LAO REHABILITATION FOUNDATION (LRF)
Cardiology Mission at Lao Friends Hospital for Children, Luang Prabang, Laos
in association with SANTE FRANCE LAOS (SFL)
and MECENAT CHIRURGIE CARDIAQUE – ENFANTS DU MONDE
JANUARY 2019 – May 2019 – JUNE 2019
In January 2019, LRF provided its second cardiac ultrasound machine to Laos. The new compact high performance Philips CX50 is presently the only such portable machine in Laos. LRF works in collaboration with SFL for the screening of children born with congenital cardiac malformations. Also provided was a mobile interpretive multi-channel electrocardiograph.

Several times a year, detection missions are organized in remote villages and hospitals in the Southern and Northern part of Laos to diagnose children suffering from serious heart defects that can be operated in Vientiane for less serious cases or at the University of Khon Kaen in Thailand. Complex cases requiring access to advanced techniques are sent to France. For each mission, a cardiologist provides support, training and development to local physicians who want to increase their understanding of cardiovascular pathologies and cardio-pediatric skills.

When children are selected for surgery in France, once families are reassured and all permissions obtained, Aviation without Borders volunteers accompany children during the long journey that is made without their families. Once in France, children are welcomed into foster families before surgery with funding from the NGO Mecenat Chirurgie Cardiaque – Enfants du Monde. Their stay in France lasts about four months.

On their return to Laos, all children are followed in the cardiovascular Center created by Health-France-Laos in Vientiane or in provincial hospitals.