



CHILD PROTECTION

INTERVENTIONS IN LAOS



Save the Children

Save the Children International in Laos

is dedicated to Child Protection, with a specific emphasis on reducing harmful practices, including early marriage; protecting children from violence, including physical and humiliating punishment and sexual violence; protecting them from trafficking, and from harmful work. The program aims to build life skills, improve gender equity, and establish community-based child protection initiatives.

Witnessing violence at home and in community is common for children in Laos.

Project Implementation:

The organization employs a multi-stakeholder approach to preventing and responding to Child Early Forced Marriage. The overarching goal is to strengthen community-based child protection, shielding children from violence, harmful practices, and early forced marriages.

Empowering Children and Adolescents:

Save the Children actively involves children and adolescents in its initiatives. Through the Friendship Circle, young adolescents learn life skills, understand the impacts of early forced marriage, and gain the ability to negotiate with their parents. Peer-to-peer learning helps them comprehend the unacceptability of gender-based violence and learn about shared responsibilities and the potential for changing gender roles.



Training for Out-of-School Girls and Young Mothers:

Life skills training is provided to out-of-school girls and young mothers, addressing the negative impacts of early marriage. The focus extends to safe income generation, seeking learning opportunities, and avoiding early and forced marriages. Professional technical partners contribute to training on income-generating activities, financial literacy, and seed funding for small businesses.

Working with Families:

Save the Children conducts Safe Family training for all families in target areas. This initiative emphasizes positive care for children, fostering understanding among parents and caregivers. The aim is to create protected and well-cared-for children for the benefit of families, communities, and society.





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Engagement with Society:

Save the Children actively engages with government partners, organizing community campaigns against violence and promoting child rights. National-level campaigns against **Child Early Forced Marriage** involve collaboration with other NGOs and UN agencies. Partnerships with civil society organizations focus on women's leadership, climate change, and STEM initiatives.

Community Engagement:

Collaboration extends to Village Authorities, promoting child protection and gender equality through training. The community-centric approach identifies root causes of gender inequality and child abuse, proposing actionable solutions. Save the Children facilitates the establishment of model non-violence parenting families and supports the dissemination of laws related to child protection and violence against women and children.

33% of Lao girls are married before their 18th birthday and 7% are married before the age of 15.

- Girls Not Brides, 2022

Save the Children's work emphasizes empowering children so that they are able to identify their protection risks as well as the measures they need to take to protect themselves. By creating reporting mechanisms at the local level, mainly in schools, and by empowering children to utilize those mechanisms, the CP theme facilitates breaking the silence and establishing child protection as a valid concern for society to address. By strengthening the capacity of teachers and parents on positive discipline techniques and by sensitizing them against the use of corporal punishment, Save the Children helps create a more protective and fearless family and school environment for the children to reach their full potential.

Save the Children has taken a two-pronged approach to address the issue of child labor. It intervenes, as part of its prevention strategies, in targeted families and children in the area of origin to minimize the flow of child labor. Concurrently, it works in the destination areas within the country where the children are actually working in order to improve their working conditions, their access to education, health, and other services so as to ensure that their basic rights are not violated while at work.



Save the Children uses its knowledge, experience, and evidence generated from its field implementation to push for policy reform on child protection issues. This helps ensure that the fieldwork is supported by appropriate policies and resource allocation and the policies, in turn, are informed and influenced by actual practice in the field.

Save the Children is committed to **comprehensive child protection interventions**, employing a holistic approach that involves children, families, communities, and society at large. Through empowering initiatives and strategic partnerships, the organization seeks to **create a protective environment where every child can realize their full potential.**