



## IMPACT STORY

## ESS COACHES

*“I have learned about people’s lives and realized that there are still many disadvantaged people who need our help.”*



Image: Khamtou Khamphaheuang Credit: Swisscontact

Mr. Khamtou Khamphaheuang was inspired to join the VTESS project because of its focus on employment counselling. Khamphaheuang is a Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture at the Integrate Vocational Education Training (IVET) School of Saravane Province. "The project builds people's capacity and supports the unemployed to develop themselves so they can find jobs and generate income for their families," he said. "These are the things I'd like to help them out with."

When Khamphaheuang became an Employment Support Services (ESS) coach in late 2020, it was the first time that he had been a coach and mentor for trainees. He said that it has been a demanding experience for him. "Working as an ESS coach has many challenges, such as coordination with provincial and district authorities, because I have had no previous experience," he said.

Khamphaheuang said that the process of selection of beneficiaries is thorough. "I check all applicants' information based on the requirements of the project to ensure that they are indeed eligible for participation, such as people who are orphaned or people with different abilities," he explained.



Image: IVET trainees studying agriculture Credit: Swisscontact

He said he was very happy to have opportunities to work with village authorities and the beneficiaries. For him, it was a totally new experience. "The best part is that I have the opportunity to develop myself and to gain new experiences. I have learned about peoples' lives and realize that there are still many disadvantaged people who need our support".

Khamphaeuang gained confidence in his communication and coaching skills since becoming an ESS coach. "I have now the courage to think, speak, and express myself among others."

In addition, his relationship with the other ESS coach of the VTESS project is very good. "We help each other and have a task division with clear responsibilities," says Khamphaeuang.

Coaching is very important to Khamphaeuang. For him, coaching is about providing guidance to unemployed people to find out what job they like to do and then support them to reach this goal.

Khamphaeuang said that it was hard to recover after the first outbreak of the pandemic because a lot of the businesses had closed. It made internships and applying for jobs a lot harder for the trainees in our province. A lot of trainees dropped out during this time. Challenged by this, Khamphaeuang applied what he learned from the training of coaches, and he developed capacity building workshops for the trainees to change their mindset.

*Image: IVET teachers brainstorming during a training session  
Credit: Swisscontact*



**Inception phase:** August 2019 - March 2020

**Project duration:** (4 years) August 2019 - July 2023

**Funded by:** Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

**Implementer:** Consortium Swisscontact / Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts

**Key implementing governmental partners:**

- Ministry of Education and Sports - MoES (Lead)
- Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare – MoLSW

**Target Groups:**

- Early school-leavers: young people (15-35 years of age) who have completed primary, but not lower secondary education, and are subjected to income poverty.
- Wider: Teachers from IVET schools, staff from job centres or similar institutions (career counsellors, job coaches, community or youth workers, village facilitators, social workers)



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