



From
the People of Japan



iREAD PROJECT

Improving Reading, Environment and Advancement in Primary Schools for Children

END OF PROJECT FACTSHEET



Children and communities supported by the iREAD project in Thapangthong have experienced outstanding changes.

Students, teachers, parents and caregivers... they all played an important role in improving learning outcomes and paving the way for a brighter future for the next generations.

PROJECT BRIEF

Budget: app. \$1,500,000 USD

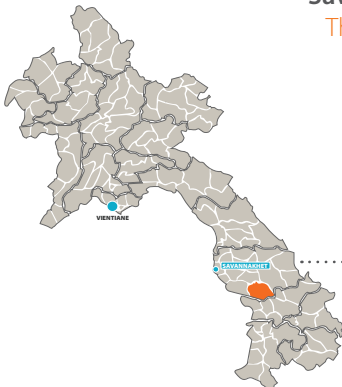
Timeframe: 1 December 2019 - 25 March 2023

Donors: Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) Japan and World Vision Japan

Government Lead: Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES)

PROJECT LOCATION

Savannakhet Province
Thapangthong district



**14 target schools
& their communities**
10 villages and
4 sub-villages

**1,900 individuals
directly impacted**

38,680 individuals
reached

PROJECT IMPACT

Percentages of change between project's Year 1 (2020) and end-line evaluations (2023) or District Education and Sports Bureau's data (2021-2022)

**Strengthened
teaching instructions**
for Grade 1 to Grade 3
teachers

91%
of trained teachers
using new skills
to teach reading

44%
of Grade 3 students
reading with
comprehension

**Reading
comprehension**
has increased
during the project,
from 5% in 2020
to 44% (+39%)
during the end-line
evaluation

School drop out
decreased at
1.0%

School drop outs rates for
Grade 1 to Grade 5 students
decreased from 8.8% (2019-
2020) to 1% (2021-2022)

PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS



TEACHERS' SKILLS ARE STRENGTHENED TO SUPPORT CHILDREN'S LEARNING

The project trained **47 teachers** in target schools on how to teach five core reading skills: letter knowledge, phonemic awareness, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. In a recent monitoring visit, **91% of teachers were observed to apply the techniques they learned in trainings.**



COMMUNITY SUPPORTS CHILDREN'S LEARNING

The project set up **14 reading groups** in target communities, and trained **48 reading group facilitators** among community members, who lead weekly reading group activities.

The project set up **reading corners at home in 596 households** together with caregivers.

The project trained a total of **1,055 caregivers to support children's learning at home.** Even caregivers who cannot read, report they monitor their children's learning at home.



SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT PROMOTES CHILDREN'S PARTICIPATION AND LEARNING, HEALTH AND SAFETY

The project constructed **four new school buildings, playgrounds** and outdoor reading corners in seven target schools. The new facilities are bringing more children to school and improved attendance rates.

The project equally set up **reading corners** in each classroom with story books, regularly borrowed by students to read at home.

iREAD constructed **water systems and toilet blocks in 13 target schools, and handwashing stations in 14 schools.** This helped **reduce open defecation from 84% to 17%**, and children learning good hygiene practices such as handwashing and tooth brushing.



MONITORING AND COACHING MECHANISMS ARE ENHANCED

Monitoring and coaching visits to schools and community reading groups were conducted with local partners of the Ministry of Education and Sports. **Teachers and reading group facilitators are supported to apply the techniques learnt in training, discuss challenges, receive coaching to improve classroom instructions and management,** and reading group activities.

A JOURNEY OF CHANGE FOR THE CHILDREN OF THAPANGTHONG AND THEIR COMMUNITIES

Dad: Please look after your brothers at home today.

Daughter: No !!! Dad, I need to go to school with friends, I like the school playground, the school is very beautiful.

While the daughter runs out of the house, the dad is barely able to call his daughter and say:
"Please pay good attention at school..."

This last thought of the father reflects well on how much the iREAD project has changed the behaviours of the communities of Thapangthong district, improving significantly the quality of education for students.

44% of the Grade 3 students supported by iREAD are now able to read with comprehension, while only 5% of the Grade 3 students from non-intervention schools of Thapangthong are able to do so.



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