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SCHOOL ROOM COMPLETION REPORT

Prepared for: Cam-Mai Brasch

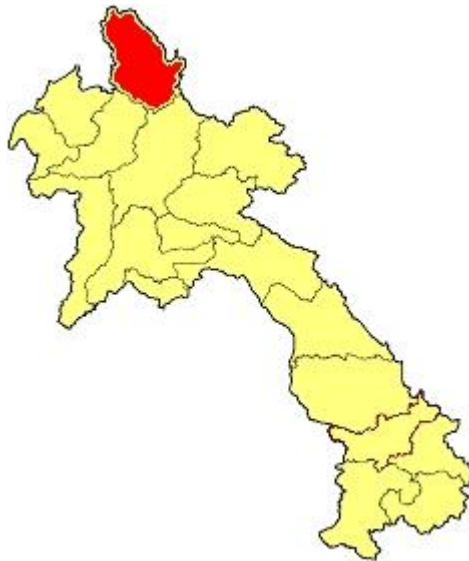
Overview

Project ID #: **LA-SR-10-0008**
Name of School or Community: **Chicho Complete Primary School**

Location

Village/City: Chicho
District/Zone: Phongsaly
State/Province: Phongsaly
Country: Laos

Description: Chicho Village is located in the eastern section of Phongsaly District, on Road No. 4. The village is 887 km north of the Room to Read (RtR) Country Office in Vientiane, a 16.5 h drive from the capital. It is 22 km (2 h) from the Phongsaly Provincial Education Service (PES) office and 23 km (1 h) from the Phongsaly District Education Bureau (DEB) office.



Lao PDR, Phongsaly Province is indicated in red

Student/Teacher Information

NUMBER OF STUDENTS/CHILDREN		NUMBER OF TEACHERS	
Female:	65	Female:	7
Male:	<u>50</u>	Male:	<u>1</u>
TOTAL:	115	TOTAL:	8

GRADE/LEVEL OF STUDENTS: Grades 1 through 5

Community / School Profile

Chicho Village is located in the northern part of Laos, in a relatively flat section of Phongsaly District. Road number 4 runs through the village and provides easy access in both dry and wet seasons. The village has 59 households with a total population of 434, of whom 219 are female. The people living here belong primarily to the Phou Noy ethnic group. Trade with China is the primary driver of the economy since Phongsaly District shares a border with the Unan District of China. The principal economic activities include farming and working in the civil service sector. Agricultural products include watermelon, sugar cane, peanuts, and tea, most of which is exported to China. The weather is generally good all year round and the winter is quite cold, with temperatures in December to March ranging from 0 – 5 degrees Celsius. Winter is followed by a dry season from April to May. Houses are constructed primarily of wood, bamboo, and concrete and vary in style according to the ethnicity of their inhabitants. The village has communal toilets, access to water, and electricity in some areas. The area also offers beautiful scenery for sightseeing as well as interesting cultural attractions.

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. Phongsaly 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

Chicho Village has a complete primary school that offers grades 1 - 5 and serves pupils from six villages. This school has two buildings, one an old wooden structure with a grass roof that is in poor condition, and a second, concrete structure with a sheet metal roof. The two buildings together provide five classrooms. The old building is badly decayed and unusable during the rainy season. The school also lacks educational materials and is poorly funded. These deficiencies significantly reduce the opportunity for children to receive a quality education and negatively impact their ability to develop adequate knowledge and skills. The new school will replace the old, dilapidated wooden building and provide substantially more classroom space to help alleviate overcrowding.

Date Established

September 15, 2010

Project Details

Construction of the Chicho Complete Primary School was started on March 1, 2010. It was co-funded by Room to Read Laos and six villages, with strong support from the Provincial Education Service, the District Education Bureau, and district authorities. The building took five months to complete with labor provided by volunteers from the community and the school was ready for use on September 15, 2010. 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 2 - 4 and the fourth room serves as the school library.

Resources Provided

Challenge Grant Provided by Community - 18.20% of total

Building Maintenance; Construction Materials; Fence; Land; Skilled Labor; Volunteer Labor
Skilled Labor; Unexploded Ordinance Clearance

Provided by Room to Read - 81.80% of total

Blackboard; Building Design; Chair - Students; Chair - Teacher; Construction Materials; Construction Tools; Desk - Students; Desk - Teacher; Furniture; Monitoring and Support; Skilled Labor; Water Supply System

Trainings

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

Comments

We, the directors of Chicho Complete Primary School, wish to express our utmost appreciation to Room To Read for providing the grant to fund construction of the new school. In addition, the village authorities, on behalf of the parents whose children attend the school, would like to express their pride in having such a beautiful new building. The teachers and students have promised to maintain the school to keep it clean and beautiful. Thank you.

Photos



Overview of the new school building



Children in their new classroom



Two young girls share a book



A girl reading at her desk



The children and their teacher pose for a photo



The dedication plaque for the new school