



## Mekong Plus:

### Search for excellence in efficiency

Our mission is solidarity with the poorest. We are dedicated to constantly improving our efficiency in achieving the best and largest, sustainable results. How is this seen in practice?

- Our offices and teams are all in the poor villages where we work, not in the cities. We are based in regions where the average income is less than half the national average. As we live amongst the people we understand them better and our running expenses are several times lower than in the cities.
- No car, no air-conditioned office, we use local resources. Thus mobilizing the local people becomes possible as we do what we say! More than half of the program expenses are thus borne by the people themselves, including the poorest.
- No glossy brochures! A dynamic website ([www.mekongplus.org](http://www.mekongplus.org)) updated several times a week, visited by hundreds every day. 1 page stories from the field 10 times a year to over 5000 sympathizers, by email only (French and English).
- One expatriate only, but dynamic local teams (just over 200 employees) with a high delegation of responsibility and authority: lower costs, and best adjusted strategies to the local context.
- Because the people participate, only low cost and sustainable actions are done.
- Our motto: development is possible only if everyone is involved. Small charities cannot do much alone. We work with several companies, as sponsors or as partners, like Terre d'Oc ([www.terredoc.com](http://www.terredoc.com)), we set up Mekong Quilts ([www.mekong-quilts.org](http://www.mekong-quilts.org)) which is a tremendous success, and today Mekong Creations ([www.mekong-creations.org](http://www.mekong-creations.org)) is a new company which will apply the lessons learned to expand the concept to new products. Hundreds of people are employed and paid 200% the local average; these businesses generate several thousand Euros profits every month, they have become our single largest source of funds.
- Excellency in governance: annual external audit, several sectoral evaluations every year. Mekong Plus is member of AERF and a signatory of the International NGOs Accountability Charter.
- What we do: community development, including microcredit, sustainable job generation, health, education, agriculture, and environmental protection... For instance we work with over 7000 extremely poor households who survive on less than 100 Euros/year/person (this number increases by about 50 households every month). In 3 to 4 years they are out of poverty for good. Total costs: 120 Euros/household.
- We operate in 5 regions of Vietnam and Cambodia with a total population of over 500.000. We spend less than 1 Euro per person per year. More than 190.000 direct beneficiaries every year.

(...) "Of all the partners we have in dozens of countries, we think Mekong Plus is at the very top in terms of governance, finance management, accountability, transparency, independence and measurable program results."

Richard M. Walden,  
President & CEO, Operation USA



Claire THIBAUT, CEO for Belgium.

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