



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: <https://laos.savethechildren.net/>

