



## LAO FRIENDS HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN (LFHC)

PROVIDING COMPASSIONATE CARE TO CHILDREN AND TRAINING LOCAL HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS IN LAOS

# OVERVIEW THE SITUATION

Lao PDR is actively engaged in the ongoing development and fortification of its health systems, an effort encompassing both the improvement of health infrastructure and the development of human resources. While the capital city has well-equipped hospitals, the decentralisation of services has led to a decline in the quality of healthcare beyond Vientiane Capital. Alarming statistics further underscore the healthcare challenges faced by the nation, with Lao PDR ranking as the 3<sup>rd</sup> in Asia for infant mortality and the 25<sup>th</sup> highest globally, reporting a death rate of 49.5 per 1,000 live births. Additionally, the scarcity of schools offering comprehensive training programmes contributes to the shortage of skilled health professionals capable of adapting to the dynamic health needs of the population. Addressing these systemic issues is imperative for the country to make significant strides in improving its overall healthcare landscape.

Essential actions include enhancing health facility infrastructure for a safe environment and providing continuous education for health staff. Recognising community engagement as pivotal, efforts should aim at preventing health issues, reducing reliance on medical treatment, and fostering a healthier population. Addressing these intertwined challenges is crucial for healthcare improvement in Lao PDR.

## OVERVIEW LAO FRIENDS HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN (LFHC)

Established in 2015 in Luang Prabang, Lao PDR, Lao Friends Hospital for Children (LFHC) stands as a pediatric hospital founded by Friends Without A Border (FWAB), a nonprofit organisation led by renowned photographer Kenro Izu. Modeled after FWAB's inaugural hospital in Cambodia (1999), LFHC adopts a three-pronged approach: delivering medical care, educating healthcare professionals, and promoting preventive care.

As the sole pediatric teaching hospital in northern Laos, LFHC not only offers medical services, but also endeavors to improve the expertise of nursing staff and healthcare professionals in pediatrics. This commitment aims to improve the overall quality of medical care and decrease the mortality rate in children under five. Furthermore, LFHC houses the region's only neonatal unit, specifically designed to mitigate the number of deaths occurring within the first month of life.

Child's Dream has supported FWAB's Nurse Training Programme since 2020, which has yielded successful results. The programme aims to sustain and expand its education programme to ensure that basic and advanced health services are available within its facility.

ROUGHLY

250

DIRECT BENEFICIARIES REACHED  
IN THE YEAR 2023



CHILDREN WHO RECEIVE CARE  
AT THE HOSPITAL WILL FURTHER  
BENEFIT FROM NEWLY TRAINED  
NURSING STAFF

At Lao Friends Hospital for Children, malnutrition cases cover up to 27% of the severe hospitalisations which increases overcrowding and decreases the quality of care provided. The government programmes that work on malnutrition do not appropriately cover awareness raising and prevention measures at the community level, which contributes to the high amount of cases. Reducing malnutrition will ease the burden on the health system.

# HOW IT WORKS

## MAIN ACTIVITIES FOR 2023-2024

### > **Malnutrition Prevention**

- > Malnutrition awareness campaigns
- > Train health village volunteers in malnutrition prevention
- > Ensure mothers have access to prenatal supplements and have access to prenatal and postnatal care

### > **Malnutrition Treatment**

- > Test malnutrition preparedness in two pilot hospitals
- > Advocate to the government, UNICEF and partner organisations to provide essential facilities and supplies
- > Deliver training to health staff on the treatment of malnutrition

### > **Pediatric Care**

- > Deliver training on Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illness (IMNCI), Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP), and Emergency Triage Assessment and Treatment to nursing staff

# GOAL

To expand the education and training programme at the district level in order to improve prevention and treatment of child malnutrition and pediatric care. This will help reduce the burden of care on the health system and enable communities to mitigate severe malnutrition

## OBJECTIVES

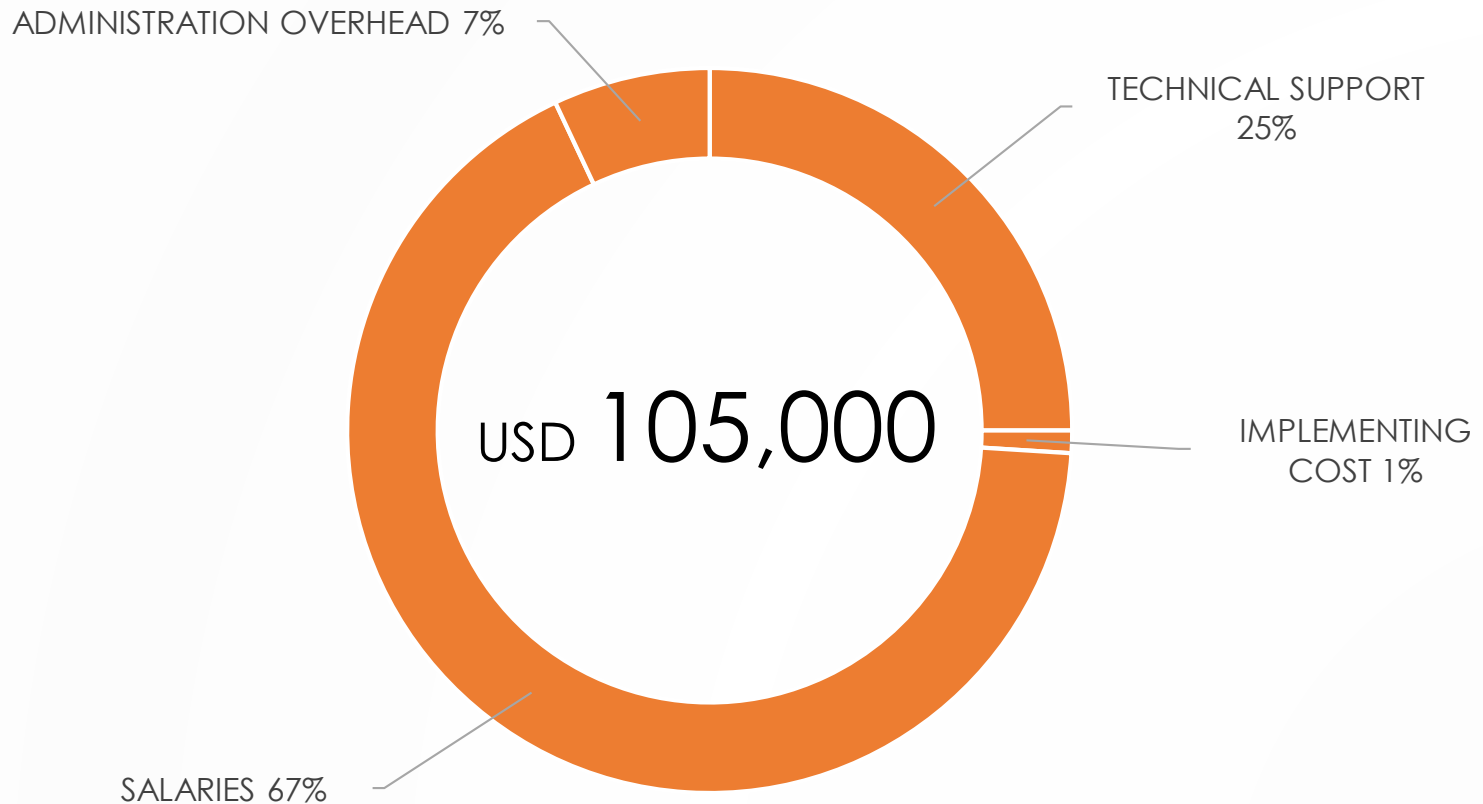
- > Increased awareness, knowledge, and skills among pilot community village volunteers regarding various preventive interventions for malnutrition, aiming to curb malnutrition cases at the community level
- > Enhanced competency of pilot district nursing staff in malnutrition treatment to improve care of malnutrition cases
- > Enhanced competency of district nursing staff in pediatric care to improve the provision of quality basic care for beneficiaries seeking services at district hospitals and health centers

## BENEFICIARIES

- > Laotian nurses, health staff and village volunteers as direct beneficiaries
- > An estimated 33,600 children attending hospitals in target areas in Lao PDR will indirectly benefit from the improved healthcare

# BUDGET

The budget from January to December 2024 to operate this programme is roughly **USD 105,000**. Transfers from Child's Dream are made in four quarterly instalments during the financial year.



# MONITORING AND REPORTING



We receive quarterly narrative and photo reports, as well as monthly financial and activity reports



Feedback is collected directly during regular site visits by our local team



Visits can be arranged throughout the year



We report to donors twice a year





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