



PROJECT BETTER TOGETHER : ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE AND REHABILITATION FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN ATTAPEU

Working towards reducing inequalities by providing access to care, training and community living for people with disabilities.

Project duration

July 2023 – June 2026

Beneficiaries

- 206 women, 173 men and 25 children with a physical disability
- 3 team members from the Rehabilitation Unit of Attapeu Hospital
- 100 households will receive a water filter subsidised by TerraClear

Local partners

- Lao Ministry of Health, Healthcare Department, Rehabilitation Division
- Lao Disability People Association (LDPA)
- Aid and Development Fund (ADF)

Financial partners

- Kadoorie Charity Foundation
- French Development Agency (AFD)
- Proactivism

WHY THIS PROJECT ?

A study carried out in 2021 in 8 villages in the province of Attapeu showed that about 4% of their inhabitants have a disability. Among the disabilities identified, physical activity limitations are the majority, with 50% of people having mobility problems and not being able to carry out daily tasks such as dressing, washing, going to the toilet and even eating.

These people revealed that they do not have access to appropriate care because medical staff do not pay attention to them or do not know how to take care of them. The physiotherapy department of Attapeu hospital offers very little functional rehabilitation care due to a lack of specialised equipment and know-how. At the village level, little help is given to them by community members. They are mocked and often excluded from village activities. A feeling of isolation and uselessness is commonly expressed.

Despite the existence of legislation enacting equality, protection and social support for people with disabilities, very few public services and associations supporting people with disabilities are active in Attapeu province. Awareness-raising and advocacy activities among the population to promote the rights and inclusion of people with disabilities are also very rare.

In collaboration with its local partners, the SFE has developed the Better Together project, which aims to improve the daily life of people with disabilities through better care in health facilities by providing infrastructures adapted to their physical constraints and needs and a population that is better aware of and trained for their inclusion in daily life.

OUTCOMES

- People with physical disabilities in 8 villages in the Sanamxay district have better access to appropriate health and rehabilitation services, resulting in better health, improved functioning, greater independence and increased well-being.
- People with disabilities actively participate in individualised functional rehabilitation care to optimise their functioning.
- Health services are more inclusive of people with disabilities and accessibility of medical facilities is improved
- Increased community awareness of equal rights (including gender), and in particular of disability inclusion and access to health and rehabilitation.

PROJECT AMOUNT: \$ 616 800

ACTIVITIES

- Improving technical skills of physiotherapists through training
- Providing better equipment and care for people with disabilities in the Rehabilitation Unit of Attapeu Hospital
- Improving people with disabilities' standard of living (toilets, drinking water)
- Providing inclusion training in health services
- Improving access to buildings and facilities in hospitals and health centres for people with disabilities
- Raising awareness on the rights of people with disabilities
- Creating 8 support groups in the communities



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