

women OF PURPOSE SOUKHOUMA *Laos*



**ONE VILLAGE
TRANSFORMED.**

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Soukhouma is a district in southern Laos that sits near the Thai border. This community is made up of five small villages, all of which are ready for change.

Families in Soukhouma don't have enough money to send their children to school. Instead of learning in classrooms, most kids in Soukhouma look for work to help their families survive. With job opportunities hard to find, youth cross the border into Thailand as a last resort. Many are never seen again. Labor and sex trafficking are a horrific reality for families in Soukhouma.

The villagers who return or decide to stay struggle to carry the burden of surviving without enough—without enough food, without enough clean, safe-drinking water, without enough hope for the future.

The people of Soukhouma are ready for change. The transformation of the Soukhouma community from lives of uncertainty to ones of joyful abundance is only possible with you.



The Soukhouma community is filled with hopeful people looking for change. You can help bring clean water, more food, and the protection from trafficking to the people of Soukhouma.

HOW YOU'LL HELP

When you partner with the Soukhouma community, you'll support them as they address some of their greatest needs. In Soukhouma, the most urgent needs include:



WATER / There is not enough clean water in Soukhouma. Women often spend their whole day collecting water from water holes filled with mud and disease. Children often become sick from waterborne illnesses without access to proper latrines and safe water. *You'll help ensure the families have access to clean water and receive the sanitation and hygiene training they need to keep them healthy.*



FOOD / There is not enough food to eat in Soukhouma—families sometimes have to scavenge for leaves they find in the forest. *You'll help ensure families have enough food to eat by providing farmers with training and the tools necessary to have enough food year-round.*



EDUCATION / Parents, unable to afford to send their children to school, often leave their children at home alone for weeks at a time under the not-so-watchful eye of neighbors in the community. Children are unsafe and vulnerable to different forms of abuse from village outsiders. *You'll help women form savings groups to save for their families' futures to send kids to school and to use in an emergency.*



PROTECTION / Proximity to the Thai border puts villagers at risk of trafficking and exploitation as they cross the border in search of deceptive job opportunities only to get coerced into various forms of labor or sex trafficking. *You'll provide opportunities for youth to learn about safe migration and to become advocates for others in their community.*

