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SCHOOL ROOM APPLICATION REPORT *Prepared for: Nomura*

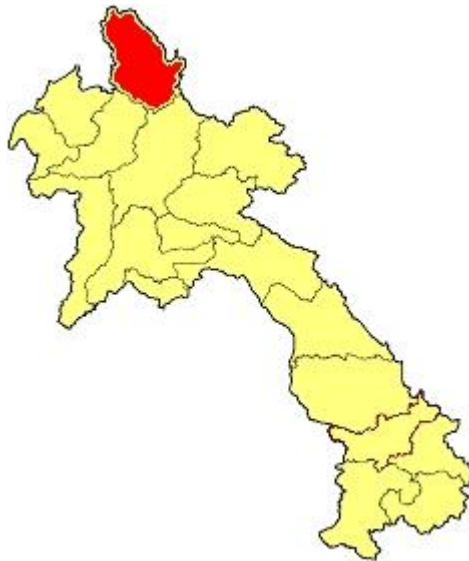
Overview

Project ID #: **LA-SR-10-0010**
Name of School or Community: **Phiengdokkham Complete Primary School**

Location

Village/City: Phiangdokkham
District/Zone: Bounneur
State/Province: Phongsaly
Country: Laos

Description: Phiangdokkham Village is located in the eastern section of Bounneur District, on Road No. 4. The village is 865 km north of the Room to Read (RtR) Country Office in Vientiane, a 15.5 h drive from the capital. It is 45 km (2 h) from the Phongsaly Provincial Education Service (PES) office and 5 km (25 min) from the Bounneur District Education Bureau (DEB) office.



Lao PDR, Phongsaly Province is indicated in red

Student/Teacher Information

NUMBER OF STUDENTS/CHILDREN		NUMBER OF TEACHERS	
Female:	64	Female:	3
Male:	<u>87</u>	Male:	<u>0</u>
TOTAL:	151	TOTAL:	3

GRADE/LEVEL OF STUDENTS: Grades Preschool through 5

Community / School Profile

Phiangdokkham Village is located in the northern part of Laos and is accessible by road in both dry and wet seasons. The village has 156 households with a total population of 487, of whom 245 are female. The people living here belong primarily to the Ekor and Phou Noy ethnic groups. Trade with China is the primary driver of the economy since Bounneur District shares a border with the Unan District of China. The main occupation is rice farming, supplemented by raising livestock and growing foodstuffs such as watermelon, sugar cane, and peanuts that are 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 and access to water but no electricity. 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

The Phiengdokkham Complete Primary School is located in Phiengdokkham Village and offers grades 1 - 4 to students from three villages, most of whom belong to ethnic minority groups. Two of the existing buildings, one of which was built by Room to Read in 2009, are in good condition and provide five classrooms but the third building has only one classroom and is in poor condition. The lack of classroom space leads to classes that are too crowded. The new building will alleviate this overcrowding and improve the learning environment for the students.

Proposed Plan

RtR Laos will partner with the Phiangdokkham Complete Primary School Construction Committee and the Students' Guardian Association to build a four room primary school. The new building will be made of brick, cement, and reinforced concrete and will have a concrete slab floor, a sheet metal roof, and a wood ceiling in each room. The rooms will measure 6m x 7m in size and all four will be used as classrooms. A separate, two-room toilet will be built adjacent to the school.

PROPOSED COMMUNITY/SCHOOL CONTRIBUTION TO THE PROJECT:

- Volunteer labor for all unskilled work required by the project
- Wood for the roof structure and ceiling frame
- Backfill soil as needed for the foundation
- Security during the construction period
- Official certification of UXO clearance
- Legal title for land belonging to the school
- A source of water for the new school building
- Work with local education authorities to ensure teachers are available for the school
- Monitoring of materials purchasing to ensure quality, quantity, and transparency
- Community contribution of 22% of the total project cost

PROPOSED ROOM TO READ CONTRIBUTION TO THE PROJECT:

- Construction materials: cement, sand, sheet metal, steel, plywood, nails, paint, hardware
- Construction training for the School Construction Committee
- Construction tools
- Salaries of the technical construction support staff
- Furniture, textbooks, and educational materials
- Monitoring and technical assistance
- Room to Read contribution of 78% of the total project cost

Photos



The dilapidated school building



Preparations begin at the site of the new school



An existing classroom