

All children in Lao PDR have equal access to education that meets their individual needs – An Inclusive Approach to Education in Laos



1. Country Context
2. Overview of Inclusive Education in Country
3. CRS Program Intervention
4. Outcomes and Impact
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Country Context

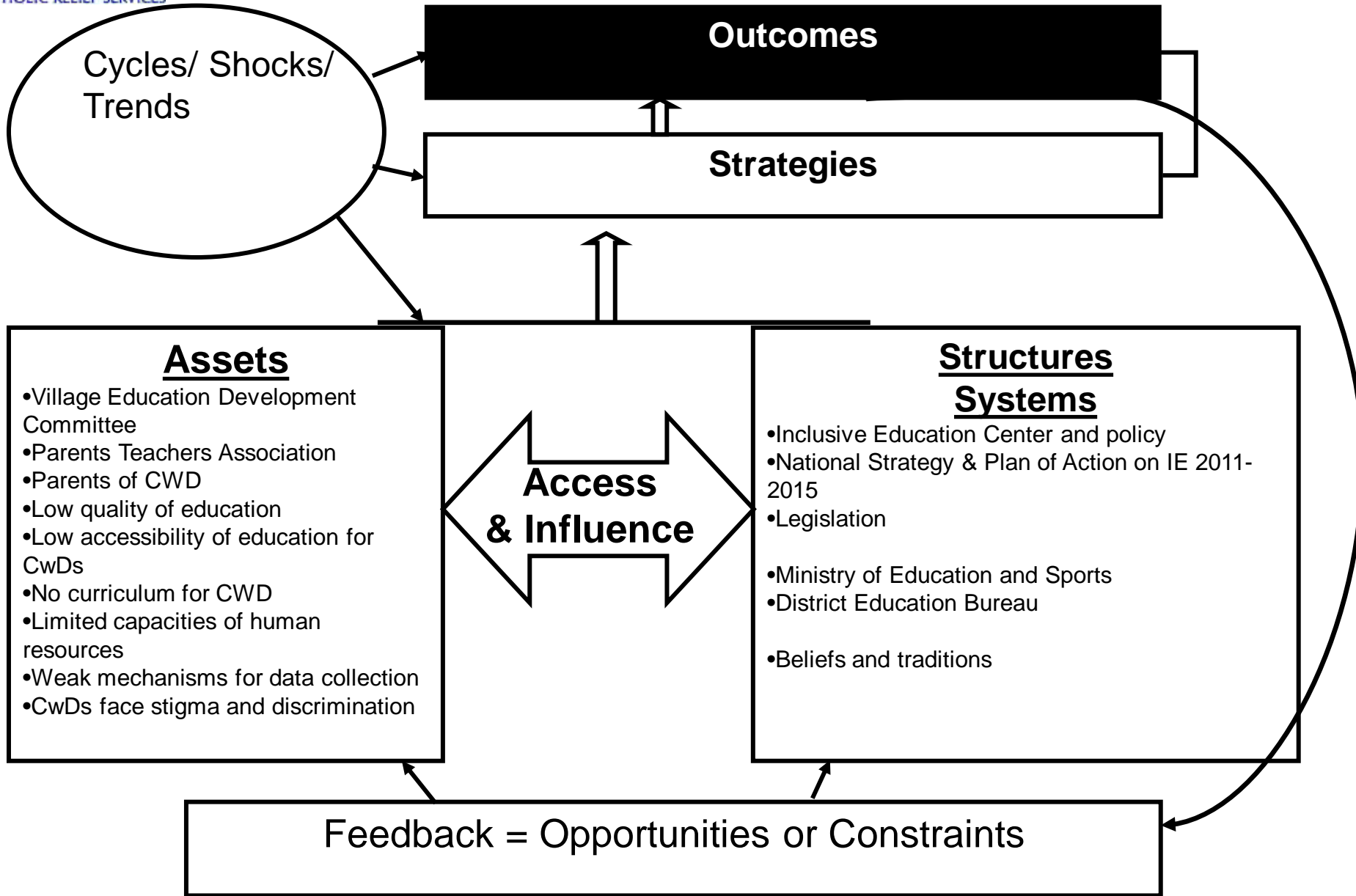


Laos/Lao PDR:

- 6.25 million people;
- estimated 113,500 (children are living with a disability.
- only 4,569 (4%) of CWD are enrolled in school

- net enrolment rate in primary school is 92.7%

Overview Inclusive Education in Lao PDR



- Why isn't the government able to provide quality education to CWD?
- Why don't parents send their CWD to school?

1. Developing institutional capacity within the Ministry of Education and Sports, Provincial and District Education Offices and the Center for Medical and Rehabilitation
2. Training and supporting school staff and managers to implement IE at school and community level
3. Working with communities to support children with special needs, both in and out of school

Key activities (Structures & Systems)

- Established WG
- Study tours
- IE, CCTM, IEP, VEDC, IE M manuals
- TOT
- Monitor & support

Key activities (Capacity)

- IE, CCTM, IEP trainings for all teachers
- IE M for principals
- School exchange visits
- Teachers use Individual Education Plan and track CWD progress

Key activities (Capacity)



Key activities (Capacity)



- IE, VEDC training:
 - 1-promote Education for All-IE
 - 2-collect data/School Map
 - 3-meet parents and teachers (incl. ARM)
 - 4-set up Education Funds

- 35 IEWG trained
- 1,571 teachers and school principals
- 90% use techniques
- 183 schools
- 318 CWD received medical screening, attention and/or provision of assistive devices
- 86 VEDCs
- 143 schools received school kits with manual

Impact (cont')

- 1- Parents send CWDs to school: they know the teacher will help them.
- 2- Teachers and friends take care and support the CWDs in their school.
- 3- CWDs now regularly come to school and are willing to continue.
- 4- CWDs get a warmer welcome and this makes them study better
- 5- CnDs learning has also improved due to IE methods and materials
- 6- People now recognize that all children have the right to be in school without any difference.

The Life of Nang Phikounthong



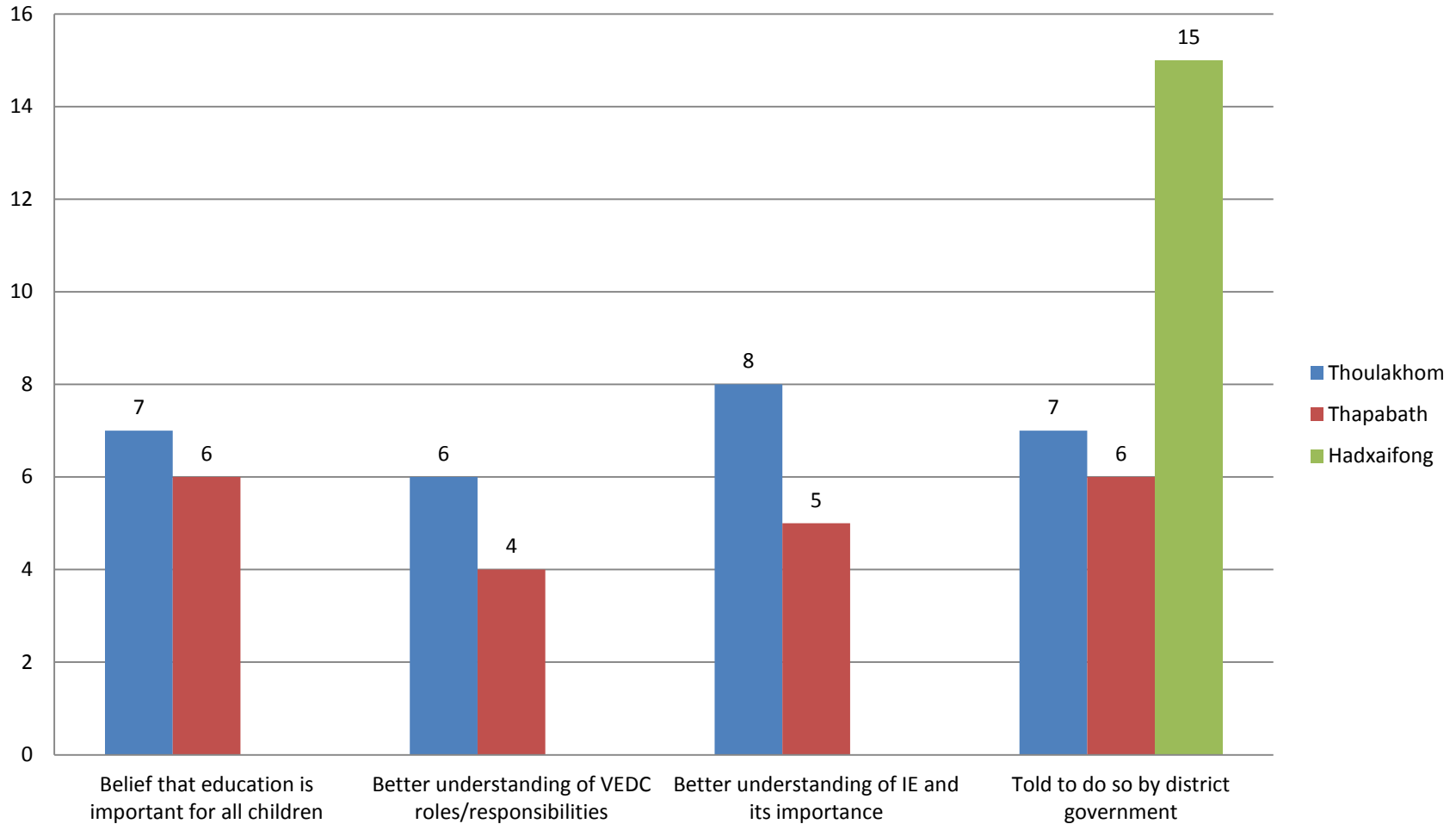
Impact (Cont')

# of VEDCs (46 in 3 districts)	What VEDCs have done already	What VEDCs plan to do:
•School Mapping	76% (35)	89% (41)
•Talking to Parents	86% (40)	91% (42)
•Helping CWD enroll in school	76% (35)	89% (41)
•Monitoring Teacher Attendance	89% (41)	76% (35)
•Making Improvements to the School Environment or Infrastructure	65% (30)	86% (40)
•Providing Financial Support for Teachers	28% (13)	34% (14)
•Others		10% (5)

Lessons Learned

- On-going support is needed after training
- Need to simplify Individualized Education Plan to suit the local context

What motivated VEDC to do activities to help CWD?



- Stigma and discrimination requires more than training... need changes in attitudes
- People with disabilities not included in the planning
- Without data, it's hard to find solutions
- Limited disability experts in Lao PDR and within MOES
- Limited health care facilities for screenings and medical attention
- Legislation
- Curriculum
- mechanisms for data collection

- Institutional capacity building
- ★ VEDC plays very important roles, cheap and has lasting impact! Strongly encourage to replicate this model
- School Map is a great tool
- Study tour to existing districts is an informative learning tool

- School Exchange provides a valuable opportunity to dialogue successes, challenges and solutions!
- Simplify IEP → Teachers Advice Form (Functional IEP)
- Provide on-going support after training
- Data collection on CWD