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From 6 Chickens to a Flock of 40

Beneficiary Change Story:
Mrs. Lo, Ta Oi Ethnic Household

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“I am deeply proud and grateful to have received this opportunity from the German-Lao Association for Development (GLAD). Since then, my family's life has transformed significantly. Beyond improving our food security and mastering proper poultry-raising techniques, I have been able to apply these skills directly within our household. In addition to livestock production, this initiative has allowed me to build strong relationships and foster solidarity among women in my village and neighboring communities.” – Mrs. Lo

In Pacou-Kapa Village, Ta-Oi District, Salavan Province, Mrs. Lo, a 35-year-old woman from the Ta-Oi ethnic group, manages a large household of five family members, including young children attending kindergarten and primary school. In the past, her family faced severe socioeconomic hardships and daily challenges, compounded by a lack of labor and transportation. Their primary source of income relied on shifting cultivation, cassava farming, and collecting natural forest products, including bamboo shoots for drying and wild vegetables, which they sold as a supplementary source of income. Alongside caring for her children at home, Ms. Lo raised a small backyard flock of 5 to 6 chickens solely for household consumption.



A turning point arrived when Mrs. Lo learned about the “Improving the Nutritional and Living situation of children and families”

project implemented in the community. After project staff conducted community awareness activities, her husband attended an orientation session and shared the news that the project aimed to improve household nutrition for women and children by delivering practical vocational training for community members passionate about agriculture, livestock, and aquaculture (vegetable gardening, poultry raising and fish farming).

Enthusiastic about the opportunity to improve her family's livelihood, Mrs. Lo submitted her application to join the project activities.

Through the project, Mrs. Lo participated in comprehensive training sessions covering basic hygiene practices, household nutrition, and women's group collaboration. She selected poultry production as her primary vocational skill focus. To support practical application, the project provided technical inputs including coop construction materials, high-quality chicken breeds, commercial feed, vaccines, and dietary supplements and vitamins.

Putting her newly acquired knowledge into practice, Ms. Lo properly constructed chicken coops and implemented standardized vaccination schedules. From small-scale traditional rearing, her family has successfully scaled their livestock holdings to 30–40 chickens and ducks.

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Aug 2026

Ta Oi District
Salavan Province



“ From Food Scarcity to Sustainable Food Security

Beneficiary Change Story:
Ms. Ti, Ta Oi Ethnic Household

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“I am extremely proud to have been given this opportunity by the German-Lao Association for Development (GLAD). Our family life has changed dramatically compared to before. We have developed skills in catfish farming, pond excavation, and terrestrial tarpaulin cage management. My family now has sufficient food, reduced household expenses, and a reliable supplementary income stream.” - Mrs. Ti

In Padou Village, Ta Oi District, Salavan Province, Mrs. Ti, a 28-years-old Ta Oi ethnic woman and mother of three young children (enrolled in kindergarten and primary school), bears the responsibility of supporting a five-member household. Previously, the family relied primarily on low-yield wet-rice farming, supplemented by gathering wild vegetables, bamboo shoots, and non-timber forest products to generate minimal daily cash flow, while her husband worked as an informal day laborer.

The family faced severe food insecurity. Their annual rice yield was insufficient to cover year-round household consumption, resulting in recurring seasonal food shortages. Furthermore, their transportation challenges escalated after their only motorcycle was stolen a year prior, severely restricting their mobility, market access, and daily living activities.

A new sense of hope emerged when the German-Lao Association for Development (GLAD) launched the “Improving the Nutritional and Living Situation of Children and Families” project in Padou Village. Ms. Ti attended the community consultation meetings and expressed strong enthusiasm for basic vocational skill development.

Through her participation in the project, she received capacity-building support by attending training sessions on basic hygiene, household nutrition, and women’s group collaboration.

She completed technical vocational training on catfish farming and proper fish pond management, and received an input package from the project comprising aquaculture equipment, terrestrial tarpaulin fish cages, catfish fingerlings, and commercial fish feed.

Following her participation in the basic vocational training on “Fish Farming”, she effectively translated the lessons learned into clear, practical outcomes. With her family providing the necessary labor, she constructed land-based tarpaulin fish cages – a technique they had never practiced before – and upgraded their existing natural pond in accordance with proper aquaculture standards and step-by-step procedures.

“The primary benefit I received is that my family now has access to more food by raising fish for our own consumption, which has significantly reduced our household expenses. I am deeply proud to have been given this opportunity. Beyond producing food for our household, we are also able to sell surplus fish within our local community.”

The most noticeable change is the family’s increased food security, freeing them from the anxieties of past food shortages. Catfish production—both in terrestrial tarpaulin cages and natural ponds—has become a vital food source and a self-reliant stream of supplementary income. This has enabled the family to secure nutritious meals and comfortably support their children’s education.

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Ta-Oi District
Salavan Province

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From the Shade of Trees to a Community Learning Center

Nava Village, Salavan District,
Salavan Province, Lao PDR

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"I am deeply proud and extremely happy to receive this building. No organization has ever provided funding to construct a community learning center for our village like this before... What is even more significant is the unity among our villagers, who showed great dedication and determination to continuously develop our community."

Nava Village, located in Salavan District, previously faced severe infrastructure challenges, particularly the lack of a suitable meeting space for community gatherings. Whenever meetings, consultations, or public events were required, villagers had to gather in the temple grounds or under the shade of large trees.

The turning point occurred when the German-Lao Association for Development (GLAD) conducted outreach activities in the village. Mr. Kham Pathirath attended the initial orientation session and learned about the project's grant initiatives. The funding was aimed at expanding clean water distribution systems and constructing a dedicated Community Learning Center, emphasizing community ownership and participatory management during construction.

Beyond physical infrastructure, the project actively empowered women and children to enhance household food security through practical basic training for target beneficiaries and community members interested in agricultural livelihoods, including vegetable cultivation, fish farming, and poultry raising (chickens and ducks).

A defining highlight of this activity was the remarkable community solidarity and active local engagement. The residents of Nahoua Village contributed physical labor, supplied locally sourced timber for construction, and safeguarded equipment throughout the building process until completion.



The establishment of the Learning Center as a vocational training center has brought about comprehensive changes to the community. In particular, the women's group in the village most frequently uses this building for learning and carrying out various project activities, as a meeting place for general village work, hospitality and working with the government, career development and increasing income for the community. Villagers have applied the knowledge from the training to practical applications such as raising chickens correctly according to technical principles, giving many families access to additional sources of income-generating work, and their livelihoods and family lives have clearly improved.



For the village leadership, the long-term sustainability of the center is paramount. The village administration has established a governance plan and assigned roles to a dedicated management committee to oversee and maintain the facility, ensuring its long-term utility and maximum benefit for the community.

This project demonstrates that project success extends far beyond physical construction—it represents true community ownership, active participation, and sustainable development. The story of Nawah Village shows that donor support leads to lasting impact when communities actively take ownership and lead the way.



— Mr. Kham Pathirath
Village Party Secretary Nava Village.

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Mr. Kham Pathirath also emphasized that the community learning center that the project has built is very useful for our community. It is convenient for meetings on household chores or project work. Every time we come here, we use the center as a gathering place and do various activities.

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