



Laos School Construction Completion Report

Prepared for: Ute Gebhardt

Through your generous support, Room to Read transformed a school in Laos.

Project Location

Banbor Lower Secondary School is located in Oudomxay province. Located in the mountainous region of northern Laos, the Oudomxay province has a population of 265 thousand that consists of 14 different ethnic groups. Most of the population practices subsistence agriculture, with rice, corn, soybeans, fruits and vegetables as the predominant crops. Oudomxay's concentrated diversity has led to significant civil struggles and conflicts, which have ultimately limited many minority groups' access to social and academic programming. Widespread inequality combined with insufficient government funding has contributed to low literacy rates in the region, with men's literacy rates at 72 percent and women's literacy rates far behind at 40 percent. With its low literacy rates and a clear disparity between male and female opportunities in education, Oudomxay stands to benefit significantly from Room to Read's programs.

The school is approximately 608 kilometers from Vientiane, the capital city of Laos.



Project ID: LA-SR-13-0002

Name: Banbor Lower Secondary School

State/Province: Oudomxay

District/Zone: Xay

City/Village: Banbor

Grades: 6 through 8

Number of Students

Female: 106

Male: 107

Total: 213

Number of Teachers

Female: 2

Male: 13

Total: 15



The exterior of the new building



Another view of the new building

Reason for Support

Reason for construction, as outlined in the project application report:

Some of the current classrooms are inadequate for learning. Poor construction has led to the severe deterioration of older buildings that now allow rain and wind into the classrooms. Unfortunately, many parents choose to keep their children at home when faced with sending them to an unsafe school. Constructing a new block of classrooms will provide students with bright, safe, child-friendly learning spaces where they can pursue a quality education and reach their full potential. A new building will also provide an incentive for parents to keep their children in school.

Additional details about existing infrastructure and classroom conditions:

- *Electricity; Fence; Water available*
- *Overcrowded; Dirty; Dirt Floor; Concrete Floor*

Project Details

The new four-room classroom block measure 8 x 28 meters in size and is a sturdy brick structure erected on a concrete foundation. It has 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 6 x 7 meters in size and has a painted white interior, a gypsum board ceiling, and windows with hardwood shutters.

Resources Provided

Resources Provided by Community – 22.21% of total

- Building Maintenance; Clean Water; Construction Materials; Furniture; Sponsor Groundbreaking Ceremony; Volunteer Labor; Water Supply System

Resources Provided by Room to Read – 77.79% of total

- Blackboards/Whiteboards; Building Design; Construction Materials; Construction Tools; Monitoring and Support; Skilled Labor

Trainings

Start Date	Length of Training	Training Topic*
3/7/2013	1.0 days	Basic Construction Techniques; Financial Management; Physical Planning; Project Management; Specialized Construction Techniques
9/24/2013	1.0 days	Building Maintenance

** Some trainings are provided for various groups of stakeholders (teachers, librarians, field facilitators, etc) at different times. Because of this, the same training may be listed more than once.*



The interior of one of the new classrooms



A student working on a lesson in a new classroom



A student working on a lesson in a new classroom



The opening ceremony

Comments

We, the members of the community of Banbor and three villages, are very happy to receive funding from Room to Read and the donor to build our new school. Our achievement today could not have been made without Room to Read and support from the donor, members of the community, and the local authorities. To return your kindness and maximize use of the new school, we promise to maintain this building in good condition. We will also encourage parents who have school-aged children to send them to school.

We are very grateful to Room to Read and the donors for their generosity and kindness in giving us this great gift of improved education for our children. We would like to bless the Room to Read staff and all project stakeholders, including the representatives from the Ministry of Education, Provincial Education and Sports Services, and District Education and Sports Bureau, with happiness and success in whatever they do.

Photo of Dedication Plaque

