

# LAOS

June 2023

## THE WORLD MOSQUITO PROGRAM IS WORKING IN LAOS TO PROTECT COMMUNITIES FROM MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASES LIKE DENGUE, ZIKA, CHIKUNGUNYA AND YELLOW FEVER.



In 2022, the World Mosquito Program will begin work in Vientiane, the capital of Laos, to combat the growing threat of mosquito-borne diseases.

Dengue is endemic in Laos, with cases increasing during the warmer and wetter months. The last major epidemic in 2019 resulted in 39,091 dengue cases, with 10,813 on Vientiane alone. Dengue epidemics usually peak between May and October. The districts of Chanthabouly and Xaysettha in the capital of Vientiane have been identified as high priority areas due to their high dengue burden.

The World Mosquito Program, Lao PDR Ministry of Health and Save the Children International have joined forces to address the danger of dengue and other mosquito-borne diseases including chikungunya in Laos.

The pilot project will see the release of *Wolbachia* mosquitoes – a safe, natural and effective method for preventing mosquito-borne diseases – in the country's dengue hotspots. The Chanthabouly and Xaysettha districts of the capital, Vientiane, have been identified as the target areas for the pilot, and awareness raising about *Wolbachia* has started in those communities.

Community involvement is crucial to the success of our mosquito releases. Once there is strong community approval, the World Mosquito Program aims to begin *Wolbachia* mosquito releases in 2023, in partnership with community health workers.

Project start  
July 2022



1  
project sites



size of the project  
9.4 km<sup>2</sup>



86,364  
people reached

2  
local partners  
and supporters



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Save the Children is so happy and excited to be able to introduce the WMP project to Laos. This *Wolbachia* approach has been proven to work in other countries in the region and has incredibly positive impacts to the health system and families. This is a new hope to help Lao people to reduce the illness due to dengue.

- Deborah Leaver  
Lao PDR Country Director,  
Save the Children International

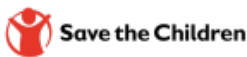


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WMP is pleased to be introducing its *Wolbachia* method to Laos, targeting dengue hotspots in the Chanthabouly and Xaysettha districts of Vientiane. Evidence from other parts of Asia and the world shows that *Wolbachia* can be a safe, effective and long-term solution to dengue. We're excited to see progress in Laos.”

Dr. Claudia Surjadjaja,  
Director  
Advocacy & External Relations - Asia

### Partners and supporters



### Further information:

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## About us

The World Mosquito Program (WMP) is a not-for-profit group of companies owned by Monash University that works to protect the global community from mosquito-borne diseases. The World Mosquito Program uses naturally occurring bacteria called *Wolbachia* to reduce the ability of mosquitoes to transmit viruses to humans.

Following decades of research and successful field trial results, the World Mosquito Program is currently partnering with communities in 13 countries around the world to implement our ground-breaking

solution. We have staff working in countries across Oceania, Asia, Europe, and the Americas, and offices established in Australia, Vietnam, France and Panama.

Our approach has widespread support from communities, governments, research institutes and philanthropic partners around the world. Through collaboration and innovation, we are making a difference to millions of lives.

A collaboration between:



Contact us

