



TEN THOUSAND  
VILLAGES



### About the Artisans

## Phontong Handicrafts

Phontong Handicrafts was founded by internally displaced peoples from Northern Laos who were in desperate need of work. One of the refugees, Kommaly Chantavong invited ten women to meet at her house. Together, they formed a cooperative to utilize their traditional weaving skills. Through the years, the group has expanded and now connects over 450 people in 35 villages. Basket weavers and woodcarvers are included in their ever-growing group of artisans.

## Shades of Blue Silk Scarf

Silk is usually associated with wealth and status, yet in postwar Laos, it was this natural protein fibre woven into fabric that became a lifeline to thousands of displaced families. Today, Phontong Handicraft Cooperative is weaving better futures for women by providing tools and training in skills like fabric dyeing and the use of looms. Silk farmers and weavers value the supplemental income and can send their children to school without growing opium or burning the forest for more land to farm.



### Materials:

silk

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Travel the world with each visit to Ten Thousand Villages.

Learn how Fair Trade really makes a difference. Our goal is to provide vital, fair income to artisans by marketing their handicrafts and telling their stories in North America. Ten Thousand Villages sells product from more than 30 countries, providing work for nearly 60,000 people around the world.

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[www.tenthousandvillages.ca](http://www.tenthousandvillages.ca)

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