



“

Community participation in management and local ownership are key to building community empowerment and sustainability

”



“Sustainability is not about relying on continuous project budgets forever; rather, it is about community ownership in managing funds transparently and contributing together for the future of our children.”

Mrs. Viphakone Hueangmany

Village Education Development Committee

Dakbong Village, Dakchung District, Sekong Province

Furthermore, the Village Education Development Committee (VEDC) received training in fund management and financial planning. Mrs. Viphakone stated that the community successfully established its own self-sustaining fund of 30–40 million LAK. This fund is utilized for operating the school lunch program and supporting ongoing school development. It is jointly managed by the community through loan repayments collected from crop and livestock production groups, with all revenues and expenditures systematically documented.

Community contributions to long-term sustainability span multiple dimensions, particularly in school maintenance, local crop cultivation and livestock raising to supplement the lunch fund, and daily meal preparation for the children. Currently, the village has initiated direct contributions to the school lunch program. Regarding fund management, village leaders have developed a plan to collect 5,000 LAK (0.22 USD) per household / Month to build a reserve fund that will sustain the school lunch program independently once the project concludes.

The true success of this initiative lies in the fact that the project went beyond merely constructing a school building—it expanded educational opportunities for children, restored peace of mind for parents, and empowered the community to independently manage and sustain its school lunch fund for the future.

In Dak Bong village, Dak Cheung district, Sekong province, parents previously had no safe option for childcare when leaving home for agricultural work or daily livelihoods. Following the construction of the new kindergarten under the project, kindergarten-aged children are now enrolled and attending classes. Ms. Viphakone noted a clear shift in community confidence: parents deeply trust the teachers and the kindergarten, allowing them to pursue their daily livelihood activities with peace of mind, knowing their children are safe, well-cared for, and receiving nutritious lunches during kindergarten hours.



Supported by:



Implemented by:



Sep 2026

**Dakchung District
Sekong Province**