

## Laos – Community Development

### Mr Phuntavary, Health Officer - Yang Neua Village, Samphan District, Phongsaly Province

The people of Yang Neua village, one of the communities supported by Computershare within the Phongsaly Health and Livelihoods Project in Laos, are of Khmu ethnicity. Nine months ago their village was relocated, having originally being a further two and half hours walk away from its new position. The closer proximity makes it far more accessible for residents and visitors alike.

The village receives support from CARE in the growth of non-timber forest products such as nangnio, cardamom and gangalal. In January the 43 families living in the village received funds from Computershare to install a water supply from the mountains, to provide cleaner and consistent access to water. The village chief considered the water supply a top priority for the village, so together they planned where the 4 taps would be located around the village to ensure equally convenient access for everyone.

Mr Phuntavary, the new village health worker (pictured below), does not receive any income for his role, but says he took on the position because he wants to help his community. He sees real benefits in being the village health worker, with people coming to see him even though they are not 100% sure that he can always cure them.



# Change a life

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More women come to Mr Phuntavary for health assistance, particularly for their children, and diarrhoea is currently a real issue amongst children in the village. His future goal for the role is to gather “more knowledge on how to treat people, especially for malaria”, as the incidence of malaria in the village during the rainy season is particularly high.

With the support of Computershare, CARE will continue to work with people like Mr Phuntavary in the communities that are directly benefiting from the Change a Life Program support.