**SROI-based impact assessment**

The Education for Career Empowerment Project in Lao PDR has been carried out since 2009 in collaboration with the Lao PDR's Ministry of Education and Sports. The project is now in its third phase (2024-2030). The emphasis is on the development of skills in metal wielding, general maintenance, electrical control and renewable energy for vocational certificate-level teachers and students in eight schools which are; Khammouane Technical Vocational College, Vientiane Province Technical College, Luang Prabang Technical Vocational College, Integrated Technical - Vocational College in Xayabouly Province, Bolikhamxay Technical College, Champasak Technical Vocational College, Sekong Integrated Technical – Vocational School, and Attapeu Integrated Vocational Technical School. The project also provides knowledge and career training for students, under the goal to improve the quality of life of communities around the Company's operating premises in Lao PDR.

RATCH applied the Social Return On Investment (SROI) tool to evaluate the project's impacts, following the completion of the first phase (2011-2015) and the second phase (2018-2023). The evaluation results are as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Relevant Stakeholders | • Department of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (DTVET), Lao PDR's Ministry of Education and Sports<br>• 21 participating technical colleges<br>• 83 teachers from 20 technical colleges<br>• 1,646 students from 13 colleges<br>• 5 elementary schools receiving solar power generation systems<br>• 33 households in 1 community receiving solar power generation systems |

| Supports | Results |
| --- | --- |
| Vocational supports: e.g., training courses for teachers and students, training equipment, and training course development | Enhanced efficiency: Students were better equipped with knowledge and skills through the education improvement that promotes a specific career development. |
| Development of curriculum at involved educational institutions | Enhanced expertise of teachers: Students were given an opportunity to improve their potential with secure jobs that provides more income and a better quality of life. |
| Installation of solar cells for water pumps at schools | Favorable condition for students: Clean water led to better hygiene, more effective learning and reduced sickness. |

Social Return On Investment = **1.36:1** For every unit of money invested, the project generates 1.36 of value in return in economic, social and environmental dimensions, indicating the worthiness and value above the investment.

Economic value **71.616%**

- DTVET gained additional budgets for learning improvement.
- Teachers enjoyed career development opportunities.
- Students enjoyed job and stable income opportunities.
- Community saved expenses on candles and lamps due to solar power.
- Students at solar power-installed schools enjoyed sufficient lighting, saving medical expenses on eye care in the long run.
- The absence rate and medical expenses on digestive diseases dropped as students had sufficient solar-powered electricity and clean water for consumption and cleaning purposes.
- Solar cells reduced schools' utility expenses.

Social value **28.383%**

- DTVET had higher capability in formulating new curricula in response to current market demands, like solar power and control of building elevators.
- The project is a model for Lao PDR's Ministry of Education and Sports in harnessing private sector assistance for educational development.
- Students enjoyed professional skills practical for their future career.
- Students enjoyed supports to start own businesses.
- Migration of student dropped.
- Community quality of life improved due to solar power.
- Students had pride in doing a good deed, installing solar cells for the community.

Environmental value **0.001%**

- Community reduced independence on external energy sources due to solar power.
- Community reduced oil consumption for motorcycles and carbon emissions due to solar power.
- Schools enjoyed a favorable environment and supports on renewable energy.