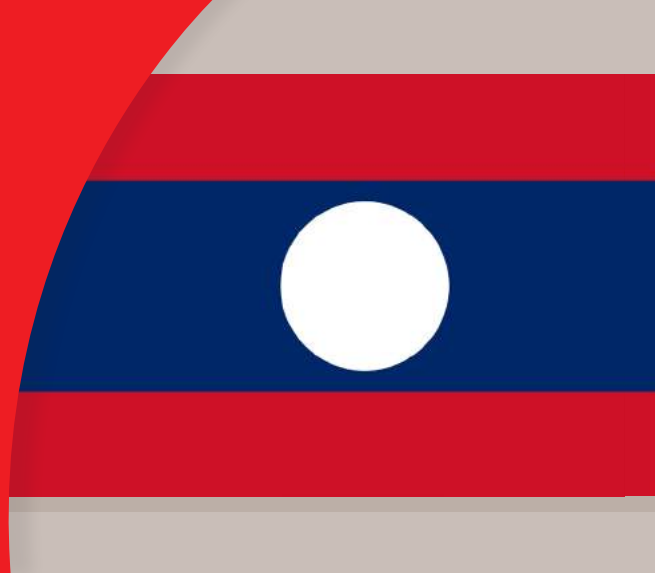


Lao Red Cross Society

Working towards School Safety



As an auxiliary to the government of Lao PDR in providing humanitarian services, Lao Red Cross works with communities to improve their health and livelihoods, and help them to prepare for and respond to disasters in line with the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Its structure consists of a national headquarter, 18 provincial and 89 districts branches. As of 2016, Lao Red Cross included 3,350 registered youth volunteers.

Within the three pillars of the Comprehensive School Safety Framework, Lao Red Cross mostly contributes to the third pillar with a range of awareness activities for children and youth focusing on first aid, road safety, blood donations and youth exchange (peer-to-peer support with youth members from other National Societies such as the Thai Red Cross). The Lao Red Cross National Blood Center has established Youth Donor Clubs whose members donate blood and organize events to recruit new blood donors. In addition, Lao Red Cross receives technical and financial support from its partners to implement water and sanitation interventions in schools (contributing to pillar one). Furthermore, it also conducts simulation exercises in targeted schools which contributes to the second pillar.



In implementing initiatives related to school safety, Lao Red Cross is partnering with several institutions, such as the Ministry of Education and Sports, the Ministry of Public Health, and the Youth Union. Coordination is ensured through several national-level committees such as the National Blood Committee and the National Disaster Prevention and Control Committee.



Outreach



School

64

Number of schools reached



Children

Primary : 420 in total (280 boys and 140 girls)

Secondary school : 20 in total (12 boys and 8 girls)

High school : 3,268 in total (2,288 boys and 980 girls)



Water and sanitation interventions

Children washing their hands after the installation of new water taps.



Small-scale construction at school

Construction of water tap system at schools.



First Aid training

Cooperation between the Lao-Thai Red Cross Societies to provide the First Aid training to the Lao Red Cross Youth.

1

Safe Learning Facilities

School retrofitting
Water and sanitation interventions

2

School Disaster Management

School safety training
First Aid training

3

Risk Reduction and Resilience Education

Awareness sessions for student
Organizations of campaigns



Organizations of campaign

Blood donation campaign led by youth.



School safety training

Youth in School Safety facilitators' training was conducted in the schools.



Awareness sessions for student

Public Awareness and Public Education training (PAPE) for students.



“During the Youth in School Safety facilitators’ training, I was one of the youth facilitators and conducted a school safety activity in my school. I shared my knowledge about disasters, risks and vulnerabilities and also the three pillars of the comprehensive school safety framework. In a group, we discussed how to make our school safe. All of us decided to learn more about school safety and agreed that one factor for the school safety is to have the clean surroundings.”

Phoudthasin Sayasetha, a Red Cross Youth from Vientiane-Ho Chi Minh Friendship High School in Vientiane.



Challenges

- 🔍 Limited funding support to Youth in School Safety programmes.
- 🔍 Sustainability of the Red Cross Youth school Safety requires a strong commitment from the education authorities at every level.
- 🔍 Limited Red Cross engagement in school safety due to understaffing in the headquarter.



Ways forward

- ➔ Incorporate school safety under the regular programming of the National Society.
- ➔ Consider recognition / for teachers involved in school safety.
- ➔ Identify future funding to continue the activity, capacity building for staff and volunteers.
- ➔ Create a pool of trainers (including youth leaders) to disseminate information about school safety good practices.

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