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SCHOOL ROOM COMPLETION REPORT

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Overview

Project ID #: **LA-SR-09-0018**
Name of School or Community: **Ban Lang Incomplete Primary School**

Location

Village/City: Ban Lang
District/Zone: Xay
State/Province: Oudomxay
Country: Laos

Description: The Ban Lang Incomplete Primary School is 622 km north of the Room to Read (RtR) Country Office in Vientiane, a 15.5 h drive from the capital. It is 24 km (55 min) from the Oudomxay Provincial Education Service (PES) office and 23 km (50 min) from the Xay District Education Bureau (DEB) office.



Lao PDR, Oudomxay Province is indicated in red

Student/Teacher Information

| NUMBER OF STUDENTS/CHILDREN | | NUMBER OF TEACHERS | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|--------------------|----------|
| Female: | 68 | Female: | 1 |
| Male: | <u>73</u> | Male: | <u>2</u> |
| TOTAL: | 141 | TOTAL: | 3 |

GRADE/LEVEL OF STUDENTS: Grades 1 through 3

Community / School Profile

Ban Lang Village is located in the northern part of Laos on road 1852, in the Xay District of Oudomxay Province. This village has 130 households representing a population of 725, of whom 358 are female. The birth rate in this area is very high and is increasing yearly. The main ethnic groups living in this village are the Lao-theung and Lao-Sung. The principal economic activities include farming and raising livestock. The weather is generally good all year round and the winter is relatively mild, with temperatures in December to March ranging from 5 – 10 degrees (Celsius). Winter is followed by a dry season from April to May. The rainy season runs from June to October. Houses are built mostly in the Lao-theung style and are constructed primarily of wood, with grass roofs. The village has communal toilets and a gravity feed water supply system but no electricity.

The Ho Chi Minh trail, part of which runs through Laos, was a major target for American bombs during the Vietnam War. As a result, many provinces in Laos were heavily bombed and/or covered with landmines. Oudomxay Province was less affected by the Vietnam War than some other provinces in Laos, but a certificate from the government certifying that all unexploded ordnance (UXO) has been removed from the area is still required for all construction sites.

Current Situation and Reason for Support

The existing school building is very badly decayed and overcrowded. It serves only grades 1 and 2 as there is only one teacher. Third grade students have to study at another school that is very far away. Typically these students travel to the school in the early morning, bringing their own lunch and then returning to the village in the evening. This village has been waiting for many years for assistance in building a new school. At the request of the local authorities, RtR surveyed the site in 2009. Even though it was quite late when the RtR team reached the site, the villagers and school personnel were still waiting eagerly to meet them. After the survey was completed, the local government officials agreed to provide teachers for grades 2 and 3 so that each grade will have its own teacher. The school will now add grade 3 classes so students will no longer have travel long distances to attend third grade.

Date Established

October 15, 2009

Project Details

Construction of Ban Lang Incomplete Primary School was started on April 24, 2009. It was co-funded by Room to Read Laos and two villages, with strong support from the Provincial Education Service, the District Education Bureau, and district authorities. The building took six months to complete with labor provided by volunteers from the community and the school was ready for use on October 15, 2009. The completed school, covering an area 8m wide x 28m long, is a sturdy brick structure erected on a concrete foundation, with steel-reinforced ground and roof beams and a green sheet metal roof supported on a hardwood frame. The building exterior has been painted a light yellow. Each of the four rooms is 6m x 7m in size and has a painted white interior, a wood ceiling, and windows with hardwood shutters. Three of the rooms are used as classrooms serving students in grades 1 - 3 and the fourth room serves as the school library.

Resources Provided

Challenge Grant Provided by Community - 23.61% of total

Construction Materials; Fence; Land; Skilled Labor; Sponsor Opening Ceremony; Volunteer Labor

Provided by Room to Read - 76.39% of total

Educational Materials

Blackboard; Building Design; Chair - Students; Chair - Teacher; Construction Materials; Construction Tools; Desk - Students; Desk - Teacher; Monitoring and Support; Skilled Labor; Sponsor Opening Ceremony; Transportation of Materials

Trainings

Basic Construction Techniques; Financial Management; Project Management; Specialized Construction Techniques

Comments

Speaking on behalf of the people of Banlang Village, we are very pleased and proud that RtR understands the importance of education and, as a result, brought the School Room program to our village. We set up a construction committee to oversee the project, provided wood for construction, and also provided volunteer labor, each household taking turns contributing. The building is now finished and we are very proud of our achievement, which symbolizes our unity and commitment to education. We would like to thank the donors who provided funds to construct this building and note that their generosity will always be remembered in the history of our village.

Thank you.

Banlang Community, October 15, 2009

Photos



Overview of the new building



Children in their new classroom



A smiling young girl sits at her desk



Students working on their lessons



The dedication plaque for the new school