



# LAOS ACTION PROJECT POINT 2024 2025 GUIDELINES



Monday, March 31, 2025

Under the aegis of the 1901 association “à l'Unisson France-Laos”

## 1. Background and justification for the LAOS action

Our experiences in Laos, among others, in [solidary escape](#) on Laotian territory combined with those in France and other countries, led us to design our network organization for “Aging Well Together for a Long Time”, with an action in LAOS and one in FRANCE.

The project and its concept is Oui Ensemble. In LAOS, we are identified under the aegis of the association UFL (à l'Unisson France Laos) registered with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Vientiane (capital of Laos).

Our bicultural, knowledge-sharing mindset naturally leads us down the path of supporting and training Laotian HR managers, in a way that belies their reputation for assistantship and passivity. All the more so as, with the post-Covid economic crisis, LAOS finds itself faced with a migration of its human resources to other countries.

We would like to point out that UFL's French experts on mission do not intervene directly in the field. Depending on needs, it is the local action leader who decides on the activities to be implemented, in synergy with UFL and the Oui Ensemble common interests partners, including the faithful [pioneers](#) working in Laos.

## 2. Purpose of the UFL 2024 on-site mission

The mission was planned from October 02 to December 27 with :

- **Chansy Upravan** (*President of the UFL association and Oui Ensemble designer*) and **Yannick Gouy** (*President of the Oui Ensemble association and UFL secretary*), to:
  - Recruit a local project manager based in Luang Prabang (LP).
  - Clarify the proposed activities in line with the concept of life and its values.
  - Approach potential partners to join those post-Covid.
- **Gabriel Upravan** (UFL and Oui Ensemble member) at the end of his journalistic studies, to :
  - Take charge of interviews with entrepreneurial resources motivated by our solidarity development project.
  - Support communication (Oui Ensemble web site / social networks).

### 3. Recruitment of a local manager in Luang Prabang

**Hongkham** (Head of Primary School / Lao-French Bilingual Classes) was recommended to us as part of our search for a Laotian compatriot with an interest in her country's future. Under the aegis of the **UFL** association (à l'**Unisson France Laos**), she agreed to be the project manager in charge of setting up and managing the **LAOS** project in a neighborhood of Luang Prabang.



#### Overall mission:

- Move step by step towards the objective of the **Oui Ensemble** project in the neighborhood that Hongkham chooses independently, meeting intergenerational needs with “Keeping active” approached through social and environmental issues and climate for a sustainable future.
- Promoting the project locally. Festive fund-raising events will be organized. In addition to local residents, we'll be appealing to tourists, bearing in mind that French nationals domiciled in France can benefit from the **UFL** association's tax ruling.

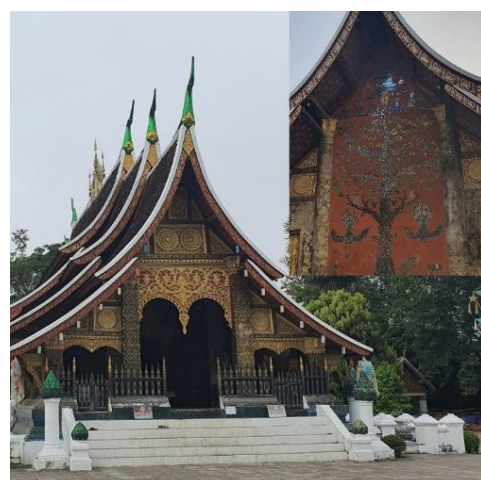
**UFL** and **Oui Ensemble** have delegated to **Florent Lavabre**, a French compatriot based in Luang Prabang (LP), entrepreneur in the building sector, the responsibility of ensuring the conformity of activities related to our humanist cause, by meeting the expectations expressed by **Hongkham**.

### 4. Chosen neighborhood and shared responsibilities

**Hongkham's** action is anchored in Luang Prabang's Lao-French Primary School / Bilingual Classroom, which has become the “Tiers-lieu” (place) of the Xiengthong district (where the Vat of the same name with its tree of life is nestled) that is to become the **Oui Ensemble** pilot neighborhood.



*Primary school in the Xiengthong district*



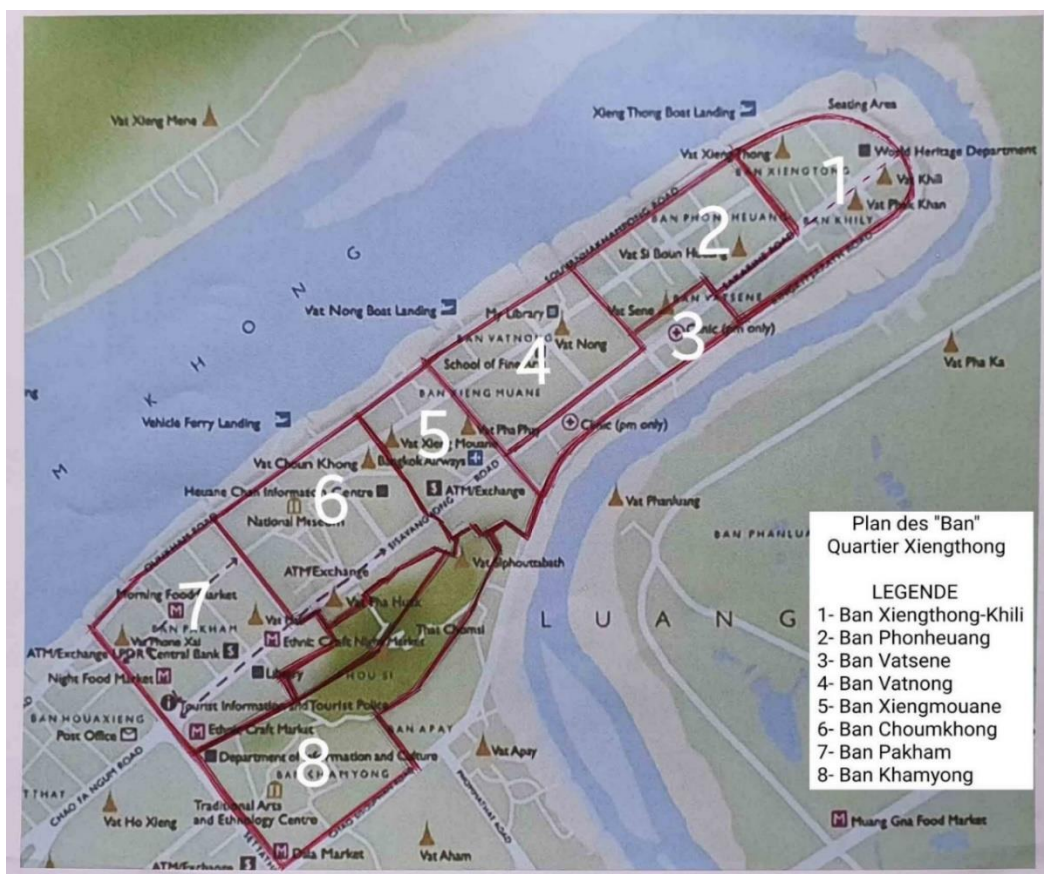
*Vat (pagoda) Xiengthong and its tree of life*

During our discussions, it was made clear that activities in Luang Prabang were Hongkham's responsibility and that it would call on the local skills directly involved.

More specifically, responsibilities are shared between :

- **Hongkham, the head of local action, assisted by Chansamone, develops activities in line with the country's organization and the vision, values and principles of the Oui Ensemble project:**
  - By mobilizing public and private players around the activities she considers important to set up for local residents (children, teenagers, students, working people, the elderly).
  - By uniting local residents. As actors in their own lives, they play an active role in setting up these activities.
- **The UFL association, which participates in fund-raising and validates activities, assisted by Florent Lavabre:**
  - Supervising and monitoring activities to reassure donors and sponsors.
  - Bringing in additional skills as needed via partners.
  - Supporting the deployment of partnerships.

## 5. Preview of planned activities in the Xiengthong neighborhood



The **Xiengthong neighborhood** is divided into **8 villages** and is home to 2,360 Laotians.

1.7 million tourists have been welcomed on the landward arm of this Luang-Prabang neighborhood, which has built its reputation on Buddhist spirituality, the beauty of its heritage and the richness of its flora and fauna, and the [Laotian government](#) plans to double this number...

**REMINDER:** We support "**Maintaining balance and good health**", a decent "**Place of live**", and a fulfilling "**Social life**", by accompanying Laotians people through « Maintaining activity » adapted to each stage of their life, and this, in order to fight against the slide towards dependence (*financial, physical, affective ant psychological*).

### → Activities for "Social life"

What do we mean by "Social Life"? In knowledge and understanding:

- We take responsibility for our actions.
- We work in line with demographic realities and social trends.
- We measure socio-economic impacts and environmental consequences, with climate change and population migration.

The operational forces support Laotian human resources while respecting individuality within the collective, through:

- Information and training.
- Managing daily life.
- Participation in community and social life.
- Support for cultural and artistic activities.

### **Activity 1: Set up a canteen for the children of the Lao-French bilingual elementary school in the village of 4-Ban Vatnong.**

At present, the children have stalls selling prefabricated sweet and fatty food products.

Hongkham, supported by 300 families, would like to set up a canteen for the 400 pupils of the Lao-French primary school/bilingual classes, because, apart from the opportunity to offer them a more balanced diet, this catering space would be created to be convivial and conducive to:

- o The creation of links between classes.
- o Educational exchanges in French on various themes...



Yannick et Chansamone

To discuss the canteen idea, **Hongkham** organized a meeting with **Pitsana**, the Head of School Development at the Luang Prabang District Education Office. Information on the detailed plan of the building, with its specifications, ins and outs and cost estimate, was then given to **Florent** who, after checking, will validate the whole.



Yannick - Pitsana - Florent - Chansamone - Hongkham - Chansy

**Activity 2:** Acquire/Perfect French language skills to open up new possibilities, both in terms of relationships and “Maintaining activity”, by joining Michel Delafon's Club de la Francophonie.

Our news item [Everything in life has meaning](#) clarifies the raison d'être of this action.

To date, we are aware of the obligation of commitment for all members of a Club Francophonie, i.e. respect for 7 rules, including that of responsibility:

1. Only Francophonie-related topics and content with predefined chapters are authorized.
2. Only the French language is authorized.
3. No politics, advertising or SPAM.
4. Be kind and courteous.
5. Respect each other's privacy.
6. Real people are accepted, not companies.
7. Responsibilities within a Club: - A "simple member" undertakes only to respect the rules of the group. - A "specialist member" also undertakes to publish one or two items of content every 2 months, or to organize a Club Francophonie once a month. - A "moderator member" also undertakes to follow a training course with an administrator in order to develop the group.

- **Hongkham** will meet Michel, and she will relay the Club Francophonie's aim and objectives as a team to:
  - The **8 village chiefs** of the Xiengthong district, who are in contact with our French-speaking Laotian compatriots.
  - **Manivanh**- Our French language godmother, a French-speaking Luang Prabanesse, retired teacher and French language teaching assistant at the Lycée Pasathipatay. She accompanied the [first steps](#) of the [UFL](#) project, which was supported by the Laotian Ministry of Health and the "Picardie" Regional Council: administrative procedures and setting up 2 activities to support the aging population: - Caregiver training missions. - Mobile medical dispensary in rural areas to prevent, screen and provide basic care.

Manivanh has maintained its support for our [2019 mission](#) and our [2023 post-Covid mission](#). Looking forward to getting back on deck when her health permits, she has provided us with a list of French teachers potentially interested in the Club Francophonie.

- o **Poui- Poui-** Luang Prabang French-speaking guide, she was behind our awareness of the creation of the Club de la Francophonie in Luang Prabang (LP) by Michel Delafon.
- o **Tamonh-** Luang Prabang French-speaking guide. A young woman with a strong commitment to her country. She courageously supports her family with a very clear vision of the projects she wants to take on at LP. (Cf. the news items [Protecting our elderly](#) / [It's back to school, shall we go?](#))
- o **Bounmy-** Bilingual French speaker. Deputy Director and French teacher at the Ecole Normale Supérieure in Luang Prabang. Teacher at the French Institute in Luang Prabang. Trainer in linguistic and pedagogical reinforcement for teachers of bilingual classes at LP. Interpreter during visits to Laos by the France-Cambodia-Laos friendship group of the Senate at LP.

What's more, **Bounmy** has the profile to represent **Michel Delafon's Club French-speaking world Luang Prabang**, a collective for sharing knowledge and ideas in the French-speaking world (Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, and soon Thailand). She also has the means to federate a network of French-speaking Laotians throughout the country. As her volunteer time is limited, she will meet Michel before committing herself.

- **The UFL association:** we are in contact with the Laotian network of **2 pagodas in France (Montpellier and Paris)**, and we can contact them to mobilize Franco-Lao people to sign up on Michel's Club Francophonie Facebook.

Social development within a community requires respect for the rights and duties of each individual, and **Khemphet Phonphakdy**, a French-speaking lawyer registered with the Vientiane bar, is at our side to guide us, in tandem with **Khounthavy Chomsanaphon**.



*Khounthavy et Khemphet*

**Khemphet** is very attached to the French language and to the mutualization of actions in the same values and interests, and he will meet Michel. In addition to the network of French-speaking Lao lawyers he can federate, he is a salaried associate in the international law firm [Tilleke and Gibbins Laos](#) which has branches in Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.

**Activity 3:** Organize festive themed events to raise funds for: - Solidarity development initiatives. - Underprivileged groups unable to “Maintain their activity” (children = maintain their schooling).

**Anthony Hed** (composer, singer, musician, based in LP) will conceive a **Oui Ensemble** song - with a chorus in French, Laotian, English and Chinese - assisted for the video by **Marty Oddes** (Production Administrator at IN/EX, based in Marseille). Depending on the rendering date, a festive themed event will be planned at LP.

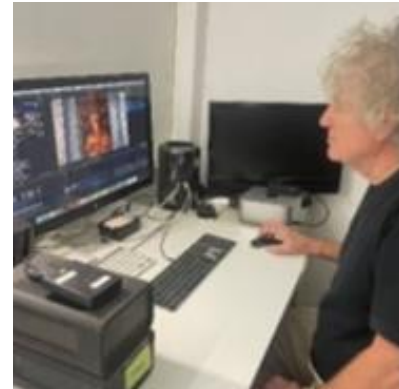
In order to interest tourists, we will be enriching the theme of this event with [Serge Doussantousse](#) (based in Vientiane) and [Peter Livermore](#) (based in Vientiane and Paris).



*Gabriel, Serge et Chansy*

- o **Serge** has been fighting plastic pollution for over 20 years

- o **Peter** has been supporting Laotian culture for over 35 years through film and other media, and approaching veracity through the scientific community (anthropologists, archaeologists...).



*Peter*

Luang Prabang's elementary school is a great place to organize themed festive events.



*The courtyard of Luang Prabang elementary school was used to screen films and shorts during the **Blue Chair Festival**, organized from December 5 to 9, 2024 between 9 Southeast Asian countries ...*

## → Activities for "Maintaining balance and good health"

### **Activity 1 : Addressing the issue of plastic waste.**

We highlight this public health time bomb in our [Rien ne va plus !](#) news item, and it would be nice to move forward with it:

- o The various **players** working locally on the plastic issue.  
Hongkham has already initiated an action with [Patihoub](#), which is developing a circular solution for plastic waste in Laos, and [Oui Ensemble](#) by organizing [participatory financing](#) in 2022 for [NK SEEDS](#)' "plastic" action.

Nevertheless, in view of what we're seeing on the ground, wouldn't the order of the day be to coordinate resources, by multiplying the information that enables us to understand the consequences of plastic waste on living beings?

Supported by the **8 village chiefs**, wouldn't it be a good idea to dispense relentless "educational actions" to children and local residents, not forgetting interactions with disrespectful tourists?

- o [Green Vientiane](#) : **Serge** has developed expertise on the plastic issue with the **Laotian government** and **partners**.

As plastics thrown anywhere end up having consequences in the food chain, and therefore on public health, deploying **Green Luang Prabang** is perhaps a good idea for our visibility, obviously taking into account each "plastic" project owner!

### **Activity 2 : Make an inventory of the elderly and underprivileged children in the Xiangthong neighborhood, in a team with the 8 village chiefs.**

Whatever one's social status, can one claim to be one with one's community by abandoning elderly people and children on the sidewalk?

The aim is not to give them a handout, but to identify their needs so as to act accordingly, with a view to "Maintaining balance and good health" through "Maintaining activity" (schooling for children), in order to combat the slide towards dependence (financial, physical, emotional and psychological) and retain dignity throughout life.



As **Hongkham** and **Pitsana** are in favor of social diversity, they made us aware of the situation of 4 underprivileged children.

They are going to list the exact causes that prevent them from going to school. We'll then decide whether to keep them in school.

### **Activity 3 : Thinking about how to take charge of your health.**

We were asked to finance the oncology costs of a young, underprivileged Laotian girl, and with our feet firmly planted in the ground we organized a form of participatory financing, feeling a form of revolt deep down inside.

In fact, **UFL** had experienced the systemic limitations of the Laotian Health Department when it saw stocks of medicines sent by foundations and NGOs disappear, and medical equipment go unmaintained. We have a responsibility of transparency towards our donors and sponsors, which is why we have decided to suspend our first action with ageing populations.

We call on our fellow Laotians to reflect together on the following questions:

- Is "Maintaining balance and good health" important to them?
- If, in cases where purchasing power is insufficient to pay for medical care, it is right to organize "ethical" mutual aid with the local medical profession?



*Hongkham, Pitsana, Chansy et Pierre*

**Florent** introduced us to **Pierre Boismard**, a valuable contact if any action in the health sector is taking shape again. This French compatriot based in Lao People's Republic is the Development Director of the NGO [Lao Friends Hospital for Children](#).

*This hospital, which is completely free for children aged 0 to 15, has an excellent reputation. With its 38 doctors and a total staff of 200, it can accommodate between 80 and 150 patients per day.*

## → Activities for a decent "Place of live"

### **Activity 1 : Welcoming seniors who are losing their independence.**

Following the reopening of the post-Covid borders in 2023, we have [continued our work](#), among other things, on the theme of [aging populations](#). Moving forward step by step, two housing activities have been initiated, including a reception center for seniors losing their autonomy. Unfortunately, these homes are now subject to disagreements between heirs, which forces us to suspend them. That said, the need for a place adapted to populations losing their autonomy has been raised by Laotian and French seniors living there, and we are monitoring the issue...

### **Activity 2 : Expanding the possibilities in modes of travel.**

The living space is integrated into an environment (city/countryside/sea/mountains) chosen with the climate, housing, and modes of transportation in mind...

Travel in Laos is increasing thanks to the demand from tourists and industry professionals. Peugeot, a partner of the **Blue Chair 2024 Festival**, piqued our interest. At the same time, **Jérôme Anquetil**, from [TT EURODRIVE ASIA RENAULT](#) (a rental specialist), approached us to "invite us to continue and expand the Temporary Transit "Renaulution" with them." **Florent** will meet Jérôme at **LP** because this offer could complement those already available, perhaps with a carpooling solution.

- French-speaking guides have created an association to defend their rights and also to explore avenues that would allow them to "stay active" while remaining the authors of their own lives, working as a team with a network of drivers at their side.
- Airbnb and guesthouse accommodations cater to independent customers who need to travel on short (electric car?) or long routes.
- TGV trains are reserved primarily for the Chinese "mass market." Other customers can only book three days before their departure, risking a lack of space. A plan "B," other than flying, would be welcome.

## 6. Orientation of UFL 2025 activities

Aside from the activities described above, we have considered recruiting volunteer UFL dues-paying members.

The LAOS initiative is locally organized by Laotian and French expatriate compatriots who earn local income, and it is not decent to ask them to contribute to our association.

At the same time, we reconnected with all our volunteer members based in France, after the LAOS initiative had been suspended for several years. This effort was in vain because our compatriots are primarily concerned about their future in light of social and societal issues.

Furthermore, job seekers and students are exempt from dues.

We also bear in mind that non-profit associations under the 1901 law are currently struggling to survive. Indeed, the importance of the associative world is recognized for playing a crucial role in the social and economic fabric, in solidarity and mutual aid, by complementing public authorities. But this interconnected ecosystem must today face a challenge in terms of human and financial resources, internal management and regulations, which is leading to the disappearance of a large number of associations.

We would like to remind you that this challenge is one of the reasons that motivated us to design the Oui Ensemble Organization, aligning our actions in France and in LAOS, with a new economic model anchored on shared Values and Guiding Principles:

- Inclusive Value: Encourage inclusion and diversity for a more equitable world.
- Solidarity Value: Emphasize solidarity and mutual assistance for a better future.
- Progressive Value: Build a future based on social and economic progress.

We are therefore adapting to the current context by aiming for "quality" rather than "quantity." We have decided that the UFL members we recruit through the Oui Ensemble network will also have Social Entrepreneur profiles. They will be motivated above all to actively support LAOS, through shared initiatives and/or independently designed under their own responsibility, in accordance with the UFL/Oui Ensemble values.