or about 12,826 USD)



The Promote the Establishment of Protected Areas and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources program is being implemented in 5 targeted villages in Dak Cheung District, Sekong Province (the 11th project on the map, page VI). In 2022, the following actions will have been completed:

promoted the cultivation of forest products, including ginseng, ginsung bamboo shoot, and black ginger, for 15 families in 5 target villages, the total value of which is 9,950,000 kip (or about 576 USD) in an area of 1.34 hectares, so that the target group can have additional income for their families:

No	Activities	Beneficiaries	Amount	Output
1	Ginseng	7 Families	8,150,000	1,325,000/Family
2	Gingsung bamboo shoot	7 Families	1,500,000	Bloomed 2-3 shoots/brush
3	Black ginger	1 Families	300,000	750,000/Family
Total: 9,950,000 LAK (or about 576 USD)				

Completed the creation of 5 conserved forests, 1 fish pool conservation area, and identified 5 control use areas, a total of 11 in 5 target villages (total area 744.23 hectares). At the same time, we also facilitated the selection of 16 people in each village for Conservation Area Committee, for a total of 80 people (25 females) who became the representatives of each village, understood their own roles and duties, and worked according to the assignment well.

Support the making of guide signs for protected areas and village use areas, signs (prohibition signs), and various labor costs (a total of 78,813,000 kip,or about 4,562 USD). The details are as follows:

No	Activities	Amount	Cost
1	Drawing map of the usage and conserved areas	11	2,750,000
2	Sign printing	188	71,300,000
3	Other materials (nails & wooden color)	-	1,031,000
4	Delivery cost	5	3,100,000
5	Small signs designing	68	632,000
Total: 78,813,000 LAK (or about 4,562 USD)			

The Improved Cookstove Programme in Lao PDR is being implemented in 7 provinces (the 3rd project on the map, page VI). In 2022, the following actions were taken:

Supporting the producers: we supported 28 cookstove producers in 7 provinces, and there will be 5 new producers in 2022. We have supported 7 new kilns (worth about 25 million kip, or about 1,447 USD), 24 sets of stove molds (worth about 84 million kip, or about 4,863 USD), and other tools such as: 5 sets of soil milling machines, 6 sets of stove buckets, and 10 sets of cooking tables (worth about 80 million kip, or about 4,631 USD), helped to expand 7 factories (worth about 25 million kip, or about 1,447 USD).



At the same time, we also organized 15 producer meetings in each area, 11 training sessions. By 2022, the manufacturer can produce 147,458 quality stoves and distribute them to 152,516 stores and consumers.

Testing: We worked with five agencies that conduct stove tests, including the Vientiane Energy and Mines Research Institute, the Vientiane Energy and Mines Department, the provinces of Luang Prabang, Champasak, and the Department of Industry and Trade in Savannakhet. In addition, we brought 402 sets of stoves into the testing room (costing 140,000,000 kip, or about 8,105 USD) and provided testing equipment for various test rooms (costing 8,000,000 kip, or about 463 USD).



Cookstoves advertising: Currently, we have 2,717 retailers nationwide that sell cookstoves; we have supported 11 middlemen in distributing the cookstoves and also supported peridium, car fuel, advertising equipment, and help in advertising for the shops, middlemen, and users, including: advertising panels in front of stores; shirts; bags; aprons; hats; masks; and brochures (worth 128,000,000 kip, or about 7,410 USD). And also work together with the Women's Union on advertising activities in the market, doing some stove exhibiting events, and demonstrating the use of stoves 51 times.

This goal contributes to the ninth 5-year National Social-Economic Development Plan (NSED9) (2021-2025) as follows: The first focus is on the management and sustainable use of natural resources, second is on green growth and addressing climate change; and the third is to intensify disaster prevention, management, and recovery efforts. The three aforementioned outcomes are under the fourth outcome: Environmental protection is enhanced, and disaster risks are reduced. In addition, it is a contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals. SDG 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all, SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts and SDG 15: Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems; sustainably manage forests, combat desertification; halt and reverse land degradation; and halt biodiversity loss.



Goal 4

To promote community participation for the quality of education

Rural communities, particularly those that are distant, continue to experience numerous educational issues. Because education is inaccessible, children and young people living in rural areas still have relatively low rates of attendance, school completion, and reading. Infrastructure issues are still not enough. In 2015, approximately 1,500 primary schools did not complete their grades. Therefore, this goal is to promote the participation of the community in quality education.



The Hong Hien Ban Hao project (development of our school) has been implemented in 12 primary schools in Atsaphone district, Savannakhet province. (Project 1 on the map on page VI).

In 2022, the following actions will have been completed:

Improving and repairing the school building, desks, and chairs included painting the school sign with lettering, building a thorn fence around the school, building a flag pole, bulletin board, and bookcase, building a new bathroom, building an additional wooden classroom, providing a new blackboard, demolishing the old school, then rebuilding a new wooden school by using both old and new wood from the villagers, and also drilling the bore water. Moreover, the school area has also been improved, such as making toys, the process of making teapots, and tires. (a total of 674,873,000 kip, or about 39,071 USD).

Provided 735 people in 12 schools with study resources such as book bags, notebooks, pens, and pencils, as well as reading corners or support for reading areas; supported the purchase of instructional supplies and hardware for classroom use, directly benefiting 38 instructors and 609 students (a total of 215,515,000 kip, or about 12,477 USD); and organized village meetings and parent-student meetings to jointly plan the development of the community's education. On the other hand, we have also created educational capacity for community elders through training to strengthen village-level education development boards on three topics, including: 1) a happy

multicultural coexistence; 2) participatory community management; and 3) local knowledge development. organized training for technical staff from the provincial Department of Education and Sports and the Department of Education and Sports' office on all 7 project topics, including student-centered learning and teaching management, skills to lead activities and attract children's attention (games, music, drama, stories, etc.), production of learning and teaching media using local cultural materials, Lao language and math teaching skills, classroom management, storytelling techniques, and work to promote reading in schools, child rights, and child protection in schools and communities.



This goal contributes to the ninth 5-year national social-economic development plan (NSED-9) (2021-2025) as follows: output 2: Improved quality of all levels of education and conditions created for access to education to support readiness for regional and international integration and Industry 4.0, which is the outcome 2: Improved quality of human resources to meet development, research capacity, science, and technology needs, and create value-added production and services. In addition, it is a contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”).

Goal 5

To promote community development with the participation of PWDs

A significant problem for the development of Laos is the under-participation of individuals with disabilities in their families and communities, which demonstrates that they do not participate equally in family and community activities. In the past, people with disabilities were just behind and did not have access to other areas as well as people without disabilities, such as education, services, and opportunities to help one another and engage in other activities in society. Therefore, this goal is to promote the development of a participatory community of people with disabilities so that they can live in society as equals, have facilities that facilitate comfort, and have income that improves their lives.



This goal contributes to the ninth 5-year National Social-Economic Development Plan (NSED-9) (2021-2025) as follows: output 3: Promoting and creating the opportunities for women, youth, children, the disadvantaged, and the disabled to be developed and contribute fully to the development of the social economy; and output 5: Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) clearance progressively accelerated and more lives made safe from UXO. Both outputs are under outcome 3: enhanced well-being of the people. In addition, it is a contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries) and SDG 18: Lives safe from UXO.

The Community Based Inclusive Development (CBID-AC5) was implemented in 18 villages in Samneua District, Houaphanh Province, and 25 villages in Kaisone City, Savannakhet Province. (Project 5 on the map, page VI) In 2022, the following actions will have been completed:



The 155 cases we delivered to the target group included wheelchairs, walking sticks, hearing aids, glasses, and other assistive devices to help the disabled regain some function (a total of 102,890,000 kip, or about 5,956 USD), we simultaneously sent a target group of 20 cases for rehabilitation at the hospital and at home (a total of 4,826,000 kip, or about 279 USD)

Promote income generation for the target group of 285 families (Samneua 165, Kaisone City 120) by giving them livestock and training them in farming, which includes providing 151 pigs, 600 ducks, 264 goats, and fish (Samneua 63 kg, Kaisone City 3,500). In addition, the cultivation of mushrooms, the sale of fruit baskets, the sale of snacks, and the promotion of low-cost grocery sales, tailoring, motorcycle repairs, beauty salons, and mushroom cultivation have all been promoted (a total of 719,034,960 kip, or about 51,209 USD).



The Community Based Inclusive Development (CBID-LPB) is being implemented in 10 target villages, Chomphet District, Luang Prabang Province (Project 8 on the map, page VI). In 2022, the following actions will have been completed:

Organized a meeting to establish an access assessment team to create a team of facilitators that includes people with disabilities to conduct site access and performance audits. A total of 14 members (3 females), including 7 people with disabilities (1 female). After establishing the team, they assessed the accessibility of the actual location to make the coordination office of the Association for Rural Mobilisation and Improvement, Luang Prabang province, accessible to all kinds of disabled people.



Conducted training on the rights of persons with disabilities and equality for persons with disabilities to create awareness about disabilities for the community in 10 target villages. A total of 66 participants (27 females), including 37 disabled people (11 females).

provided a participatory development workshop with 30 participants (14 females), including 11 disabled people (4 females), for project management and steering committees at all levels of government (provincial and district).

Supported the establishment of 10 peer-to-peer or self-help groups for people with disabilities in the project's 10 target communities, with 288 members (118 women) who are all disabled. It was discovered through evaluation and interpretation that four groupings are potent and supportive of one another.

Additionally, we assisted 255 families improve their standard of living by promoting farming and animal husbandry operations, services, etc. (a total of 279,584,000 kip, orabout 16,186 USD), with the following details:

No	Activities	Delivered amount	Target group	Total in Lak
1	Chicken	880	44	61,600,000
2	Duck	260	13	21,400,000
3	Pig	51	17	38,250,000
4	Goat	81	27	87,050,000
5	Fish	14,000	4	5,535,000
6	Frog	500	1	1,300,000
7	Grocery store	3	3	7,191,000
8	Barber shop	2	2	5,874,000
9	Pro-feedede	-	47	5,483,000
10	Animal cage construction equipment	-	96	36,816,000
11	Toilet construction equipment	-	1	3,280,000
12	Road construction equipment	2 roads	-	5,805,000
Total: 279,584,000 LAK (or about 16,186 USD)				

The USAID Okard Community Based Inclusive Development (CBID-XPT) is being implemented in 16 target villages in Xayphouthong District, Savannakhet Province. (Project 7 on the map, page VI). In 2022, the following actions will have been completed:

supported the giving of livestock to the target group to encourage them to have a career and generate additional income for 82 families, including providing 312 goats, 1,200 baby catfish, 464 kg of fish pro-feeds, 8 small pigs, 120 kg of pig pro-feeds, and 680 kg of rice bran (a total of 360,826,000 kip, or about 20,889 USD).



261 cases of physical therapy (89 cases of women) were referred to the target group for evaluation and rehabilitation, enabling them to take care of themselves and know where to find services when they need treatment and health check-ups. At the same time, the equipment and facilities were given to the target group. Enable people with disabilities to take care of themselves and participate more in society. (a total of 20,511,000 kip, or about 1,187 USD).

Supported and transferred disabled individuals with communication and hearing impairments to the Hands of Hope Center in one instance so they could learn sign language. Support the 3,500,000 kip (or 500,000 kip per month) learning materials budget. The person is capable of learning how to learn and has proficient sign language abilities. Supported the equipment and rehabilitation of 45 people, including the purchase of wheelchairs, crutches, walking sticks, hearing aids and other items (a total of 64,388,000 kip, or about 3,728 USD)



Networks and Other Activities

The ARMI takes coordination and participation seriously, consequently, we have joined a number of networks both domestically and internationally to facilitate the flow of expertise and information for organizational use.



Lao Civil Social Organization Coordination Office (LCCO)



The Lao CSO Coordination Office (LCCO) is a coordination office for non-profit Lao social organizations focusing on coordination and information exchange between members across the country, the government, and regional and international development partners. The Association for Rural Mobilization and Improvement (ARMI) is one of the Lao CSO Coordination Committees (LCCC) that has actively participated and contributed to all the work in the network mechanism in all 7 sectors: 1) good governance; 2) agriculture, forestry, and rural development; 3) education and sports; 4) public affairs; 5) environment; 6) labor, disability, and social protection; and 7) economy, information, culture, and tourism.

The ASEAN Civil Society Conference/ASEAN Peoples Forum



The ASEAN Civil Society Conference/ASEAN Peoples Forum, or ACSC/APF is an annual meeting that is a platform for exchanging, sharing experiences, and discussing various issues related to achieving the United Nations goals for development in conjunction with the implementation of international declarations and ASEAN cooperation agreements among the civil society organizations (CSOs) in ASEAN countries. The Association for Rural Mobilisation and Improvement (ARMI) has been se-

lected as one of the Steering Committees of the Lao Social Organization or the Steering Committee of the ASEAN People's Conference, or ACSC/APF, to participate in the conference. We also contributed to our work as a secretariat by facilitating and preparing for delegations from Lao civil society organizations to attend the ACSC/APF meeting every year. And in 2022, when Cambodia was a host for the aforementioned forum in Phnom Penh, the ARMI and other CSO delegates from Lao PDR also gradually participated.



The Scaling Up Nutrition Civil Society Alliance in Lao PDR



The Scaling Up Nutrition Civil Society Alliance in Lao PDR, also known as SUN CSA Laos, is a coalition of 60 social organizations in Lao PDR that support the government’s initiatives to improve nutrition work and the nutritional status of Lao PDR residents, particularly women and children, during the first 1000 days. ARMI became a member in 2017. Since joining SUN CSA Laos, we have actively engaged in meetings, shared knowledge, and brought a variety of lessons to utilize and implement in the association’s nutrition work. In addition, ARMI served as one of the administrative committees of the SUN CSA Lao network in 2022, as well as one of the provincial coordinating committees for nutrition work in the Savannakhet province.

The Agroecology Learning Alliance in Southeast Asia (ALiSEA)



The Agroecology Learning Alliance in Southeast Asia (ALiSEA) is a regional platform that emerged during the AC-TAE project towards an agroecological transition in Southeast Asia and is coordinated by the CIRAD organization, which is responsible for all of the Network of Conservation Agriculture in Southeast Asia’s (CANSEA) projects. The fundamental goal of ALiSEA is to exchange information and experiences regarding agro-ecology. As a new member of the ALiSEA network, the ARMI actively participated in the conference to share thoughts on the range of themes that were invited.



Lao Civil Society Organization Forestry Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (Lao CSO FLEGT) is a group of Lao civil society organizations that have contributed to the process of joining the Voluntary Trade Agreement with the European Union (VPA). The goal of CSO FLEGT Laos is to participate and contribute effectively to the process of VPA/FLEGT between the government of Laos and Europe, ensuring that the communities that rely on forests can access, use, manage, protect, and develop forests in a fair and sustainable way. The program that implements the forest law, management, and timber trade is based on the letter of approval from Forest Law No. 1278/MAF, dated September

23, 2015. The ARMI has been a member of the CSO FLEGT Lao network since 2015. More importantly, in 2019, it was selected to be one of the members of the network's steering committee. In the past, we have regularly participated in activities and meetings of the network, contributed to the FLEGT-VPA work, and participated in the process of obtaining legal timber definitions (TLDs); participated in the technical working group for community or village forestry; created and managed online social media (Facebook and YouTube); designed and produced print media and advertising materials for the network, such as brochures, posters, t-shirts, and websites; and contributed to the technical working group for community or village forestry.



Gender Equality



Gender Equality: The ARMI considers the roles of women and men as the main heart of development. We believe that women and men have equal rights at all levels, which can be seen in every work and activity in each area, especially the leadership, regardless of the groups, which must have women at all levels in order to open up opportunities and promote women to play a leadership role and contribute fully. Implementation of family-level activities. We additionally encourage women to speak up, offer opinions, and make decisions alongside men.



ARMI is one of the organizations that make up the Women's Role Development Association, a group that works to advance women. Additionally, we serve on the management board of the SUNCSA Nutrition Network, which emphasizes the integration of gender roles in nutrition work, particularly for women in rural areas who lack access to information about hygiene, childrearing (children under 1,000 days), or having an opportunity to attend school. Therefore, we have emphasized this issue in particular: building capacity and strength for women to have the right to learn and access good nutrition, encouraging pregnant women to go to the hospital, feed their children properly, eat

food according to hygiene standards, etc. Particularly in the association, there are women in all fields of work at all levels, including the management board, the president, the inspection committee, and the members of the association. By the end of 2022, our organization will have 42% female members, and our staff members are actively taking part in training and developing their skills to increase their grasp of gender awareness and strengthen their knowledge of gender. In the future, we will raise the role of women and men to a higher level by integrating this work to reach more people in all fields of work.



Empowerment of people with disabilities

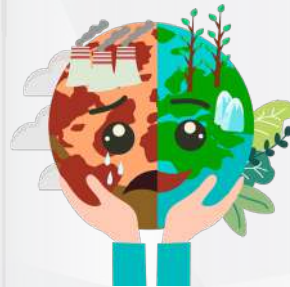


Empowerment of people with disabilities: working on promoting the participation of people with disabilities is considered a new work for ARMI, which started to be implemented 2-3 years ago. To improve the quality of life of people with disabilities in rural areas, especially those who have a hard time obtaining services and integrating into the community where they live, we have paid attention to and placed priority on their work. Therefore, we have included the work of disabled people in the association's 5-year strategic plan (2021–2025). In previous years, we have enhanced and supported disabled people in many cases, such as by pro-

moting income-generating activities such as animal husbandry, barbershops, grocery stores, etc. so that they can have a career and can earn money for themselves and their families. Importantly, we also support people with disabilities to access services, send them to functional rehabilitation centers, and provide equipment and tools to facilitate their daily lives more comfortably. Additionally, advocate legal literacy so that people are aware of and understand the rights and equality of those with disabilities, to create awareness about disabilities for the community, and to promote people with disabilities to live in society normally by participating in society equally.



In the future, we will raise awareness of people with disabilities to a higher level by passing on knowledge and spreading the role of people with disabilities to other associations, this is not to be considered the work of any individual or any association, but it's the duty of everyone in society to comply with the words of the Sustainable Development Goals, or SDGs, that "Leave no one behind". The association has always offered opportunities for people with disabilities to join and work in the association and has adjusted its policies to suit them. Currently, we have 4 disabled staff members (1 female), one of whom is an IT employee who is visually impaired. In the future, we will open up more opportunities for people with disabilities to work with us.



Climate Change



Climate change is an issue that the world gives importance to, and we have given importance to this work because it is related to the lives of the people in the community, especially farming and animal husbandry, so that they can adapt to climate change and prepare to deal with various natural disasters. Additionally, some of our staff members have taken part in training to increase their capacity in the area of climate change, particularly with regard to methods of production that use little space but produce a lot of crops, as well as identifying good cultivars that can be grown all year round. We have also provided knowledge on handling natural disasters, especially in flood-prone areas, established village-level com-

mittees on natural disaster management, and trained them on how to prevent and reduce damage. Additionally, we have been urging them to create village conservation areas and protected areas so they can utilize natural resources responsibly. At the same time, we also encourage people to use more cookstoves in order to limit the usage of natural fertilizers from deforestation and prevent ecological system disruption by publishing and advertising in various villages in remote community areas that are still dependent on deforestation as a means of doing daily activities. In the future, we will continue to expand this work to more rural areas.



Government sector partners

In the past year 2022, the Association has been working closely with the government sector, especially:



Donors

The association has a total of 13 donors, which include donors who give from 1–5 years, 5–10 years, and more than 10 years, as follows:



2011 - Now



2019 - Now



2020 - Now

Financial Report

Exchange Rate (KIP/USD) 17,273

	Amount (KIP)	Amount (USD)	Percent
Openings Balance from 2021	4,331,101,903	250,744	

Incomes

Member Fees	46,950,328	2,718	0.3%
Funding from Donors, Individuals, etc.	15,966,830,930	924,381	99%
Bank Interest	1,129,435	65	0.01%
Other Incomes	171,163,734	9,909	1%

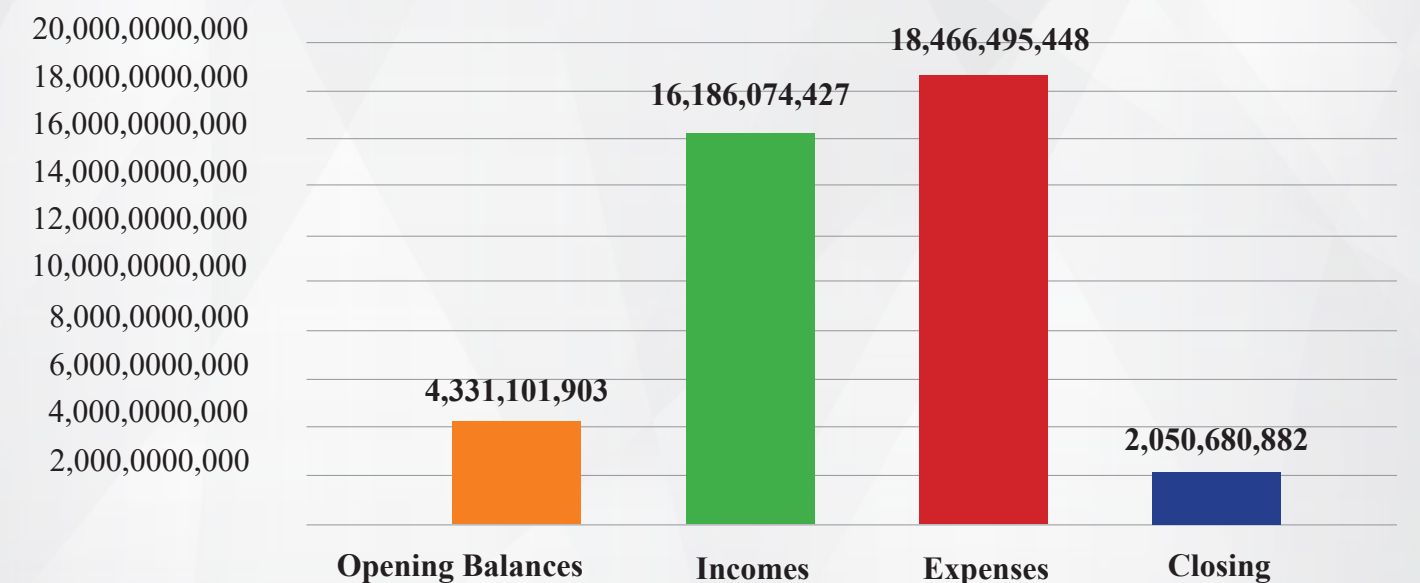
Total income	16,186,074,427	937,074	100%
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Expenses

1) Administrative Expenses (employee salaries, water, electricity, office rent, etc.)	4,616,623,862	267,274	25%
2) Project Activities:	13,745,134,586	795,758	74%
3) Humanitarian Assistance:	-	-	0%
4) annual financial audit fee:	104,737,000	6,064	1%

Total expenses	18,466,495,448	1,069,096	100%
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Closing Balance 2022	2,050,680,882	118,722
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