



AUSTRIAN RED CROSS

LAOS



AutRC project area:

Bokeo

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	Laos	Austria
Area in km ²	236,800	83,871
Population (millions)	6.1	8.3
Rural population in %	69	33
UNDP Human Development Index	133	14
Society		
Languages	Lao	German Regional languages: Slovenian, Croatian
Religions	60% (Theravada) Buddhist, Animist tribal religions, Baha'i, Christian and Muslim	73.6% Catholic, 4.7% Protestant, 4.2% Muslim, 2.2% Orthodox, 0.1% Jew, 12% without religious denomination
Health		
Life expectancy	64.6	79.9
Doctors per 10,000 inhabitants	4	37
Infant mortality per 1,000 babies	77.8	4
Child malnutrition (< 5 years) in %	36.4	0
Adults with HIV/AIDS in %	0.2	0.2
Access to safe drinking water in %	60	100
Access to sanitary facilities in %	48	100
Education		
Literacy rates in %	68.7	~ 100
Economy		
Main export products	Wood products, coffee, electricity, tin, copper, gold	Machines, automotive industry, paper, metal, iron, chemicals, textiles
GNP/capita/year in USD	2,165	37,370
% of the population living on < 1,25 USD/day	44	0
Unemployment in %	2.4	3.9
Inflation in %	8.6	3.2

Sources: UNDP United Nations Development Report 2009, German Federal Foreign Office, www.cia.gov, www.who.int



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Approximately 70% of the population of this Southeast Asian country live in rural areas. Infant mortality is among the highest in the region. The reasons are poor health care, the underdeveloped health system of the country and the lack of access to safe drinking water.

The Austrian Red Cross (AutRC) has been active in Laos since 1997, and after more than 10 years of close cooperation with the Swiss Red Cross (SRK) took over the supervision of the projects in Bokeo from 2009 onwards. The main aim is to continue to strengthen the capacity of the Lao Red Cross (LRC) to carry out water and health projects. Two Austrian Red Cross delegates are working on site in Laos to support our partner LRC with the project implementation.

Drinking water supply and settlement hygiene

Around 6.000 family latrines and more than 150 drinking water systems have been built or rehabilitated in the villages since 1997. The population is also being trained in hygiene matters. Since 2010 health- and first aid trainings are organized in the villages. First aid courses took place also for juveniles, police and tuk-tuk drivers.

The current health and water project, implemented from 2010-2013 with EU funding, comprises the construction of additional 30 water systems, 3.000 latrines, hygiene trainings, community based health trainings and health activities in the villages.

Another project, which is funded by the City of Vienna, focuses on Mother-and-child health.



Capacity building

In order to ensure that the activities are sustainable, a major component is the development of the institutional capacities of the LRC (training, developing financial independence).

The AutRC's health programme supports the national development plan of the Lao government and therefore contributes to achieving the Millennium Development Goals for extreme poverty (MDG 1), improved health (MDG 4 and 5), and improved access to clean drinking water (MDG 7, target 3).

Project duration 2009-2013
Cost for 2010-2013 approx. € 1,2 mio.

This project is co-financed by the
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The projects in Laos are also cofinanced
by the AutRC regional branch of Styria

