





World Vision's Operations

-  **7 Provinces**
-  **WVI-L staff 161**
-  **Direct beneficiaries 178,869**
-  **Children 58,068**

Overview of Covid-19 Cases

- New cases:** 1,209 *(all cases of community transmission)*
- Total accumulative cases:** **82,082**
- Total deaths:** 214 *(4 new deaths)*
- Total active cases:** 12,059
- Total recoveries:** 69,809 *(717 new recoveries)*

- Total quarantine centers:** 86 *(19 hotels)*
- Number of people in quarantine centers:** 3,310
- Vaccination points:** All provincial and district hospitals, mobile vaccination clinic
- Total migrant quarantine centers supported by WV-WFP partnership:** 3
- Number of people in quarantine centers supported by WV-WFP partnership over last two months:** 1,994 (981 women)
- Total cases detected in quarantine centers supported by WV-WFP partnership over the last two months:** 676 (329 women)

Source: Ministry of Health COVID-19 bulletin (7th of December 2021) (www.covid.gov.la)

COVID 19 Update

The COVID-19 virus has continued spreading across all provinces of the country. Almost all villages in Vientiane capital are mapped as red zones, with most cases from community transmissions rather than imported cases from other countries. A new record of over a thousand cases per day was recorded this reporting period and continues to be the trend. The country is on track to reach 50% vaccination target by the end of the year: as of 2nd December, 43.9% of the population had received all recommended doses (two for AstraZeneca, Pfizer, Sinopharm, one for Johnson & Johnson). In late November, vaccinations were extended to children from 12-16 years old and booster shots are starting to be given to fully vaccinated people. In addition, some mitigation measures have been announced with the opening of the Lao-China railway, which impacts on the plans for reopening the country, yet to be confirmed with the surge of the new COVID variant, Omicron (not yet recorded in Laos). The easing of lockdown measures from mid-November onwards are allowing for the reopening of schools in non-pandemic areas, domestic routes for airlines and public bus transportation to begin again. New doses of vaccines continue to arrive thanks to the donations from China (Sinopharm), USA, and European Union countries through the COVAX facility (AstraZeneca).



COVID Response

Last month, our team in Thaphangthong district, Savannakhet province, provided 16,830,000 KIP worth of PPE, drinking water, loud speakers and IEC materials to safely conduct COVID-19 vaccination campaign in our target communities.

Community Vaccination Campaign (COVID-19)

World Vision programs continue to support the Ministry of Health in rolling-out the vaccination campaign in its target communities. Over the last two months, World Vision teams facilitated almost 200 COVID-19 Vaccine awareness sessions in its target villages. This led to over 28,000 individuals completing their vaccination (all recommended doses).

UNMASKING II - Childhood Lost report

To better understand the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on the lives of vulnerable children in Asia and to make evidence-based policy and programming decisions, World Vision conducted a Rapid Assessment in May 2020. One year on, in May 2021, World Vision sought once more to strengthen its understanding of the impact of COVID-19 on the most vulnerable. The regional research which included Lao PDR sought to evaluate what had changed and for whom, both across the year and from before the pandemic. The Unmasking II – Childhood Lost report was published on the 20th of November 2021, and can be found here:

[Unmasking II - Childhood Lost report: Key findings in Lao PDR](#)

Key Concerns



The flow-on effects of the pandemic are clearly being felt by children across Laos and school closures are another catalyzer for violence against children and accelerators of child labor and child marriage. There is an urgent need for a multi-layered, multi-stakeholder approach to address child well-being issues, including the integration of mental health components into health services for both children and adults.



There is a need to strengthen women and children protection systems through partnering with community leaders to address the physical and emotional violence of children and gender-based violence. Safeguarding protection, mental health, and psychosocial support for caregivers should be included as core components of COVID-19 Response.



The budget deficit, economic contraction and rising unemployment caused by COVID-19 will translate in government budget cuts in the upcoming years. There is concern that budgets allocated for providing access to basic child services (such as health, nutrition and education) for remote communities will be reduced, deepening the disadvantage.



Digital capacity and internet access remains low in rural areas of Lao PDR, and need to be increased while ensuring a safer online environment for children. This disparity results in a significant lack of access to education and financial services, which are increasingly going online.

Food assistance in Quarantine Centers

The flow of returning migrant workers has started to decrease, and numbers in the quarantine centers have started to reduce in October and November 2021, after the highest peaks of the previous months. We however forecast a renewed afflux of migrants coming back to Laos in December with seasonal celebrations.

Ensuring returnees are tested and protected from COVID-19 remains a priority, and food assistance helps accommodate safe return of migrants to the country.

World Vision continues its partnership with the World Food Program and the Savannakhet and Saravane provincial governments to provide food assistance support for returning migrants in 3 centers (Km4 Sport Stadium and Nonsa-at Quarantine Centers in Savannakhet province, and the Ethnic College in Saravane province).

Since 26 July 2021 to date, World Vision has supported 10,867 people (5,259 women, 857 children, 400 girls, 137 pregnant women and 4 people with disabilities/2 women), all returnees were provided with 3 nutritional meals a day during their 14 days of quarantine.



Like in Phine district, Savannakhet province (pictures above) community leaders including village chiefs and village health volunteers from our target villages are supported to receive the injection in priority and trained to become advocates of the vaccine for their community. Then, community events are organized with health workers from District Health Offices to raise awareness on COVID-19 and the vaccination campaign (picture below from Toumlarn district, Saravane province), using the various IEC materials provided by the projects and testimonials of community leaders to advocate to those who are feeling more hesitant to be vaccinated.



In the view of schools reopening, World Vision has equally started to support vaccination for children over 12 years old in some of its target areas (left picture in Toumlarn district, Saravane province).

Photo essay: The Community Vaccination Campaign illustrated

World Vision continues to support the #VaccinateLaos campaign in its target communities, following multiple-steps approach in the process to address vaccine hesitancy in the villages.

We would like to thank our generous donors, partners, and supporters including:

WFP, European Union, WHO, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, UNICEF and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and the Ministry of Education

