

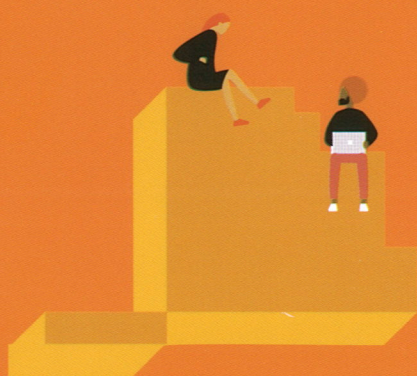
**HELVETAS LAOS**

**THE PUBLIC INFORMATION AND  
AWARENESS SERVICES FOR VULNERABLE  
COMMUNITIES IN LAO PDR (PIASVC)**



**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**



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## Statement by the Project management

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the public information and awareness services for vulnerable communities in Lao PDR (PIASVC) was signed between The World Bank (WB) and Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation on 19 August 2021 with closing date 31 July 2024. The significant information in MoU was summarised as below:

- The PIASVC project will be implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE).
- In the first component: Civil Society Organisation ("CSOs") that are Land Information Working Group ("LIWG") members, will be provided with training to deliver awareness raising and/or counseling service trainings for village-level mass organisations representatives and other village-level paralegal and volunteers to enhance public information dissemination and awareness raising for the vulnerable and poorest rural communities. The training will focus on rights related to livelihood security; use of natural resources and access to justice; and developing new training materials to test innovative approaches to engage with rural communities.
- Second component: Sub-grants will be allocated to CSOs, conducting public information dissemination activities and enhancing the capacity of awareness raising and legal counselling services providers, particularly, village and paralegal volunteers elected by the village community, village chiefs, trained Village mediation Committee ("VMC") and Lao Women's Union ("LWU") members and district level lawyers of the legal aid clinics.
- Third component: Project management, monitoring and evaluation and knowledge dissemination, provision of technical and operational assistance on the day-to-day execution of the project including, inter alia: planning, execution, financial management, procurement, environmental and social safeguards management, monitoring and evaluation, and audit of the project. Provision of technical and operational assistance on participatory monitoring and evaluation of the project. Dissemination of knowledge related to outcomes and finding of the project activities.

On behalf of the Project:

  
  
Mr. Jesper Lauridsen  
Country Director

Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR  
Date: 9 August 2024

*Arghawan Akbari*

Ms. Arghawan Akbari  
Head of Finance and Administration

Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR  
Date: 9 August 2024



## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

### **TO THE PROJECT MANAGER OF THE PUBLIC INFORMATION AND AWARENESS SERVICES FOR VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES IN LAO PDR**

#### **Our opinion**

In our opinion, the financial statements of the public information and awareness services for vulnerable communities in Lao PDR (PIASVC or the Project) for the year ended 31 December 2023 are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the accounting policies described in note 2 to the financial statements.

#### **What we have audited**

The Project's financial statements comprise:

- the statement of receipts and disbursements for the year ended 31 December 2023;
- the statement of fund balance as at 31 December 2023;
- the notes to the financial statements, which include significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

#### **Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### **Independence**

We are independent of the Project in accordance with the International Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including International Independence Standards) issued by the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants (IESBA Code). We have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the IESBA Code.

#### **Emphasis of Matter - Basis of accounting and restriction on distribution and use**

We draw attention to Note 2 to the financial statements, which describe the basis of accounting. The financial statements are prepared in accordance with accounting policies described in Note 2 to the financial statements. As a result, the financial statements may not be suitable for another purpose.

Our report is intended solely for the Project and donors and should not be distributed to or used by parties other than the Project and donors. Our opinion is not modified in respect to this matter.





## **Responsibilities of the director for the financial statements**

The director is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting policies described in Note 2 to the financial statements, and for such internal control as the director determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the director is responsible for assessing the Project's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the director either intends to liquidate the Project or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

## **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

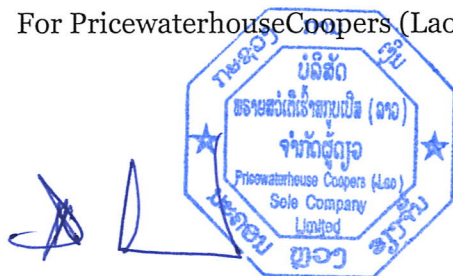
As part of an audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We are also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Project's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the director.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the director's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Project's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Project to cease to continue as a going concern.



We communicate with the director regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

For PricewaterhouseCoopers (Lao) Sole Company Limited



By Sunya Rattanaibull  
Director

Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR  
Date: 9 August 2024



# HELVETAS LAOS

## THE PUBLIC INFORMATION AND AWARENESS SERVICES FOR VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES IN LAO PDR (PIASVC)

### STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Cumulative to 31 December 2022 USD	For the year ended 31 December 2023 USD	Cumulative to 31 December 2023 USD
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
Fund receipts	369,050	553,487	922,537
	<b>369,050</b>	<b>553,487</b>	<b>922,537</b>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>			
Component 1: Civil Society Organization (CSOs) capacity building	121,374	160,999	282,373
Component 2: SUB - GRANTS	-	17,238	17,238
Component 3: Project management, monitoring and evaluation, knowledge dissemination	110,020	98,236	208,256
	<b>231,394</b>	<b>276,473</b>	<b>507,867</b>
<b>Other Disbursement</b>			
Gain/(Loss) from exchange rate	-	(84)	(84)
<b>Total other disbursements</b>	-	<b>(84)</b>	<b>(84)</b>
<b>Grand total disbursements</b>	<b>231,394</b>	<b>276,389</b>	<b>507,783</b>
<b>Surplus/ (deficit) of fund receipts over/under disbursements</b>	<b>137,656</b>	<b>277,098</b>	<b>414,754</b>

Mr. Jesper Lauridsen  
Country Director

Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR  
Date: 9 August 2024

Arghawan Akbari


Ms. Arghawan Akbari  
Head of Finance and Administration

Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR  
Date: 9 August 2024

The accompanying notes on pages 8 to 12 form an integral part of the statements of receipts, disbursements and fund balance.

**HELVETAS LAOS****THE PUBLIC INFORMATION AND AWARENESS SERVICES FOR VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES IN LAO PDR (PIASVC)****STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	<b>Notes</b>	<b>2023 USD</b>	<b>2022 USD</b>
<b>Receipts</b>			
Fund receipts	3	553,487	369,050
<b>Total fund receipts</b>		<b>553,487</b>	<b>369,050</b>
<b>Disbursements</b>			
Component 1: Civil Society Organization (CSOs) capacity building	4	160,999	121,374
Component 2: SUB - GRANTS	5	17,238	-
Component 3: Project management, monitoring and evaluation, knowledge dissemination	6	98,236	110,020
<b>Total disbursements</b>		<b>276,473</b>	<b>231,394</b>
<b>Other Disbursement</b>			
Gain/(Loss) from exchange rate		(84)	-
<b>Total other disbursements</b>		<b>(84)</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Grand total disbursements</b>		<b>276,389</b>	<b>231,394</b>
<b>Surplus/ (deficit) of fund receipts over/under disbursements</b>		<b>277,098</b>	<b>137,656</b>

  
Mr. Jesper Lauridsen  
Country DirectorVientiane Capital, Lao PDR  
Date: 9 August 2024Ms. Arghawan Akbari  
Head of Finance and AdministrationVientiane Capital, Lao PDR  
Date: 9 August 2024

The accompanying notes on pages 8 to 12 form an integral part of the statements of receipts, disbursements and fund balance.

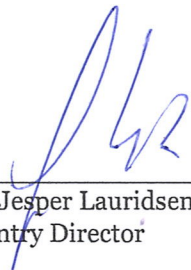


HELVETAS LAOS

THE PUBLIC INFORMATION AND AWARENESS SERVICES FOR VULNERABLE  
COMMUNITIES IN LAO PDR (PIASVC)

STATEMENTS OF FUND BALANCE  
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2023 USD</u>	<u>2022 USD</u>
Opening fund balance		137,656	-
Surplus of receipts over disbursements		277,098	137,656
<b>Closing fund balance</b>		<b>414,754</b>	<b>137,656</b>
<b>Fund balance are represented by:</b>			
Cash on hand and at Bank	7	322,059	47,566
Advances	8	109,924	90,090
Payable	9	(17,229)	-
<b>Closing fund balance</b>		<b>414,754</b>	<b>137,656</b>

  
Mr. Jesper Lauridsen  
Country Director

Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR  
Date: 9 August 2024



Ms. Arghawan Akbari  
Head of Finance and Administration

Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR  
Date: 9 August 2024

The accompanying notes on pages 8 to 12 form an integral part of the statements of receipts, disbursements, and fund balance.

**THE PUBLIC INFORMATION AND AWARENESS SERVICES FOR VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES IN LAO PDR (PIASVC)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

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**1. GENERAL INFORMATION OF THE PROJECT**

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the public information and awareness services for vulnerable communities in Lao PDR (PIASVC) was signed between The World Bank (WB) and Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation on 19 August 2021 with closing date 31 July 2024. The significant information in MoU were summarised as below:

- Support donors: The World Bank
- Project budget: USD 2,505,020
- Project location: 15,000 poor and vulnerable persons (of which 60% are women) in selected rural districts.
- Summary main activities: The objective of the Project is to improve access to legal information and counseling services to enhance protection and fulfilment of their natural resources and livelihood rights.
- The PIASVC project will be implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE).
- In the first component: Civil Society Organisation (“CSOs”) that are Land Information Working Group (“LIWG”) members, will be provided with training to deliver awareness raising and/or counseling service trainings for village-level mass organisations representatives and other village-level paralegal and volunteers to enhance public information dissemination and awareness raising for the vulnerable and poorest rural communities. The training will focus on rights related to livelihood security; use of natural resources and access to justice; and developing new training materials to test innovative approaches to engage with rural communities.
- Second component: Sub-grants will be allocated to CSOs, conducting public information dissemination activities and enhancing the capacity of awareness raising and legal counselling services providers, particularly, village and paralegal volunteers elected by the village community, village chiefs, trained Village mediation Committee (“VMC”) and Lao Women’s Union (“LWU”) members and district level lawyers of the legal aid clinics.
- Third component: Project management, monitoring and evaluation and knowledge dissemination, provision of technical and operational assistance on the day-to-day execution of the Project including, inter alia: planning, execution, financial management, procurement, environmental and social safeguards management, monitoring and evaluation, and audit of the Project. Provision of technical and operational assistance on participatory monitoring and evaluation of the Project. Dissemination of knowledge related to outcomes and finding of the Project activities.



**THE PUBLIC INFORMATION AND AWARENESS SERVICES FOR VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES IN LAO PDR (PIASVC)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

**2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

(a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the accounting policies of the Project which are a common practice for non-profit organisation. The financial statements have, therefore, not been designed for those who are not familiar with the accounting policies of the Project.

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with a modified cash basis of accounting. Under this basis of accounting, all transactions are recognised in the financial statements by cash received and paid, except for cash advances are recognized as assets and recorded as payments only after the presentation of documents and liquidation of the advances. The exception includes the use of money from other source of funds which are recorded as payables of the Project in the statement of fund balance and settled when the Project makes a repayment.

(b) Currency and foreign exchange

The Project maintains its accounting records in United States dollar (USD) as this is the currency in which the majority of its transactions are denominated and settled. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in currencies other than USD are translated into USD at rates of exchange ruling at the reporting date. Transactions in currencies other than USD during the period have been translated into USD at rates approximating those ruling at the transaction dates.

**3. FUND RECEIPTS**

<u>Date of receipts</u>	<u>2023 USD</u>	<u>2022 USD</u>
11 March 2022	-	369,050
05 June 2023	553,487	-
	<u>553,487</u>	<u>369,050</u>

# HELVETAS LAOS

## THE PUBLIC INFORMATION AND AWARENESS SERVICES FOR VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES IN LAO PDR (PIASVC)

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

#### 4. COMPONENT 1: CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATION (CSOs) CAPACITY BUILDING

	2023 USD	2022 USD
Awareness raising compacity building for Land Information Working Group members CSOs	85,576	52,692
Counselling service capacity building for LIWG member CSOs	75,423	68,682
	<b>160,999</b>	<b>121,374</b>

#### 5. COMPONENT 2: SUB - GRANTS

	2023 USD	2022 USD
Public Awareness Raising of Local Communities	14,843	-
Training and Coaching on Community Counselling Service	2,395	-
	<b>17,238</b>	<b>-</b>

#### 6. COMPONENT 3: PROJECT MANAGEMENT, MONITORING AND EVALUATION, KNOWLEDGE DISSEMINATION

	2023 USD	2022 USD
Project management	89,169	94,693
Monitoring and evaluation	1,625	6,516
Knowledge dissemination	7,442	8,811
	<b>98,236</b>	<b>110,020</b>

#### 7. CASH ON HAND AND AT BANK

	2023 USD	2022 USD
Designate account*	263,700	47,409
Cash at bank - PIASVC	58,359	157
	<b>322,059</b>	<b>47,566</b>



# HELVETAS LAOS

## THE PUBLIC INFORMATION AND AWARENESS SERVICES FOR VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES IN LAO PDR (PIASVC)

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

#### 7. CASH ON HAND AND AT BANK (CONTINUED)

\* Statement of designate account

	2023 USD	2022 USD
<b>Account activities</b>		
Opening balance	137,656	-
Add: Fund receipt (Note 3)	553,487	369,050
Less: Amount withdrawn	(276,389)	(231,394)
Advance (Note 8)	(109,924)	(90,090)
Cash in bank - PIASVC	(58,359)	(157)
Payable	17,229	-
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>263,700</b>	<b>47,409</b>

#### Fund from World Bank reconciliation

	2023 USD	2022 USD
<b>Account reconciliation</b>		
Opening fund balance	137,656	-
Add: Fund receipt (Note 3)*	553,487	369,050
Deduct: Amount documented		
WA 2	-	(41,823)
WA 3	-	(186,192)
WA 7	-	(3,364)
WA 8	(64,405)	-
WA 9	(41,125)	-
WA 10	(135,815)	-
Amount withdrawn and not yet claimed	(35,128)	(15)
Exchange gain	84	-
<b>Closing fund balance</b>	<b>414,754</b>	<b>137,671</b>

Closing balance on designate account as at 31 December 2023	263,700	47,409
Cash at bank – PIASVC	58,359	157
Outstanding advance to partners (Note 8)	109,924	90,090
Payable	(17,229)	-
<b>Closing fund balance</b>	<b>414,754</b>	<b>137,671</b>

Designate account represents the amount of the fund that donor have transferred to Helvetas Laos (Programme office) for helping monitor while the Project prepares for implementation and does not have open a bank account of their own.

\*This was for the first installment amounting to USD 369,050, the Project DA was opened on November 2022 and the second installment of 553,487 USD transferred to the Project DA.

## HELVETAS LAOS

### THE PUBLIC INFORMATION AND AWARENESS SERVICES FOR VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES IN LAO PDR (PIASVC)

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

##### 8. ADVANCES

	<b>2023</b> <b>USD</b>	<b>2022</b> <b>USD</b>
Partner Organizations – LAK	52,946	21,338
Partner Organizations – USD	56,978	68,752
	<b>109,924</b>	<b>90,090</b>

The advances represent the amount transferring to partners for proceeding project activities referring to sub-grant agreement between Helvetas Laos and Mennonite Central Committee Laos (MCC), Community Development Association (CDEA), Promote Sustainable Natural Resource Use Association (PSNUA) and Community Association for Salvation and Environment (CASE) for deliver legal awareness trainings and outreach campaigns, and/or to strengthen the capacity of local counselling service providers to address the legal information and aid gap faced by the country's poorest, and most vulnerable remote rural communities, and referring to partnership agreement between Helvetas Laos and Land Information Working Group (LIWG) for leading the organization, coordination and delivery of the Training of Trainers (ToTs) aiming at strengthening the capacity of Sub-Grantees to deliver trainings on Awareness Raising (AR) and Legal Counselling (LC) during the implementation of their activities under their PIASVC Sub-grants project.

##### 9. Payable

The payable represents expenditure using the money from other sources of funds which was not fund from WB. The outstanding balance payable as of 31 December 2023 is USD 17,229.



