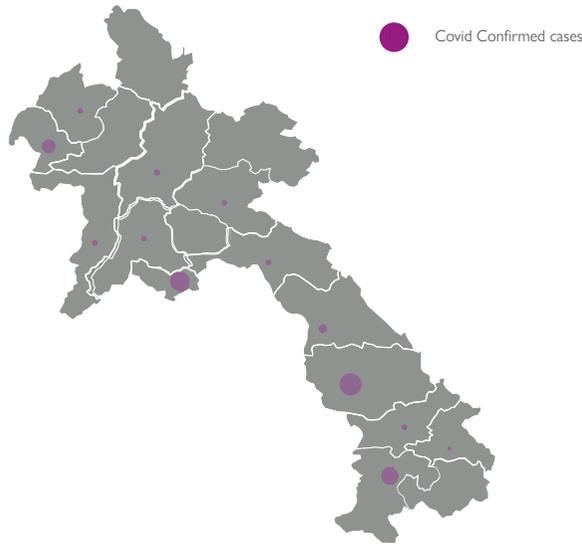




COVID 19 Update

The number of imported cases of COVID-19 has increased, resulting in outbreaks especially in Savannakhet, Champasak, Saravane, and Khammouane Provinces. The majority of Delta variant samples found were among returnees, a fact that increased stress on the capacity of quarantine and treatment facilities in many Provinces. COVID-19 prevention measures and lockdown restrictions have been extended until the 15th of September, including the closure of schools, where community transmission remains a risk. The Government has reaffirmed the measures issued by Vientiane authorities, setting up a curfew across the capital from 10pm to 5am. During this reporting period, Lao PDR received 415,000 doses of Astra Zeneca donated by the United Kingdom, and 616,820 doses of Astra Zeneca by Japan. China provided an additional million doses of Sinopharm to support the Vaccinate Laos program.

Source: Ministry of Health and WHO situational reports for Lao PDR [link](#)



Covid Confirmed cases

Overview of Covid-19 Cases

Total accumulative cases: 17,905

Total deaths: 16

Total active cases: 4,266

Total recoveries: 17,905

Total migrant quarantine centers: 14

Total people in quarantine centers: 7,684

Total cases detected in quarantine centers: 3,982 (1,267 women)

Source: Ministry of Health COVID-19 bulletin (15th of September 2021 (<https://www.covid19.gov.la/index.php>)



COVID Response

Risk Communication and Community Engagement

Over the last quarter, the European Union and DFAT funded AHAN program provided 276,990,000 KIP (app. USD 29,000) worth of protective equipment (masks, alcohol gel, gloves, PPEs) to Savannakhet and Saravane Provincial Health Departments to support frontline workers in their efforts to control the spread of the virus. Prevention messages were broadcasted through the village loud speakers' systems and the signboards display, both also provided by World Vision.

Community Vaccination Campaign (COVID-19)

World Vision has been supporting the community vaccination campaign in operational target districts. In particular, in Phine district, Savannakhet Province, we supported community leaders, village authorities and community health volunteers to be the first to be vaccinated, paving the way for their communities. Those influential figures in the villages are becoming vaccine advocates and participate as part of the awareness campaigns about vaccination led by the Ministry of Health, mass organizations, World Vision and other key partners around the country. The hard work to convince remote populations to be vaccinated is underway, and initial feedback from the field is showing good acceptance by villagers. World Vision will continue supporting the Ministry of Health at all levels to reach the target of 50% of the population vaccinated by the end of 2021.

COVID exposure guidance: [here](#)

Family protected from COVID: [here](#)

Key Concerns



Vaccination coverage disparity between non and remote rural communities needs attention, and additional support is required to ensure vaccines reach out to all the remote villages across Lao PDR. Offering vaccination directly at the village reinforces a "leave no one behind" action, reaching the most vulnerable segments of the population who may have transport difficulties, among others people with disabilities.



Large numbers of people in the quarantine centers and field hospitals remain a concern and support for the provision of food, water, and hygiene kits is still required.



Students in the country, especially the most vulnerable, have the need to catch up on the lost learning since the school closure (April 2021). These children do not normally have the technological equipment or in-home support to appropriately continue their learning path. We support the re-opening of the schools for in-person learning in a safe manner.



Recent program assessments by World Vision have indicated that food security and household nutrition status has decreased over the past 12 months, leading to concern over gains from the past few years being lost due to the ongoing impacts of COVID-19.

World Vision's Operations

7 Provinces

WVI-L staff 171

Direct beneficiaries 178,869

Children 58,068

Food assistance in Quarantine Centers

World Vision is continuing the provision of food assistance supporting returning migrants in targeted quarantine centers. We expanded our operation to an additional Province, in partnership with the WFP, the Provincial Governments, and the Ministry of Health. Since the beginning of July 2021, we have supported:

- * **4,836 people** (2,360 women) in Savannakhet quarantine centers **with 163,275 meals provided**
- * **2,851 people** (1,350 women) in Saravane quarantine center **with 70,171 meals distributed.**

These included 257 children (121 girls), 45 pregnant women and one person with disability.

All returnees were provided with 3 nutritional meals a day during their 14 days-of quarantine. During this reporting period, 2,148 COVID-19 cases were detected at the quarantine centers during routine screening procedures, and vaccination of returning migrants is crucial and supported in order to minimize the community transmission risk.



Impact Story

Chongdee is 8 years old and has been living with her mother and aunt in Thailand. Chongdee wants to become a teacher when she grows up and has already started practicing her skills by “teaching” her friends and family. Chongdee was born and raised in Laos until her parents divorced when she was 4 years old. After the divorce, her mother decided to move and live with her sister in Thailand.

Chongdee was able to attend school in Chonburi and she enjoyed school very much, especially mathematics, and art. She also liked drawing, reading and doing puzzles. After school, she would help her mother with the housework, cleaning and washing dishes.

Due to economic challenges, her family decided to return home to Savannakhet province. While traveling back her mother and cousin were infected with COVID-19, and upon arriving in Laos they tested positive, while Chongdee and her aunt tested negative. Chongdee was separated from her mother and had to stay with her aunt at one of Quarantine Centers. Around 30% to 45% of arrivals at the Quarantine centers in Savannakhet in July/August have tested positive for COVID-19, with many becoming infected on their journey back. Chongdee felt very sad and worried about the separation with her mother and cousin.

During her stay in the facility, World Vision provided Chongdee and her aunt with nutritious food and drinking water. Chongdee was eager to accompany her aunt to collect their food each day and wondered what the food would have been. In these stressful times, this is at least something Chongdee’s aunt did not need to worry about, and a bright spot in Chongdee’s day.

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

World Food Programme, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, the European Union, the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, World Health Organization and UNICEF, Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and the Ministry of Education and Sports.

