

CARE International in Lao PDR



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- **Population:** 6,4922,228 million (PHC, 2015)
- **Life expecting:** 66,7 years (World Bank, 2019)
- **Under mortality rate :** 46/1000 live births (LSIS II, 2018)
- **Maternal mortality rate:** 197/100,000 live births (UNFPA, 2018)
- **Adult literacy:** 79,9% (World Data Atlas, 2019)
- **HIV prevalence:** 0,3% (UNAIDS, 2018)
- **Access to improved water :** 90,8% urban and 73,3% rural (WHO/UNICEF, 2018)

Program Overview

Laos is one of most ethnically diverse countries in South-East Asia, with 71 percent of the total population comprising of different ethnic groups. Although complex, there is a strong link between ethnicity and poverty, particularly in the upland areas of Laos.

Since 1992, CARE has implemented a number of long – term development programs in Laos. As part of a broader CARE International agenda to develop Long-Term Program strategies in each Country Office, in 2014, CARE International in Lao PDR (CARE Lao PDR) undertook an extensive and consultative process to develop two long-term programs

1. **Remote Ethnic Women (REW)** program and
2. **Maginalised Urban Women (MUW)** program



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The Rural Ethnic Women programs focuses on improving livelihoods and food and nutrition security in remote rural areas; improving access to sexual and reproductive health services; and ending violence against women and girls. For the next 5-10 years, REW will prioritise remote ethnic women and girls experiencing multiple denial of rights in equitable access to opportunities, resources, services, participation in governance, freedom from violence and the effects of climate change.

This program will focus on broad scale vision of achieving “equitable quality of life” for REW in 10-15 years as:

1. REW benefiting from equal opportunities
2. REW voicing their concerns and exercising their rights on equal and legitimate platforms
3. REW’s unique role and capacity to end poverty and social injustice in Lao PDR is valued, socially recognized and acknowledged

The Marginalised Urban Women program focuses on key challenges experienced by marginalized women in urban settings engaged in entertainment, factory and domestic work. The impact groups are the most socially and economically marginalised women and adolescent girls in urban settings, including recent migrants.

The key underlying causes of poverty and social injustice that affect these sub-impact groups are related to lack of access to and control over resources, exploitation mostly by men, poor governance (particularly in terms of the gap between policy and practice) and limited representation through civil society.

The MUW program focuses on:

1. Resilient incomes,
2. Options and Choice and,
3. Policy and Legal Protections.

CARE Lao PDR believes that we can multiply impacts and ensure the impacts and results are sustainable by working in partnership with the Government of Lao PDR, local Civil Society Organizations, and other development partners.

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