

# Children Changing Our Climate Future

#CCCF #YoungClimateHero **in 2024**

Starting in May 2024, the #CCCF campaign launched as the first climate intervention by Save the Children Laos, aimed at raising awareness among children about the impacts of climate change on child rights. The campaign actively engages children through micro-level initiatives, ensuring that these child-led climate advocates are prepared to participate in national and international climate events.



## WEEK of Climate Action

Started in mid-May, Save the Children International in Laos launched its country office climate campaign. The main idea of this Climate Action revolves around the common message "**Children Changing Our Climate Future**", aligning with Generation Hope Children's Week of Action (COWA) 2024. The Lao Campaign Plan 2024 primarily focuses on creating climate champions and building the capacity of those in the climate space.

The climate campaign was executed through a series of "**Weeks of Climate Action**" across various projects from North to South, aimed at promoting climate awareness under its thematic focus. The campaign activities directly engaged approximately **650** children and youth.





# Week of Climate Action with the Lao Safe School Project: “Bring Climate Safety to Our School”

May 25 - 27, 2024

The Week of Climate Action started with 22 volunteer students of Lao Safe School Project from Phonxay School in Luang Prabang Province focused on creating a safe and sustainable environment within the school in the context of climate change and supported the volunteer students designed and presented their climate campaigns.

During the 3-day climate activities, students learned about climate change and its impacts on their school through fun and creative activities. These included implementing DIY air quality monitoring to measure air pollution around the school, promoting waste management through a school clean-up campaign, and helping students design and plan their own climate action campaigns to raise public awareness and encourage social behavior change in their school community.



After the 22 volunteer students finalized their climate awareness campaigns, they presented their projects to nearly 100 participants, including peers, parents, and teachers, on the last day of activities, which also marked the celebration of Children's Day. Their campaigns focused on climate impacts affecting their school, such as air pollution, heatwaves, and uncontrolled waste.



In addition to raising climate change awareness among all participants, there were creative activities where attendees could engage in learning how to save the planet through waste management games, exploring the results of DIY air quality monitoring, and participating in a climate Q&A session.

The workshop of climate week in Luang Prabang Province was a significant step towards building a safer and more resilient school community. Save the Children's initiative has empowered students with the necessary knowledge, tools and skills to contribute to their community's climate resilience. It also fostered a sense of responsibility and proactive behavior towards environmental challenges.



*“Thanks to the project for organizing the Week of Climate Action at my school. I am really happy to have participated in all the activities, where I received useful knowledge and support in leading our own heatwave awareness campaign to build a safer and cooler school environment.”*

- First, a 13-year-old student, Phonxay Secondary School, Phonxay District, Luang Prabang Province

[Read full story of First here](#)

# Week of Climate Action on Children's Day: "Empower Young Climate Heroes"

May 31, 2024



"Our Earth, Our Future, Just **SAVE** it"

- Phetsamone, a 17-year-old student stated during the climate talk session, Xon Pao School, Vientiane

Continued from the Week of Climate Action in Luang Prabang, the CO climate campaign was introduced to nearly 250 youth at Xon Pao School during the Children's Day event. Under the theme "Empowering Young Climate Heroes," the event aimed to educate students and participants about how children's rights are affected by the climate crisis through creative activities. These activities included a panel discussion on child rights impacted by the climate crisis, climate talks from youths, and booth exhibitions from Save the Children, where students learned about our climate-resilient health, education, and child protection initiatives.

A highlight of the event was the climate talks from young campaigners. Listening to children and young people share their insights on climate change was eye-opening. Their stories highlighted the significant challenges they are facing now and in the future. Despite feeling overwhelmed by the magnitude of these challenges, there was also a sense of hope.



Witnessing the passion, dedication, intellect, and technological know-how that these young individuals bring to the battle against climate change was truly inspiring. We are proud to support these young climate champions in their fight. Read full article [here](#).





# Week of Climate Action with Safe Back to School Laos Project: “Child Participatory Research through Photovoice”

Aligning with the CO climate campaign that started in mid-May, the implementation of photovoice research activities, a child-centered approach, allowed 298 children from six schools in Seponh District—an area frequently affected by extreme weather events and disasters—to express their perspectives and concerns regarding the impact of climate change on their schooling experience through photography. This initiative aimed to empower children, caregivers, and school authorities to rebuild and enhance climate-resilient education for children from ethnic minority backgrounds and those with physical disabilities. This approach sought not only to reduce school dropout rates but also to increase enrollment, thereby retaining children within the Lower Secondary Education (LSE) system by mitigating vulnerabilities to climate risks, hazards, and gender barriers.



During the two months of the photovoice implementation, the child and youth participants were educated about the effects of climate change on their health, education, and overall well-being. They were mobilized in climate action initiatives, received knowledge, skills, and confidence to take action against climate change, and had opportunities to share their experiences at the national level through their impactful photos.



To represent the voices of children experiencing the effects of climate change, the Photovoice exhibition was held at the end of June. Sixty selected photos from six schools, along with their accompanying captions, were showcased to over 200 participants at the event, serving as key policy recommendations and representing the voices of children.

Save the Children has been actively participating in ASEAN-related events to promote child participation and ensuring that children's voices are heard. Through the 8th ASEAN Children's Forum, we used child-centered approaches like Photovoice to amplify Lao children's voices and share their perspectives with youth representatives across ASEAN.



*“I am glad to be a part of the Photovoice research activity because this will help my school get clean toilets and a sufficient water supply during the dry season”*

- Soda, an 11-year-old student, Pha Nga Primary School, Xepon District, Savannakhet Province



These efforts culminated in the development of the School Child-Centered Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan (SCCCAAP), which was presented to and discussed with the community and local authorities, highlighting the climate challenges faced by children and the urgent need for action. The SCCCAAP is currently being implemented, with construction and repairs underway at the targeted schools to ensure they are more climate-resilient and responsive to the needs of all children. The photos and captions, serving as key policy recommendations from children, are expected to inform the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MoNRE) in its upcoming review of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), integrating child participation into policy. Learn more about the Photovoice activities [here](#).





**WE ARE COMMITTED TO SECURING OUR FUTURE AS YOUNG CLIMATE HEROES!**

## Advocate for the #CCCF campaign at the national level and highlight the grassroots impacts of climate change as expressed by child and youth participants

Partnered with the Lao Youth Union to promote the campaign nationwide, this collaboration aims to secure the government's endorsement of young climate champions within both organizations' climate agendas. This historic moment signifies a substantial step in empowering youth to take a proactive role in addressing climate change.

Our efforts also underscore the importance of obtaining government support to facilitate the participation of children and youth in national and international advocacy events. >> [Read more here.](#)

## The first LAO youth campaigner joins the Generation Hope Child Advisory Group

This year, Save the Children International in Laos is proud to support a Lao youth climate champion in joining the global campaign.

Meet **Malitar**, our very **first Lao Child Advisor for Generation Hope**, Save the Children's global climate campaign! Alongside 16 other child and youth advisors from around the world, Malitar represents Laos in this groundbreaking initiative, contributing to shaping the future of the Generation Hope campaign.

The voices of these 16 child advisors are key to ensuring the campaign better serves children and youth affected by climate change and economic inequality. Malitar is a dedicated young leader from a local organization called Green Buffalo, where she spearheads efforts to reduce and recycle waste, introduces Green Policy to her community in Xieng Khouang Province, and facilitates environmental workshops for students, teachers, parents, and community leaders.

**WE CHOOSE HOPE**

**“***I believe that every child deserves a safe and sustainable future, free from the impacts of climate change and economic inequality.*

**Malitar**  
a first Generation Hope Child Advisory from Laos



# Routes to Advancement for Children and Youth in Laos

#ChildrenChangingOurClimateFuture #YoungClimateHero

Children in Laos encounter substantial barriers to their right to education due to persistent threats from natural hazards, climate change, diseases, and everyday dangers in their schools and communities. In response, Save the Children International (SCI) in Laos is integrating climate campaigns into existing programs. The primary goal is to empower children involved in these projects to voice their perspectives and concerns about how climate change impacts their well-being and future through a participatory approach.

As part of this effort, SCI Laos and key partners have a clear vision at the national level to engage and support children and youth in becoming climate champions. Through the integration of the #CCCF, a CO climate campaign, these young climate champions will have the opportunity to raise awareness and build climate resilience at the community level. Additionally, they will share their experiences of climate change at national, regional, and global levels, and demand action.

## Educate Children and Youth on the Climate Change and Its Impacts

SCI Laos plays a crucial role in empowering children and youth to become climate champions by equipping them with the necessary knowledge, skills, and tools. This involves offering educational programs, supporting teachers, parents, and caregivers, and incorporating climate and environmental topics into education, health, and child protection initiatives.

## Empower Children and Youth to Take Action in Their Communities on Climate Change

Under the "Children Changing Our Climate Future" campaign, Save the Children Laos is committed to empowering young climate campaigners at the national level. Through education, capacity building, and community engagement, SCI ensures that children and youth are not only informed about climate challenges but are also equipped to take meaningful action. Furthermore, SCI supports youth participation in global climate initiatives by fostering Lao youth involvement as Generation Hope Child Advisors, collaborating with other young climate advocates worldwide, and contributing to the development of the Generation Hope Campaign strategy.



## Advocates for youth-led initiatives to promote sustainable public policies

By investing in climate campaigns that empower youth to influence social behavior and policy decisions. This involves connecting youth movements both locally and globally, aiding in educational and advocacy efforts, and providing necessary resources. Collaborating with governance partners, SCI Laos advocates for creating spaces and platforms where children and young people can shape climate policies and contribute to the development of climate-resilient strategies in the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC).

## Amplifying Youth Voices at the 2024 Youth Climate Action Forum and COP29

Enhancing the representation of children and youth in climate discussions by empowering young climate champions to articulate their policy recommendations. Our focus is on developing climate-resilient education and increasing children's involvement in shaping national climate policies. By fostering a child-led climate evidence base, we aim to provide crucial insights that will inform the government of Laos, enabling them to access global climate funding.

