

Blood donors help save lives

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More than 35 United Nations volunteers, and other volunteers, have donated blood to help supply hospitals in Laos and save people's lives.

UN Volunteers, the UN Development Programme and the World Health Organisation worked with Lao Red Cross to organise a blood donation

day on Friday in the new UNDP building.

Lao Red Cross President, Dr Snivourast Sramany, said his organisation regularly collected blood from local businesses and organisations, but it was the first time UN Volunteers had planned such an event.

Lao Red Cross has been collecting blood donations for more than 10 years but it

consistently falls short of supplies and cannot meet the needs of all hospitals in Laos.

Last year Lao Red Cross collected 18,000 bags of blood from donations and this year it hopes to collect 20,000 bags.

Dr Snivourast said it was particularly hard to source blood donors during the current school vacation period.

"We hope UN volunteers

and other people will continue to donate blood in the future because it can help save people's lives," he said.

People who want to donate blood must be aged from 17 to 60 and must weigh more than 45kg.

Vientiane's Mahosot Hospital has the highest need for blood in Laos, in order to treat victims of accidents and patients who undergo surgery.

Grant Follett
donates blood to
help sick people
in Laos.

