

IVS Volunteers in Rural Laos, 1956-1969

Presentation at IVS Reunion

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(Dedicated to the Memory of Galen S. Beery, IVS 1959-1967, who died on October 11, 2016)

Introduction

The purpose of this paper is to provide a short introduction to the origins of International Voluntary Services, Inc. and a brief overview of its rural development program in Laos from its beginning in 1956 through to its Task Force activities following the Kong Le coup d'etat in 1960; its subsequent key role in USAID's Cluster, Forward Area and Non-Cluster Area programs; and its withdrawal from field positions outside provincial capitals during 1969 which led to IVS's disengagement from most rural development activities. During this period IVS volunteers served fifty different locations throughout Laos.

1953 - Origins of International Voluntary Services, Inc. (IVS)

The Technical Cooperation Administration (TCA) was established on September 8, 1950¹. Its function was to oversee the technical cooperation programs authorized by Point Four,² a foreign aid program originally enunciated by President Truman and later expanded by US Secretary of State John Foster Dulles who encouraged government-private sector cooperation. (Rodell 2010)

Shortly thereafter, on November 24, 1950, TCA's International Development Advisory Board brought the volunteer program concept to the Administration's attention in the form of an IVS program statement entitled "Testing the People to People Approach." (Clark 2010; Andrews 1970) After considerable discussion within the TCA, the "volunteer" concept was finally approved in 1952 and IVS's charter was recorded on February 17, 1953³. (Beery 1969)

¹ See National Archives <http://archives.gov/research/guide-fed-records/groups/469.html#469.3>.

² The primary purpose of "Point Four" of President Truman's 1949 foreign policy address was "to help the peoples of the underdeveloped areas to utilize their human and material resources more efficiently and to raise their standards of living." (United States House 1949: 2-3) The United States and other free nations have a clear-cut and immediate concern in the material progress of these people. It arises not only from humanitarian impulses but also from the fact that such progress in the underdeveloped areas will advance the cause of freedom and democracy in the world, expand mutually beneficial trade, and help to develop international understanding and good will. (United States House 1949: 1)

³ IVS's 1953 Mission Statement: "International Voluntary Services is a private, non-profit organization designed to promote 'people-to-people' cooperation in improving health, productivity and living standards and fostering better understanding among peoples. It is a mechanism for uniting the energies of individuals and private organizations,

The following year, on January 8, 1954, John S. Noffsinger was appointed executive-director by IVS's Board of Directors. (Rodell 2010) Noffsinger was committed to creating a "non-sectarian humanistic service organization." Funded by USAID⁴, IVS volunteers would be given two-year contracts to work in 'people-to-people' community development, agriculture, and education projects, and would expect them "to learn the culture and language and live at the same level as their co-workers." (Rodell 2010)

Subsequently, on June 30, 1955, TCA's aid program was transferred to State Department's International Cooperation Administration (ICA)⁵, which established United States Overseas Missions (USOM) in select countries where aid programs were initiated. In 1961, ICA was replaced by USAID, the United States Agency for International Development. Hereafter, in this paper I will refer to the aid agency as USAID.

1955 - The Introduction of the U.S. Aid Program in Laos

Soon to be appointed the first US ambassador to Laos, Minister Charles W. Yost, arrived in Laos on September 22, 1954. (Rust 2012:14) Several months later, the operations of USAID's mission to Laos got underway on January 1, 1955 with a skeleton staff that relied on technicians borrowed from other missions. With the advent of independence following the 1954 Geneva Agreements and the withdrawal of colonial France, Laos was immediately faced with the problem of raising funds to defray the costs of governmental operations. (United States House 1959a: 7) Accordingly, the United States began supplying direct assistance to the inexperienced Laotian regime through supporting agencies that included USAID which provided economic and technical assistance.

During the years that followed, the United States fully supported (with third country assistance) the entire Laotian economy, including the Lao military, with the objective of assisting Laos to become a neutralized, stable and independent state and to prevent it from coming under Communist control⁶. (USAID 1962: 115-116). (Benson 2015: 28-29)

and of providing program direction and administrative services for foreign service projects. Some IVS projects are sponsored and supported entirely through private contributions and others may be operated in cooperation with governmental or international agencies." (Shirk 2003: 1)

⁴ TCA was subordinated to the Director of Mutual Security on June 1, 1953, and on August 31, 1953, its functions were transferred to the Foreign Operations Administration. Subsequently, on June 30, 1955, the aid program was transferred to State Department's International Cooperation Administration (ICA). United States Operations Missions (USOM) were established as ICA's administrators of aid programs in countries that were active programs were established. In 1961, USOM became the U.S. Agency for International Development. (National Archives)

⁵ See National Archives <http://archives.gov/research/guide-fed-records/groups/469.html#469.7>

⁶ Statement of C. Douglas Dillon, Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs: "The principal objective of our foreign policy in Laos has been to assist the Royal Government to overcome Communist efforts to overthrow it from within. Our basic policy has been to encourage the establishment of the strongest practicable non-Communist government, and the development of the broad popular support which such a government would require in order to defend and strengthen its independence. Specifically, it has been and is our policy to assist the Royal Lao Government in reducing the internal Communist threat by the extension of economic and military assistance—

1956 - IVS Enters Laos: Xieng Khouang Development Project

During the next five years leading up to the Kong Le coup d'etat in August 1960, the United States aid operations undertook a variety of aid-related programs to establish rural self-help activities on a permanent long-term basis.⁷

With great emphasis being placed on rural development, in November 1958 the Royal Lao Government (RLG) established the Commission for Rural Affairs (CRA), and with assistance from USAID set up the Rural Self-Help Project to lay the groundwork for a national service that would coordinate rural activities throughout the Kingdom of Laos under the "Development of the Rural Economy" program. (Mann 1964: 168; Wing 1964: E18; etc.)

It was against this backdrop that IVS entered Laos. In April 1955, USAID Laos conducted a survey, and based on its findings approached IVS which, in turn, recruited W. Wendell Rolston, a retired Iowa farmer, who traveled to Laos on June 30, 1955 to undertake a more specific feasibility study together with USAID technicians (on loan from USAID Thailand). The team explored the Boloven Plateau in southern Laos and the Plain of Jars in Xieng Khouang Province in northern Laos in search of ways to "better the educational, health and agricultural programs, as well to improve the living standards of Laos." (Rolston 1956: 1)

For various reasons⁸, it was agreed to locate and develop an area on the Plain of Jars and the proposed project was drawn up and submitted to USAID in Washington on September 1, 1955. It was subsequently cleared and approved on October 26. (Rolston 1956: 2) In the meantime, IVS negotiated the terms of a contract with USAID, a process that was completed and signed by both parties on February 3, 1956. (Rolston 1956: 2)

working with the Royal Lao Government we have carried out joint projects in the fields of administration, public works, village improvement, health, agricultural improvement, and information." (United States House 1959b: 3)

⁷ The assistance included the Village Improvement Project from 1956 through 1957, the Village Development Field Service Project during FY57 merged into the Rural Self-Help Project beginning in November 1958, an undertaking which placed US Community Development Specialists in six provincial capitals to survey the feasibility of such activities. Its successor was the Rural Self-Help Project in FY59. (Department of State 1959: 32; Wing 1964: E17-E18) In FY 1957 two projects were initiated which were directed at counter-Pathet-Lao subversion activities. The first of these was Civic Action, which undertook a rural leadership, development and information program to disseminate information to stimulate civic awareness and to explain, encourage and assist self-help local improvements of all sorts. The second project, Operation Brotherhood, provided teams of Philippine doctors and nurses who brought basic medical services to remote rural areas. (Department of State 1959: 32). With regards to Civic Action, The RLG formally expressed its interest in programs to impact at the village level when in December 1956 it created the national Commissariat for Civic Action. This consisted of four parts: the headquarters research section, Civic Action School and field teams. Two months later, Lt. Col. Oudone Sananikone was named to head the commissariat, and on 25 April 1957 USOM and the RLG signed an agreement initiating the first civic action program. (Wing 1964: E15)

⁸ These are a few of the reasons for this decision: 1) The need for developing provincial leadership; 2) The area had been overrun by the Viet Minh in 1952 - 1954 who destroyed livestock and buildings; 3) The receptive attitude of the governor of the province, Chao Saykham; 4) The adaptability of this area to livestock and upland crops; and 5). The potential for development of crops for food, other than rice. (Rolston 1956: 1-2)

Known as the Xieng Khouang Development Project, the first group of seven IVS team members arrived at the project site at Phonesavanh beginning March 1, 1956⁹. (Rolston 1956: 2) The project's counterpart was the Lao Ministry of Education, and it was hoped that the undertaking could be done "through a teaching and demonstration program, emphasizing the self-help process." (Rolston 1956: 1)

Although the Xieng Khouang Development Project began as a model farm and a community worker's training project, both of these activities were discontinued in 1957 because the area was found to be unsuited for a farm site and because the Royal Lao Government (RLG) preferred to concentrate on other activities. (Bowman 1959, 1) Indeed, during its first several years of service in Laos under contract to USAID, the agency's administration in Laos changed hands several times and the direction and aim of IVS was altered with each change.¹⁰ (IVS 1959: 1)

A new IVS Project Agreement with USAID dated June 25, 1957 called for the transition from a strictly agricultural project to a village development project and outlined the steps that were to be taken to implement the project. (IVS 20 January 1959: 1)

In mid-1959, IVS shifted its team¹¹ headquarters to nearby Lat Houang, a location where IVS had carried out successful community development projects.¹²

1959 - First IVS Education Team

In response to the long-standing request by the head of USAID's Education Division in Vientiane, the first IVS education team of nine¹³ arrived in Laos in August 1959. They were to work at the National Education Center.¹⁴ (Maxwell 9/3/16 email; Russell 1959: 1) The IVS

⁹ The first team included W. Wendell Rolston, Frances Rolston, Clyde Searl, Carl Coppock, Frank Huffman, Wallace Brown, and Martha Rupel.

¹⁰ For a while it was thought that it might be expedient to move IVS from under the direction of the Ministry of Education, where it had been since IVS arrived in Laos and place it under the Ministry of Rural Affairs. Inasmuch as the Assistant Minister of Education was in accord with the thinking of the new ministries, and since the Director General of Education had always championed the IVS and gave it great support, no advantage could be determined that would warrant such a change at that time. (IVS 1959: 2)

¹¹ Team members as of mid-1959 included Dean Bowman, E. Walter Coward Jr., A Wayne McDonald, William L. Johnson, and Anna Zachweija. Richard Bowman replaced Johnson (who was transferred to Vientiane) in August and in October John F. Boyd Jr. arrived to serve as Chief-of-Party. Lawrence Ulsaker arrived in December and brought the team back to full strength. (Bowman 1959: 13)

¹² The IVS headquarters in both Phonsavanh and Lat Houang was shared with all USOM, USIS, and Embassy personnel when they had business in the area. (Bowman 1959: 13)

¹³ Team members included Chief-of-Party H.L. Fry and Mrs. Fry, William L. Johnson (relocated from Lat Houang), Nancy Johnson, Dorothy Heicie, Rose a House, Dayton L. Maxwell, Dwane Hammer, and Marion E. Carnes. (Snyder 1959: 1)

¹⁴ The National Education Center was established under Royal Ordinance No. 164 of June 30, 1958, within the frame of Sisavang Vong University. Royal Ordinance No. 203 of the 13 September 1957 was issued concerning the creation of Sisavang Vong University. (Council 1959)

Educational Team was covered by a USAID contract different from that of the IVS Rural Development Team and is not covered in this paper. (Beery 1966: 7)

1960 - Voluntary Agency for Rural Development Administration (VARDA)

In early 1960 (January 27 – February 5), IVS's Executive Committee member John H. Reisner visited Laos as part of IVS's annual inspection. Prior to his departure from Washington, various conferences were held to discuss the request from USAID Laos through Washington to increase the number of IVS teams in Laos by eleven.¹⁵ Following the 1958 changes in the Royal Lao Government¹⁶ and a meeting with US Ambassador Smith in Vientiane, the request to IVS was reduced to seven additional teams. The tentative target date for signing the contract between USAID Washington and IVS Washington was April 1960. (Reisner 1960: 7)

The ensuing contract entitled Voluntary Agency for Rural Development Administration (VARDA) provided for seven teams of seven members each, with team leaders directing activities under a chief-of-party in coordination with USAID's Rural Development Division, the objective being to benefit isolated agricultural villagers. (Beery 1965, 8)

The subsequent Interim Report for the Annual IVS Board Meeting on Laos stated that "anyone wanting to work for IVS should be led to believe that they could be a government employee in the strictest sense of the word. The present success of the team in Laos is due to the fact that at last it has been shown that IVS is USAID, and that because of the relative independence of IVS it can do a better job in the field." (IVS 1959: 4-5)

1960 - Kong Le Coup d'Etat Sparks a Civil War

The only progress made during 1960 following the signing of the VARDA contract was the basic planning and development of operational policies. Before new IVS teams could be recruited and placed throughout Laos, Lao Army Captain Kong Le staged a coup on August 9, 1960 against the rightist government and occupied Vientiane. Kong Le invited Prince Souvanna Phouma, a former prime minister, to form a Neutralist government which was put together in November. In December, the Battle of Vientiane took place and Kong Le's Neutralist forces

¹⁵ There were twelve provinces in Laos in 1958: Sam Neua, Phongsaly, Nam Tha, Luang Prabang, Sayaboury, Vientiane, Borikhane, Khammouane, Savanakhet, Saravane, Attopeu, Champassak. (Halpern 1961: 38).

¹⁶ Following May 1958 elections, conservative CDNI (Committee for the Defense of National Interests) was formed and targeted Prime Minister Souvanna Phouma who resigned on July 22, 1958 and was succeeded by Phoui Sananikone who formed a new government on August 18, 1958, which, unlike the November 1967 expansion of the RLG's cabinet to include two Pathet Lao ministers, excluded members of the NLHX. The Sananikone government was destined to last eighteen months. (Goldstein 1973: 143-144) During the months leading up to the May 1968 election, Ambassador Parsons conceived Operation Booster Shot, an activity which was a village aid program targeting the population in remote areas that would airdrop aid by air. The program took the form of more than 90 work projects, as well as the dropping of some 1,300 tons of food. It apparently took an emergency situation to evoke the only aid program that took account of the real needs of Laos. When the emergency was over, the program was abandoned. The lessons which should have been learned were promptly forgotten. (United States House 1959a: 46)

original "Development of the Rural Economy" program established with CRA in November 1958. (Mann 1969: 1-A)

The other sub-activities introduced were Rural Public Works, Well-Drilling, and Support for the Commission for Rural Affairs. (Mendenhall 1965: 168) Under the Rural Self-Help sub-activity, USAID community development advisors and International Voluntary Service volunteers were in a position to stimulate village initiative and self-expression and help to establish a rapport between villagers and local officials on the one hand and provincial and central government officials on the other. (Mendenhall 1965: 168)

During the following years, the Development of the Rural Economy activities provided the essential framework for the input of USAID resources into the Mu Ban Samaki Cluster Program, Forward Area Operations, and Non-Cluster activities. These programs were designed to make substantial contributions to the revitalization of those rural areas of Laos containing the majority of its people and the strengthening of RLG-Population relations by the introduction of new methods of agriculture, improved public health practices, improved transportation, public works and education facilities in rural areas. (Mendenhall 1965: 168)

1962 - Geneva Accords

Following a cease-fire that was agreed upon on May 3, 1961 by the three conflicting forces in Laos (Pathet Lao, Neutralist, and Rightist factions), the Geneva conference signed an agreement in July 1962 that established the neutrality of Laos. (see Stuart-Fox 2008: 119-120) However, shortly thereafter the Accords began to unravel culminating in the Second Indochina War with the Neutralists parting ways with the communist Pathet Lao. (Benson 2014)

1963 - Cluster (Mu Ban Samaki) Program

Beginning in 1963, activities shifted in emphasis from scattered, difficult to supervise activities to those concentrated in manageable areas. To this end, the Cluster Program was introduced on September 29, 1963. (Mann 1964: 142) A "cluster" was a grouping of villages selected for improvement based on its "visibility" to other rural villages as well as for economic, social and political-strategic reasons.

Cluster activities—most of which were self-help projects—were channeled through the RLG in each of the areas¹⁹ in cooperation with USAID Area Coordinators (ACs) or Community Development Area Advisors (CDAAs). This staff, in turn, was assisted by members of IVS,

¹⁹ The location of Rural Self-Help Cluster Village activities were organized into areas. Area A was based in Luang Prabang under the oversight of the USAID Area Coordinator (AC); Area B was based in Sayaboury and managed by the USAID Community Development Area Advisor (CDAA); Area C based in Vientiane under a CDAA; Area D was headquartered in Paksane under CDAA; Area E in Savannakhet under the AC; and Area F based in Pakse under the AC. (Mann 1964: 147)

Operation Brotherhood (whose primary contributions were medical services) and USAID technicians. (Mann 1964: 121, 123)

Initially, the RLG with US assistance carried out a pilot rural development program staffed largely by IVS volunteers in six rural areas of Laos, including Muang Phieng, Phone Hong, Borikhane, Kengkok, Lakhonepheng, and Houei Kong. While security was an issue as the Geneva Accords started to unravel, the Lao military provided security within the cluster areas.

By approximately mid-1964, roughly ninety direct hire USAID personnel spent at least half of their time on the Samaki Cluster Program, and of the 53 IVS/VARDA personnel in Laos, about 31 spent full-time on cluster work, of which 21 lived in the cluster areas. (USAID 1964a: 6)

In addition to the six clusters established in 1963 and 1964, by the end of 1965 new cluster programs were launched in Xieng Ngeun (Luang Prabang Province), Vang Vieng (Vientiane Province), Ban Keun (Vientiane Province), and Ban Nong Bok (Khammouane Province), each of which were staffed by IVSers. (Mann 1964: 121) In 1966, Ban Lao (Borikhane Province), Lahanam (Savannakhet), and Khong Sedone were added, and in 1967 Pak Cadinh (Borikhane Province) and Paksong (Sedone Province) joined the group. Finally, Done Talat became a cluster in 1968.

Mid-1960s - Role of IVS in Rural Laos Expands

By the mid-1960s, the number of IVS team members in Laos grew as a result of increased programs and stepped-up recruiting. Between July 1963 and June 1964, IVS had placed volunteers in thirteen locations outside Vientiane, including the six clusters and seven non-clusters. However, as of July 1964, IVS rural development was still far below contract strength of 72, partially due to IVS Washington's preoccupation with staffing of IVS teams working with USAID Vietnam. (Beery 1966, 8)

The original VARDA contract anticipated seven teams of seven IVS'ers, each with a Team Leader directing activities and maintaining liaison with the IVS Chief-of-Party and USAID personnel. However, this concept changed after the initiation of the cluster village work and the placing of additional USAID men in the field to provide support and direction. (Beery 1964, 4) While the VARDA contract expired on May 15, 1964, it was extended for six months while a new contract was being readied.²⁰ (IVS 1964b)

To meet its expanding engagement throughout Laos, in May 1964 IVS divided Laos into northern and southern regions for administrative purposes. Furthermore, the two regional leaders worked out programs with USAID and the RLG. (Beery 1964: 4, 6, 27; IVS 1964a) To free up

²⁰ Information about the new contract is presently not available.

IVS for more important work, USAID assumed full logistic support, a function previously borne by IVS Vientiane. (Beery 1964: 4; IVS 1964a)

During this period IVS worked more closely within the framework of the USAID Mission under the general direction of USAID field personnel, and many remote IVS field positions became more accessible and communications with Vientiane improved. Although security was still an issue, the RLG regained control over wider areas. And finally, increased engagement by the Royal Lao Government in rural areas led to enhanced working relationships with IVSers' RLG counterparts. (Beery 1966: 8)

1965 - Forward Area Program

While cluster programs were put into operation at sites throughout Laos, it became clear in early 1965 that in more isolated areas recently cleared of dissident Pathet Lao troops there should be limited short-term but beneficial programs provided to the villagers to convince them of the good intentions of the RLG and the American government to stand behind them and perform necessary government functions. Two-man Forward Area Teams (FAT) were staffed by a combination of IVS and USAID direct hire or contract personnel who were supervised by USAID's Deputy Assistant Director of Rural Affairs Loren Haffner (known as "Haff"), who was a retired Marine colonel. The IVS chief-of-party retained administrative control over FAT's IVS personal.

Under the direction and leadership of Loren Haffner, Forward Area operations were initially set up in 1965 in Xieng Lom (April), Muang Kassy (June), and Dong Hene (July – Dong Hene later became a Cluster site in 1966). Later, in 1966, Forward Area sites were opened in Muang Soui (January?), Muang Met (October), Hong Sa, Ban Nakhua (October), Muang Phalane (October), Nam Bac (December), and Muang Mun (December). Later, in 1967, new Forward Area Teams were sent to Dong Kasene (February), and Saravane (July).

By the end of 1967 the Forward Area Program had reached its maturity with only eight of the twelve original positions still active. Loren Haffner, who came to Laos in January 1965, finished his tour in August 1967. Although he returned to Laos again in May 1969 there is no indication that any new Forward Area field positions were established after his return.

Security was of concern in selecting Forward Area locations and posting IVS and USAID personnel at these sites. As Haffner pointed out, "it should be noted here...that regardless of precaution taken at any time or place, no persons or area in a war situation such as in Laos can be assured positive safety against attack." (Haffner 1967: 2)

1960s - Non-Cluster Activities and Locations

Non-Cluster activities included assistance to self-help activities begun in earlier years and the possible initiation of new activities only on the basis of extreme need and urgency justifying

the diversion of resources from Cluster and Forward Area activities. This included occasional enlargement of existing clusters to encompass outlying villages. (Mann 1964: 121, 140) These locations included, over time, provincial capitals Luang Prabang, Sayaboury, Ban Houei Sai, Paksane, Savannakhet, Pakse, as well as rural areas including Muang Nane (Luang Prabang Province), Sam Thong (Xieng Khouang Province), Ban Done (Vientiane Province), Ban Thouei (Borikhane Province), Ban Thana, Nam Thone and Song Hong (Khammouane Province), Phakhania and Saraphoum (Savannakhet Province), and Khong Island (Sithandone Province). These Non-Cluster locations served areas that were not covered by Cluster or Forward Area Programs, although in some instances they may have become sub-clusters of a larger cluster.

1968 - Rural Activity Programs Mature

As development activities in both the original clusters of villages and forward area locations progressed over time, in some cases the boundaries of both were extended to include additional villages. Most clusters and some forward areas were expanded to include entire muangs, thereby engaging the district chiefs, or chao muangs, to become the local leaders of the community development programs. (USAID 1968: 727-728) In some areas—mainly in the Pakse region—simple rural marketing and credit cooperatives were established. (Mann 1964: 062-26) In many locations a wide range of development-related training programs were conducted for villagers and RLG personnel. (Mann 1964: 062-25)

Following the RLG's territorial losses to the Communists beginning in 1968, the growth of the rural development programs in Laos waned as advances were made by the Pathet Lao and North Vietnamese and USAID's attention was increasingly drawn toward providing refugee relief and resettlement assistance to the large numbers of people displaced by the war. Furthermore, in some instances, the point was reached where the original clusters were no longer distinguishable as separate entities within the overall development program. (Ramsey 1976: 194)

1969 - IVS Withdraws from Rural Laos

During much of this period of accelerating war activities both IVS and USAID employees became more security conscious. Pathet Lao forces roamed the countryside and it was almost impossible to determine when and where they would appear.

Three American IVSers and three Lao IVS Field Assistants were killed in ambushes during the first eight months of 1969. Prompted by the assassinations, the administration of IVS Laos and its members were forced to re-examine what IVS was doing in Laos and whether or not their service should be continued. (IVS 1970: 5)

The issues of immediate concern involved two fundamental areas: security, on the one hand, and involvement with the American presence and programs in Laos, on the other. With regards to security, IVS decided that no volunteer should continue to live or work in a situation

where he or she had to be unduly concerned about their personal security or where they were exposed to an abnormal amount of danger. (IVS 1970: 5)

Furthermore, in most cases IVSers based in select rural villages were the only American representatives present at those locations and there was concern amongst some that being an "American" automatically linked them to other US agencies thereby compromising their role as volunteers with an apolitical private organization²¹.

After a lengthy series of meetings, the volunteers' consensus was to propose two alternative courses of action²² to the IVS Board of Directors. (IVS 1970: 7) The Board's immediate response was to schedule a visit to Laos by a committee of their members to review the situation first hand. (IVS 1970: 7)

However, before a final decision could be reached by the Board, IVS Laos decided to withdraw IVSers from all rural areas located outside provincial capitals either because security was a prohibiting factor or the close identification with the USAID program was perceived to be incompatible with the values and ideals of IVS. By January of 1970 there were no volunteers stationed anywhere in Laos other than in provincial capitals. (IVS 1970: 7)

Conclusion

Days after the American Mission (including IVS) withdrew from Laos in June 1975, USAID's acting director, Gordon Ramsey, was asked: "After all these years, all the expenses, and now to have it all end so ingloriously, was it worthwhile?" Mr. Ramsey's response was, "I think we've done a hell of a lot of good things for this country²³. Maybe we did them wrong, but the results are here." (Simons 1975: A18)

²¹ Datelined Sam Neua, August 10, 1969, the Pathet Lao News Agency broadcasted on August 11: "Guerrillas in Vientiane Province in a waylaid [sic] on August 5 on Highway 13 from Vientiane to Paksane killed two American spies disguised as members of the International Voluntary Service in Laos and two puppet officers accompanying them. This, together with the well-deserved punishment inflicted on American advisors and puppet troops stationed at Thalat on July 24 has caused alarm among the US and the Vientiane puppets. To hide the obvious crimes of the US spies in Laos, the US State Department on August 6 claimed that they were engaged in economic development projects of benefit to the Lao people. But the Laotian people and the world's people have long seen what role the American Peace Corps or International Voluntary Service have played in Laos and other parts of the world. To punish the US spies engaged in activities against the independence and peace of the Laotian people lies within the legitimate right of self-defense of the Laotian people." (Pathet Lao 1969: 80)

²² The two alternatives presented to IVS's Board were: (1) that within a specific period of time IVS should be phased out of Laos, and (2) that IVS would remain in Laos, but that certain changes must be made to better ensure the safety of the volunteers and to establish a more independent role for the organization. (IVS 1970, 7)

²³ Following the evacuation of Americans from Laos in 1975 USAID's "Termination Report" stated that "the Rural Development program was perhaps the single most important contribution of AID in the development of local leadership and in assisting to improve the living standards of the rural populace. (Ramsey 1976: 221)

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IVS Volunteers Who Lost Their Lives in Laos

Mike Murphy – 7/25/66 Muang Kassy (Luang Prabang Province) – Drowned in the Nam Lik River near Muang Kassy.

Fred Cheydleur – 3/25/67 at Phakkania (Savannakhet Province) – Assassinated while sleeping in his house at night. Lao Field Assistant Chantai Onphom was also killed.

Marty Clish – 4/6/67 Western Luang Prabang Province – Plane crashed between Luang Prabang and Ban Houei Sai.

Chandler Edwards – 5/5/69 Done Talat (Champassak Province) – Jeep ambushed near Ban Soukhouma

Art Stillman – 8/5/69 Near Ban Thouei (Borikhane Province) – Jeep ambushed while traveling with Dennis Mummert. Lao Field Assistant Khamdy Sirichanhome was also killed.

Dennis Mummert – 8/5/69 Near Ban Thouei (Borikhane Province) – Jeep ambushed. Lao Field Assistant Praseuth Vongsila was also killed.

Lao Field Assistants were killed together with Fred Cheydleur (Chantai Onphom) as well as with Art Stillman and Dennis Mummert (Praseuth and Khamdy).

Lao IVS Field Assistants

Recognition should be given to Lao Field Assistants who emerged as a corps of skilled, conscientious community development workers. Working members of the IVS team, they often had to steer a precarious course between military and civilian officials, and in so doing some lost their lives. Within this group there were a select number of “Special Field Assistants” who worked independently serving in places where no regular IVSers were available or able to go. (Yoder 1969: 155-157) Unfortunately, there is no comprehensive list of the Lao Field Assistants who worked with IVS over the years.

**IVS/Laos Rural Development Chiefs-of-Party
(1956-2002)**

W. Wendell Rolston (1956-April 1957)
Clyde Searl (April 1957-May 1959)
Walt Coward (May 1959-January 1965)
Chester Brown (January 1965-October 1967)
Bob Lovan (October 1967-Spring 1969)
Walt Johnson (Spring 1969-November 1969)
Jim Malia (October 1969-November 1971)
James Linn (November 1971-1975)

**International Voluntary Services' Executive Directors
(1953-2002)**

John S. Noffsinger, 1953-1961
Russell Stevenson, 1961-1964
John Provinse, 1964-1965
Arthur Z. Gardiner, 1965-1970
Richard J. Peters, 1971-1974
Anthony Lake, 1974-1976
John Rigby, 1976-1980
Nan Borton, 1981-1989
David R. Smock, 1989-1991
Linda Worthington/Don Luce, 1991-1993
Don Luce, 1993-1996
Parker F. Hallberg, 1996-1997
Anne D. Shirk, 1998-2002

Objectives of the Mu Ban Samaki Cluster Program

The general objectives of the Village Cluster Program:

- 1) Develop a series of village centers of RLG-US activity where it is deemed important to consolidate or extend RLG services and influence
- 2) Provide and develop a series of RLG services and facilities designed to ameliorate village life, though without necessarily immediately raising cash income or increasing the participation of the population in the money economy (schools, dispensaries, home gardens to increase home consumption, wells, etc.
- 3) To a limited extent provide a series of services and basic commodities, particularly in the agricultural, livestock and irrigation fields designed to increase participation in the market economy and raise cash income. For isolated areas the development of intra-cluster roads plus all-weather road connections to the main highways are essential elements.
- 4) Provide an organization and a concentrated receptive audience to conduct information programs designed to increase the identification of villagers with the RLG.
- 5) Provide a training ground for agricultural and veterinary extension agents, fundamental education workers, and primary school inspectors. The cluster area programs constitute a basis for increasing the competence of the workers assigned to these areas and training centers for workers to be assigned to other areas.
- 6) Through involvement of the Chao Khouengs, Chao Muangs, Tassengs, and Naibans increase the participation of local officials in village affairs and in the process strengthen local government.
- 7) Provide opportunities for effective civic action programs and closer identifications between military and police forces and the civilian population.

Source: Cody, Peter K. (Deputy Director, USAID/Laos). *Criteria for Review of Village Cluster Program*. United States Aid Mission to Laos memorandum addressed to Mu Ban Samaki Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee. Vientiane, Laos: April 1, 1965.

Symbol of the Cluster Program



Source: (USAID 1964b: 221)

Cluster Programs
(July 1963 through December 31, 1966)

Number of Clusters	14
Total Number of Villages	1,483
Total Population	380,460
Major Physical Accomplishments	
Schools built/repaired	124 (268 rooms)
Dispensaries	37
Wells drilled	116
Wells dug	103
Roads built (km.)	153.5
Bridges	45
Airstrips	2
Irrigation systems	9
Water storage/flood control dams	7
Villages with vegetable gardens	142
Training centers/multipurpose bldgs.	7
Villagers trained in formal sessions	1,048
Soldiers	233
Markets	7
Bulletin boards	119

Location and Population

Luang Prabang Province

Xieng Ngeun – 27 villages, 4,237 population

Sayaboury Province

Muang Phieng – 17 villages, 12,500 population

Vientiane Province

Vang Vieng – 69 villages, 14,750 population

Phone Hong – 77 villages, 21,748 population

Ban Keun – 34 villages, 16,000 population

Thadeua – 15 villages, 10,000 population (a joint RLG/UN/USAID venture)

Borikhane Province

Borikhane – 39 villages, 5,921 population

Pak Cadinh- 31 villages, 4,592 population

Khammouane Province

Nong Bok – 70 villages, 26,000 population

Savannakhet Province

Kengkok – 101 villages, 38,000 population

Dong Hene – 192 villages, 42,700 population

Lahanam – 117 villages, 37,000 population

Sedone Valley Development Program

All of Wapikhamthong Province, and parts of Sedone and Savane Provinces – 650 villages, 142,000 population

Attopeu Province

Houei Kong – 44 villages, 5,162 population

Source: (Sweet 1967: 586)

Forward Area Programs
(July 1965 through December 31, 1966)

Number of Forward Areas	9
Total Number of Villages	149*
Total Population	83,000*
Major Physical Accomplishments	
Dispensaries built/repared	3
Wells drilled	5
Wells dug	39
Water Supply systems	1
Irrigation systems built/repared	5
Warehouses built	2
Crematories built	1
Roads built (km.)	20
Soldiers trained in Social Service	8
Villages with vegetable gardens	13

** These figures are estimates and not all inclusive. Several of the Forward Areas were not yet completely defined.

Location and Population

Luang Prabang Province

 Nam Bac – 10 villages, 5,000-8,000 population

 Muang Kassy – 16 villages, 16,000 population

 Muang Met – Statistics included in the Muang Kassy totals

Sayaboury Province

 Hong Sa – 51 villages, 21,000 population

 Xieng Lom – 32 villages, 13,000 population

Xieng Khouang Province

 Muong Soui – 13 villages, 11,000 population

Khammouane Province

 Ban Nakhua – 7 villages, 4,500 population

 Dong Kasene – 14 villages, 11,000 population

Savannakhet Province

 Ban Houei Mun – 6 villages, 4,500 population

Source: (Sweet 1967: 587)

International Voluntary Services (IVS) Field Stations in Laos, 1956-1969

<u>Province</u>	<u>Field Stations</u>	<u>Site</u>	<u>Grid Coords</u>	<u>Lat - Long Coords</u>	<u>IVS Start Date</u>
Luang Prabang	Luang Prabang	L-54	TH 0302	19-54N - 102-10E	1962
	Muang Kassy*	LS-153	TG 1130	19-15N - 102-15E	1965 (Jun)
	Muang Met*	LS-158	RA 1085	18-50N - 102-51E	1966 (Oct?)
	Muang Nane	LS-254	RB 0359	19-30N - 101-53E	1967 (May)
	Nam Bac*	LS-203	TH 3583	20-38N - 102-27E	1966 (Dec?)
	Xieng Ngeun**	LS-354	TG 0487	19-46N - 102-11E	1964 (Aug)
Houa Khong	Ban Houei Sai	L-25	PC 5141	20-15N - 100-25E	1962 (Apr?)
Sayaboury	Hong Sa*	LS-62	QB 4581	19-42N - 101-20E	1966 (Oct)
	Muang Phieng**	LS-124	QB 6607	19-03N - 101-32E	1963 (Sep)
	Sayaboury	L-23	QB 8630	19-15N - 101-43E	1962 (Jan)
	Xieng Lom*	LS-274	PB 9173	19-39N - 100-49E	1965 (Apr)
Xieng Khouang	Lat Houang	LS-09	UG 0944	19-24N - 103-11E	1959 (Jun)
	Muang Soui*	L-108	TG 7960	19-32N - 102-54E	1966 (Jan)
	Phonesavanh	L-21	UG 1354	19-28N - 103-13E	1956 (Mar)
	Sam Thong	LS-20	TG 7924	19-12N - 102-54E	1963 (Aug)
Vientiane	Ban Done	LS-163	SF 9868	18-41N - 102-08E	1967 (Jun)
	Ban Keun**	LS-44	TF 4431	18-21N - 102-35E	1965 (Feb)
	Ban Thalot		TF 3748	18-30N - 102-31E	1968 (Nov)
	Phone Hong**	LS-133	TF 2747	18-30N - 102-25E	1963 (Mar)
	Vang Vieng**	L-16	TF 3294	18-55N - 102-28E	1964 (Apr)
	Vientiane	L-08	TE 4388	17-59N - 102-34E	1959 (Aug)
<i>Note: Ban Keun, Ban Thalot, and Phone Hong became North Nam Ngum Area</i>					
Borikhane	Ban Lao**		UF 8133	18-23N - 52-41E	1966 (Oct?)
	Ban Thouei		UF 3740	18-27N - 103-27E	1968?
	Borikhane**	LS-129	UF 6653	18-34N - 103-44E	1963 (Oct)
	Pak Cadinh**		UF 9426	18-19N - 103-60E	1967 (Jul)
	Paksane	L-35	UF 5934	18-24N - 103-40E	1967 (Jul?)
Khammouane	Ban Nakhua*		VF 1713	18-12N - 104-13E	1966 (Oct)
	Ban Thana		VE 4383	17-56N - 104-28E	1968?
	Dong Kasene*		VD 9997(?)	17-09N - 104-59E	1967 (Feb)
	Nam Thone	LS-141A area	VE 2796	18-03N - 104-19E	1966 (Dec?)
	Nong Bok**	LS-183	VD 7988	17-05N - 104-48E	1965 (Oct?)
	Song Hong		VE 5460	17-44N - 104-34E	1967 (Oct)
	Thakhek	L-40A	VE 8124	17-24N - 104-49E	1964 (Jan)

<u>Province</u>	<u>Field Stations</u>	<u>Site</u>	<u>Grid Coords</u>	<u>Lat - Long Coords</u>	<u>IVS Start Date</u>
Savannakhet	Dong Hene* **	LS-54	WD 3047	16-42N - 105-18E	1965 (Jul)
	Houei Mun*	LS-310	WC 8867	15-58N - 105-49E	1967 (Jan)
	Kengkok**	LS-139	WD 2118	16-27N - 105-11E	1964 (Jan)
	Lahanam**	LS-301	WC 2498	16-16N - 105-16E	1966 (Dec?)
	Muang Phalane*	L-61	WD 5844	16-33N - 105-29E	1966 (Oct)
	Phakhania	LS-303	WD 3764	16-52N - 105-21E	1966 (Dec?)
	Saraphoum		VD 9550	16-44N - 104-57E	1969 (May)
	Savannakhet	L-39	VD 7530	16-33N - 104-46E	1963 (Jul)
Wapikhamthong	Khong Sedone**	LS-289	WC 8524	15-36N - 105-48E	1966 (Oct)
	Lakhonepheng**	LS-159	WC 6158	15-54N - 105-34E	1964 (Nov)
	Muang Wapi		WC 9833	15-40N - 105-55E	1966 (Dec?)
<i>Note: The Wapikhamthong clusters became Sedone Valley Development Program</i>					
Saravane	Saravane*	L-44	XC 5237	15-41N - 106-25E	1967 (Jul)
Attopeu	Houei Kong**	L-56	XB 6473	15-08N - 106-32E	1963 (Sep)
Sedone	Pakse	L-11	WB 8473	15-08N - 105-47E	1962
	Paksong**	L-05	XB 4394	15-19N - 106-20E	1967 (Oct?)
Champassak	Done Talat**		WB 8734	14-47N - 105-49E	1968
Sithandone	Khong Island	L-07	WA 8960	14-07N - 105-50E	1963 (Mar)

* Forward Area Village

** Cluster Village (Mu Ban Samaki Program)

* ** Forward first, changed to Cluster later.

IVS/Laos Volunteer Postings at Rural Field Stations, 1956-1969

Houa Khong Province	Sayaboury Province	Sayaboury Province
Ban Houei Sai	Sayaboury	Muang Phieng**
Flipse, Joe (1962-64)	Maxwell, Dayton (1959-61, 62-64)	Yetley, Mervin (1963-65)
Cunningham, Michael (1963-64)	Taylor, Dr. Bill (1961-63)	Yetley, Elizabeth (1963-65)
Hogan, Edward (1962-64)	Radi, Arnold (1962-64)	Batto, John (1963-65)
Carlson, Gustav (1962-63)	McTighe, Patrick (1962-64)	Bussewitz, Joseph (1964-66)
Carlson, Fred (1965-67)	Murphy, Doris (1962-64)	Candea, Elizabeth (1965-68)
Cunningham, Fred (1967-69)	Maxwell, Craig (1962-64)	Candea, Randall (1965-68)
Pollak, Katherine (1969-71)	Perkins, J. Wayne (1962-64)	Bewetz, Frank (1965-68)
Steiner, Ken (1968-70)	Paine, Myron (1963-65)	Augspurger, Joanne (1966-69)
	Morgan, Betty (1963-65)	Augspurger, Richard (1966-69)
Sayaboury Province	Yetley, Mervin (1963-65)	Wells, Jon (1967-69)
Hong Sa*	Yetley, Elizabeth (1963-65)	Wells, Carol (1967-69)
Van Tine, John (1966-68)	Hollingsworth, Bill (1964-66)	Flanagan, Michael (1967-69)
Russell, Thomas (1966-68)	Howarth, Francis (1966-68)	Xerri, Thomas (1967-69)
Thompson, MacAlan (1966-68)	Howarth, Nancy (1966-68)	McIntosh, Alex (1967-70)
Archer, James (1966-70)		
Lewis, Jerry (1966-68)	Xieng Lom*	
Edwards, Chandler (1967-69)	Beery, Galen (1962-67)	
Parmenter, Jack (1966-68)	Collins, Terry (1964-66)	
Flanagan, Michael (1967-69)	Thompson, MacAlan (1966-68)	
Tufts, Tom (1968-75)		
Steiner, Ken (1968-70)		

* Forward Area Field Station

** Cluster Field Station

NOTE: The dates in parenthesis represent the duration of their time in Laos with IVS. Some volunteers were located at more than one rural position during the course of their term with IVS.

IVS/Laos Volunteer Postings at Rural Field Stations, 1956-1969

Luang Prabang Prov.	Luang Prabang Prov.
Luang Prabang	Muang Nane
Ridenour, George (1961-63)	Grover, Robert (1966-68)
Holmes, Henry (1962-64)	Grover, Jane (1966-68)
Petersen, Valdemar (1962-75)	Barringer, James (1968-70)
McKeithen, Win (1962-64)	
Plummer, Phillip (1962-64)	Xieng Ngeun**
Morgan, Betty (1963-65)	Bussewitz, Joseph (1964-66)
O'Connor, Brian (1963-65)	Wengerd, William (1964-66)
Jensen, Blaine (1963-65)	Worley, Robert (1964-66)
Bussewitz, Joseph (1964-66)	Worley, Ruth (1964-66)
Wengerd, William (1964-66)	Belongia, James (1964-66)
Worley, Robert (1964-66)	Grover, Robert (1966-68)
Worley, Ruth (1964-66)	Grover, Jane (1966-68)
Woodson, Larry (1964-71)	McGrath, Joan (1965-67)
Sauer, Ronald (1965-67)	
Lessoff, Jeffrey (1966-68)	Muang Kassy*
Peacock, Jean (1966-68)	Wengerd, William (1964-66)
Parmenter, Jack (1966-68)	Bussewitz, Joseph (1964-66)
Grover, Jane (1966-68)	Onn, Joseph (1964-66)
Jones, Robert (1966-68)	Murphy, Michael (1965-66)
Jones, Carol (1966-68)	Carlson, Fred (1965-67)
Stern, Richard (1967-69)	Archer, James (1966-70)
Rotermund, Manfred (1967-69)	Goodwin, Andrew (1966-68)
Bryson, John (1968-70)	Lewis, Jerry (1966-68)
La Rocher, David (1968-70)	Davis, Gary (1967-69)
La Rocher, Jean (1968-70)	McIntosh, Alex (1967-70)
Goldensohn, Max (1968-70)	Wille, Loren (1968-70)
Goldensohn, Kathy (1968-70)	Steiner, Ken (1968-70)
Battcher, LeRoy (1969-71)	
Battcher, Joyce (1969-71)	Muang Met*
Evans, Fred (1969-74)	Carlson, Fred (1965-67)
Yoder, Lane (1971-73)	Lewis, Jerry (1966-68)
	Barth, Richard (1966-68)
Nam Bac*	Thompson, MacAlan (1966-68)
Leavitt, Chaim (1965-67)	
Thompson, MacAlan (1966-68)	

IVS/Laos Volunteer Postings at Rural Field Stations, 1956-1969

Xieng Khouang Prov.	Vientiane Province	Vientiane Province
Phonesavanh	Phone Hong**	Vang Vieng**
Rolston, W. Wendell (1956-57)	Haldeman, Jim (1962-64)	Buechler, Phillip (1963-65)
Rolston, Frances (1956-57)	McTighe, Pat (1962-64)	Buechler, Joanne (1963-65)
Coppock, Carl (1956-58)	Greene, Brook (1962-64)	Burkett, Larry (1964-65)
Huffman, Frank (1956-58)	Carlson, Gustav (1962-63)	Felthausen, Nancy (1965-66)
Searl, Clyde (1956-58)	Hogan, Edward (1962-64)	Ullom, Kenneth (1965-69)
Brown, Wallace (1956-58)	Barte, Dave (1962-64)	Reynolds, Mary Ann (1966-68)
Mountjou, George (1957-59)	Barte, Joanne (1962-64)	Brewster, Charles (1966-68)
Gray, Evelyn (1958-60)	Schafer, John (1963-65)	Lehman, Larry (1966-69)
Rupel, Martha (?)	Yetley, Mervin (1963-65)	Lehman, Kristin (1966-69)
	Yetley, Elizabeth (1963-65)	Russell, Thomas (1966-68)
Lat Houang	Wong, Kenneth (1965-67)	Russell, Mary Ann (1966-68)
Bowman, Dean (1958-61)	Wong, Katherine (1965-67)	Brady, Roger (1966-68)
Johnson, William (1958-?)	Howarth, Francis (1966-68)	Gingerich, James (1967-69)
McDonald, Wayne (1958-?)	Howarth, Nancy (1966-68)	Gingerich, Barbara (1967-69)
Coward, Walt (1958-1965)		Stillman, Arthur (196?-69)
Zachwieja, Anna (1958-?)	Ban Keun**	
Buell, Edgar (Pop) (1960-62)	Holmes, Henry (1962-64)	Ban Done
Bowman, Richard (1959-61)	Schafer, John (1963-65)	Van Riper, Cort (1967-69)
Ulsaker, Lawrence (1959-60)	Driskill, Linda (1964-66)	McIntosh, Alex (1967-70)
Boyd, John F. (1959-61)	Leavitt, Chaim (1965-67)	
	McDonald, Michael (1966-68)	
Sam Thong	McDonald, Susan (1966-68)	
O'Connor, Brian (1963-65)		
Jensen, Blaine (1963-65)	Ban Thalat**	
Coward, Walt (1959-65)	Benson, Frederic (1968-1970)	
Taylor, Dr. Bill (1961-63)		
Kurtzig, John (1965-67)		
Peters, Gary (1967-69)		
Peters, Brenda (1967-69)		
White, Paul (1965-67)		
Wilson, Larry (1965-67)		
Muang Soui*		
Murphy, Michael (1965-66)		

NOTE: Vientiane city is excluded from this listing. Many IVS volunteers were temporally posted in Vientiane at one time or another.

IVS/Laos Volunteer Postings at Rural Field Stations, 1956-1969

Borikhane Province	Khammouane Province	Khammouane Province
Borikhane**	Thakhek	Nam Thone
Peterson, Valdemar (1962-1975)	Bashor, Allen (1963-65)	Candea, Randy (1965-68)
Carlson, Gustaf (1962-63)	Bashor, Dorothy (1963-65)	Candea, Elizabeth (1965-68)
Clifford, Leander (Phil?) (1962-64)	Pulcini, Ronald (1965-65)	Russell, Thomas (1966-68)
Haldeman, Jim (1962-64)	Pulcini, June (1965-65)	Russell, Mary Ann (1966-68)
Lewin, Howard (1963-65)	Percival, David (1965-67)	Ireson, Randy (1967-69)
Buechler, Joanne (1963-65)	Robbins, Susan (1965-68)	Ireson, Carol (1967-69)
Collins, Terry (1964-66)	Candea, Randy (1965-68)	
Scully, John (1964-66)	Candea, Elizabeth (1965-68)	Ban Nakhua*
Onn, Joseph (1964-66)	Veillard, Jean (1965-69)	Barth, Richard (1966-68)
Wolf, Louis (1964-67)	Peacock, Jean (1966-68)	Majoros, Robert (1966-68)
Brown, Chester (1965-67)	Wilczek, Dennis (1966-68)	
Scully, Jeddy (1965-66)	Wilczek, Jane (1966-68)	Song Hong
Peacock, Jean (1966-68)	Goodwin, Andrew (1966-68)	Fink, John (1967-69)
Marby, Gerry (1966-68)	Weythman, Gary (1966-68)	Fink, Linda (1967-69)
Marby, Karin (1966-68)	Weythman, Geraldine (1966-68)	
Barker, Clifford (?)	Manning, Frank (1968-69)	
Barker, Joanne (?)	Dean, William (1968-70)	
Ban Lao**	Nong Bok**	
Verrier, Michael (1965-67)	Linden, Oscar (1964-69)	
Carlson, Fred (1965-67)	Blanning, William (1965-67)	
Compton, Lin (1965-67)	Esser, John (1965-67)	
Compton, Carol (1965-67)	Weythman, Gary (1966-68)	
	Weythman, Geraldine (1966-68)	
Pak Cadinh**		
Marby, Gerry (1966-68)	Ban Thana	
Marby, Karin (1966-68)	Majoros, Robert (1966-68)	
	Wiederhold, Robert (1967-69)	
Paksane		
Gombert, Terry (1966-68)	Dong Kasene*	
Chang, Wilma (1968-70)	Majoros, Robert (1966-68)	
Olbrich, Ted (1968-70)	Veillard, Jean? (1965-69)	
	McIntosh, William (1967-69)	
Nam Thouei		
Mummert, Dennis (1968-69)		

IVS/Laos Volunteer Postings at Rural Field Stations, 1956-1969

Savannakhet Province	Savannakhet Province	Wapikhamthong Prov.
Savannakhet	Kengkok**	Khong Sedone**
Carter, Richard (1961-63)	Carter, Richard (1961-63)	Scully, John (1964-66)
Radi, Arnold (1962-64)	Murphy, Doris (1962-64)	Owen, Robert (1965-67)
Murphy, Doris (1962-64)	Falk, Carol (1963-65)	Linden, Oscar (1966-69)
Falk, Carol (1963-65)	Beuchler, Phillip (1963-65)	Olsen, Larry (1967-69)
Harris, Dugger (1963-65)	Lovan, Robert (1964-69)	Murdoch, John (1967-69)
Onn, Joseph (1964-66)	Onn, Joseph (1964-66)	
Altemus, Paul (1964-66)	Belongia, James (1964-66)	Lakhonepheng**
Lewis, Kenneth (1965-67)	Kurtzig, John (1965-67)	Carlson, Gustav (1962-63)
Esser, John (1965-67)	Chubuck, Frank (1965-67)	Green, Steven (1964-66)
Wood, Jeffrey (1965-67)	Bewetz, Frank (1965-68)	Smith, Richard (1964-66)
Ziegler, Frank (1966-68)	Nell, Gerald (1967-69)	Owen, Robert (1965-67)
Artman, Robert (1966-68)		Percival, David (1965-67)
Artman, Nancy (1966-68)	Lahanam**	
Van Tine, John (1966-68)	Bewetz, Frank (1965-68)	Muang Wapi**
Van Tine, Susan (1966-68)	Lehman, Larry (1966-69)	Veillard, Jean (1965-69)
Nell, Gerald (1967-69)	Lehman, Kristin (1966-69)	
Dick, Susan (1968-70)	Ziegler, Frank (1966-68)	Saravane Province
Swanson, Richard (1969-71)	Van Tine, John (1966-68)	Saravane*
Chapman, John (1969-71)	Sanders, Keith (1967-69)	Green, Steven? (1966-68)
	Oi, Jiro (1968-70)	Davis, Gary (1967-69)
Dong Hene* **		Harter, Roger (1967-69)
Sitzer, Lewis (1966-68)	Houei Mun*	
Lehman, Larry (1966-69)	Archer, James (1966-70)	Champassak Province
Lehman, Kristin (1966-69)	Goodwin, Andrew (1966-68)	Done Talat
		Edwards, Chandler (1967-69)
Muang Phalane*	Saraphoum	
Chaydleur, Frederic (1965-67)	Drew, Dan (1969-71)	
Leavitt, Chaim (1965-67)		
Sitzer, Lewis (1966-68)		
Phakhania		
Chaydleur, Frederic (1965-67)		

IVS/Laos Volunteer Postings at Rural Field Stations, 1956-1969

Attapeu Province	Sedone Province
Houei Kong**	Paksong**
McKeithen, Win (1962-64)	Kiechle, John (1967-71)
Natale, Peter (1962-64)	
Hogan, Ned (1962-64)	Pakse
O'Connor, Brian (1963-65)	Carter, Richard (1961-63)
Studebaker, Gary (1963-64)	St. Pee, Oliver (1961-64)
MacRae, Rod (1963-66)	Voelkner, Harold (1961-63)
Belongia, James (1964-66)	Doolittle, John (1962-64)
Teller, David (1965-67)	Barte, David (1962-64)
Chubbuck, Wade (1965-67)	Perkins, J. Wayne (1962-64)
Lewis, Kenneth (1965-67)	Natale, Peter (1962-64)
Johnson, Erwin (1966-68)	MacRae, Rod (1963-66)
Viles, George (1967-69)	Batte, John (1963-65)
Doolittle, John (1967-69)	Smith, Douglas (1964-66)
Harvey, Richard (1968-70)	Haynes, Gary (1964-66)
Sage, William (1969-69)	Haynes, Gary (1964-66)
	Lewis, Kenneth (1965-67)
Sithandone Province	Smith, Mary (1965-67)
Khong Island	Bordsen, Marcus (1966-68)
Steele, John (1962-64)	Brady, Roger (1966-68)
Batto, John (1963-65)	Johnson, Erwin (1966-68)
Studebaker, Gary (1963-65)	Friesen, Elwood (1967-69)
Scully, John (1964-66)	Alex, Gary (1968-72)
Ziegler, Frank (1966-68)	Pennebaker, Jon (1968-72)
	Thompson, Robert (1968-70)
	Thompson, Karen (1968-70)
	Bowman, James (1969-73)
	Stone, Steven (1969-71)
	Stone, Jane (1969-71)

**Letter from Charles A. Mann
Director of USAID Laos**

July 1, 1965

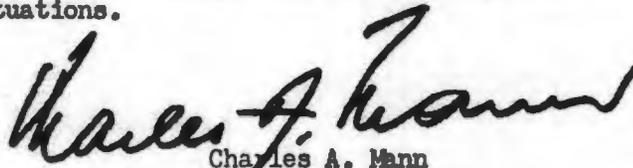
Cold, disembodied statistics cannot even begin to picture the true extent of accomplishments of the International Voluntary Services' dedicated volunteers serving in Laos.

The best testimonials to their success perhaps could be the thick wads of cotton twine bracelets adorning their wrists when they leave after their tour of duty - the traditional ceremonial way in which the Lao people express their gratitude and extend well wishes for the future.

I say without reservation that this Mission's Rural Development Cluster Program, based on the self-help approach, would not have gone this far without the very active participation of the IVS team.

The main purpose behind the presence of IVS here is to bridge the "last six inches" in the extension of American diplomacy in this part of the world, and I believe that its "person-to-person" approach has contributed greatly toward that end.

Those among us who fear that the American pioneering spirit is dying or dead can take heart on perusal of this IVS/RD annual report - a straight-forward, factual chronicle of young American men and women venturing into a strange land, and meeting and overcoming strange situations.



Charles A. Mann
Director, AID/Laos

Source: (Beery 1965: 4)

**Letter from Prince Souvanna Phouma
Prime Minister of Laos**

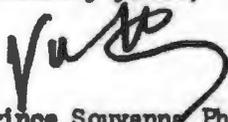
1966 makes the tenth year that International Voluntary Services has served the people of Laos. Its first team of seven people in Xieng Khouang has expanded to people in 30 different locations.

The young men and women of IVS have given two years of their lives as volunteers to work with and for the people of Laos. The economic and social improvements which are bringing Laos into the realm of the developing countries are due, in part, to the work of IVS in agriculture, health, education, construction, home economics, and community development.

IVS is truly an international organization with people of six different nationalities serving in Laos - all with a single purpose - to help our people of Laos to have a better way of life. These young people learn the language of our country, respect our customs and traditions, and work and live side by side with our people. They really become a part of the communities in which they live. Through their work and their daily associations with the people of Laos, they are building an essential bridge of understanding and trust between the peoples of the world.

Because of the work which IVS is doing and has done, I wish to express the gratitude of the people of Laos and my own personal gratitude. We hope that IVS will be able to give us the benefit of their service for many years to come.

Sincerely yours,


Prince Souvanna Phouma
Prime Minister
Royal Kingdom of Laos

Source: (Beery 1966: 3)

Prime Minister of India

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Prime Minister of India

CONFIDENTIAL



Question Socialism?

... that free education and free health is the route to take and vote accordingly in our upcoming election? There are some examples around the world (Russia, Laos, Venezuela) that merits further evaluation before casting one's vote for socialism. One country to compare with might be Norway.

Norway, with a population of 5.5 million, is one of the wealthiest nations in the world. It has a GDP of \$390 billion. Norway is also one of the most heavily taxed countries in the world. It has a tax rate of 47.5% on personal income. The USA. Personal income tax can reach as much as 48.5% on high earners. ... TAX.

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