
Laos Women's Shelter Visit

New Day Meeting, November 1st 2007

The Shelter

- Established in 2006
- Only shelter of its kind in Laos



Location and lay-out

- Located approx 25 k outside Vientiane
- Well kept property of approx 2 acres – gifted by the Lao government
- Walled and gated
- Compound comprises of four separate buildings



Running of the Shelter

- Run by the Lao Women's Union
 - Provides legal, psychological and health counseling
 - Drop-in/call-in counseling as well as live-in care
 - Women *and* children accommodated
 - Victims come from all over Laos
 - Referred by the LWU national network
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Dormitory for victims of domestic abuse



Main building – Offices, counseling centre, New Day multi-purpose room!



Activities of the Shelter

- Victims are involved in sewing, weaving and organic farming
 - Children attend daily classes at a local school
 - All staff and victims are involved in the day-to-day running and care of the Shelter
 - Staff are involved in meetings and training with local police, health workers, LWU members and community leaders.
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Drawings of past and present child victims



Interior of dormitory



Shelter staff

- Madame Thoummaly of the LWU is the Director of the Shelter – responsible for its general administration and fundraising
 - Nine full-time staff are all involved in legal, health or psychological counselling as well as vocational training and the general care of the victims
 - Three staff are on duty every night
 - All staff and victims are responsible for the day-to-day running of the Shelter and the care of the children
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Madame Thoummaly, Lek and Soudalack



Full staff complement with tall visitor



New Day multi-purpose room



The multi-purpose room will be used for:

- Receiving groups of visitors from outside organisations and agencies
 - Staff training
 - Case management meetings that involve large groups (police, public prosecutors, victims' families, medical experts, etc)
 - Venue for the multi-disciplinary task-force on domestic violence (1st of its kind in Laos).
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Main room – Activity and Training centre



Needs of the Shelter

- Scarce resources mean constant fundraising
 - The Shelter operates on a shoestring budget and struggles to meet daily needs of victims
 - Basic furnishings, computers, office equipment, stationery and toiletries are all in short supply
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