

## IMPACT STORY

## IndusTek staff



***"Informal waste pickers should be alert and cautious while working, as their job carries similar risks to those in industrial areas."***

**- Sayanousone Chanhayseng**

*Image: Sayanousone Chanhayseng Credit: Swisscontact*

Sayanousone Chanhayseng is a First Aid and Hygiene Trainer with Swisscontact's Waste to Value Project. He also serves as an Occupational Safety, Health, and Environment Officer at IndusTek, a company supplying safety equipment, industry supplies and general personal protective equipment (PPE). IndusTek also provides consultancy and training courses on workplace and industrial environments.

Chanhayseng has extensive experience training employees in various industries, including factories, mines, food and beverage plants, and dams. He covers topics on workplace protection and safety, accident prevention, working at high elevations and the importance for employees to wear appropriate safety protection gear such as harnesses to prevent falls.

Although the ultimate purpose of the training is to prevent accidents it is vital to follow the correct procedures if they do occur. This includes informing the safety officer on site and when to call for emergency rescue services.

Before joining IndusTek and becoming a trainer, Chanhayseng was involved in social and environmental development and had previously worked with informal waste pickers.

He is grateful that Swisscontact trusts him to impart his knowledge to waste pickers under the Waste to Value Project to design and implement a tailored training programme.



*Image: Sayanousone training waste pickers on wound care.*

*Credit: Swisscontact*

Chanhsayseng said that a challenge for some participants is illiteracy, which he addresses by using photos and conversational language instead of technical testing. He also noticed that some participants were shy and lacked confidence to share their opinions. To encourage participation and ensure their safety, he fosters open discussions on the importance of wearing PPEs, monitoring their surroundings, and avoiding high-risk areas.

**"It's essential for informal waste pickers to wear gloves, boots, and high-visibility vests at work."**

- Sayanousone Chanhsayseng



### Waste to Value Project

**Main objectives:** to improve the environmental performance of service sector SMEs through access to green products and better waste management practices; and to enhance the business operations of informal waste pickers to improve their livelihood.

**Project duration:** February 2022 – December 2024

**Project location:** Xaysetha and Chanthabouly in Vientiane Capital, Vang Vieng in Vientiane Province

**Project partners:** Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Hotel and Restaurant Associations, Green suppliers and service providers, National University of Laos, Local district authorities.

**Target Groups:** Service sector SMEs and informal waste pickers

