

# Women Empowerment for Climate Resilience (WECR)



Women and men get ready to be trained on the Adaptive Action Plan

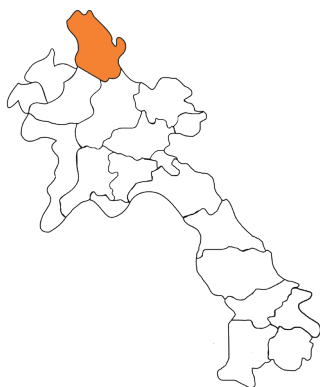
## BACKGROUND

Since 2014, CARE International in Lao PDR has received funding support from CARE Denmark, the European Union (EU), and the Ministry of Development and Sustainable Infrastructure Luxembourg to enhance the capacity of women and ethnic smallholder farmers in Mai and Samphan in Phongsaly province. The overall objective of this project is to strengthen the resilience of remote ethnic lowland and upland communities, in particular women, when it comes to the impact of climate variability and change while contributing to the achievement of SDGs 1, 2, 5, 13 and 17.

This new project will be implemented in 3 districts: Mai, Samphan, and Khoua in Phongsaly.

The project activities will be analyzed through consultation with the community as well as agriculture and forestry offices. The project will improve access to accurate seasonal weather forecasting, an essential tool to improve farmers' ability for medium to long-term planning, thus increasing their resilience. Access to these forecasts is likely to reduce losses of yields caused by unfavorable weather conditions, especially main cash crops, which are heavily affected by the changes in rainy season, greatly impacting food security in Phongsaly.

## GLIMPSE



**Location**  
Phongsaly Province  
(Mai, Samphan,  
and Khoua Districts)

### TimeFrame

January 2021 - December 2024

### Beneficiaries

Direct 6,734 (3,620 women)

Indirect 18,993 (10,197 women)

### Partners

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Phongsaly  
Provincial Agricultural and Forestry Office



## OBJECTIVES

To enhance the adaptive capacity of smallholder farmers, particularly ethnic women, as they face climate challenges. To implement the Community Adaptation Action Plan and promote scientific climate information as well as traditional climate knowledge, weather information consultation, capacity building, and seasonal calendar.

## FUNDED BY

Danish Telethon, Denmark

## OUTCOMES

- **Activity 1: Ethnic minority women develop and implement own solutions to their families' "climate challenges"**
  - Improve Gender Sensitive - Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis (GCVCA) tool
  - Training on GCVCA to project staff and government coordinator and relevant government offices at the district level
  - Conduct GCVCA in 11 new villages
  - Review GCVCA in 9 villages (used to be former CARE villages)
  - Summarize primary data of the project, based on GCVCA
- **Activity 2: Ethnic minority women increase the income and food security of their family through the innovative areas of action: Weather information, drought resistance paddy fields and sustainable beekeeping**
  - Formulate Community Adaptation Action Plan (CAAP) for climate change
  - Implement alternative activities of each livelihood cluster, based on the Community Adaptation Action Plan (CAAP)
  - Establish Village Savings & Loan Associations (VSLA) in qualified villages and non-qualified villages
  - Build Community Accountability Mechanism (CAM) in targeted villages
  - Support Community Innovation Funds for women's groups to initiate adaptation activities, including capacity building for women's groups on modern production techniques, improving the quality of alternative products, and marketing
- **Activity 3: Ethnic minority women develop and implement own solutions to their families' climate challenges**
  - Training on the use of Community Dialogue Toolkit (CDT)
  - Community issue research by using CARE's Community Dialogue Toolkit (CDT) and create an activity plan by integrating it into the Community Adaptation Action Plan (CAAP)
  - Action research on GBV – resilience nexus
- **Activity 4: Providing reference information and learning to facilitate the knowledge exchange at the community and macro levels**
  - Developing Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, Learning (MEAL) system
  - Developing advocacy plan on community adaptation to climate change
  - Documenting learning/approaches and lessons learnt at the local and central levels

## IMPACTS

- Technical staff from the Government partner offices and representative from villages receive training and 20 target villages are conducted Gender Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis (GCVCA).
- Women have increased incomes and involved in decisions about using savings groups and funds to adapt to climate change. They have accessed to climate information services and agriculture.
- The Community Dialogue Toolkit (CDT) has been used to assess and analyze the issues of women in 20 project target villages and to improve gender and attitudes toward violence against women in 20 project target villages



Weather announcement in the village everyday is important.

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