Building Schools
Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar
It All Begins With Building Schools

We strongly believe that a safe and secure learning environment is essential for educational success. Therefore, we support children and youth in accessing education by building educational infrastructure, such as schools and boarding houses.

We focus on education because it is proven to be one of the most important factors for sustained social and economic development. Education also promotes a culture of peace, tolerance and understanding and builds the foundation for diversity, human rights and freedom.
Current Issues

- Low school enrolment and class attendance rates
- High dropout rates on all levels and all over the region
- Severe lack of educational infrastructure in remote and neglected communities
- Poor, unsafe and unhygienic learning and teaching environments
- Parents lack awareness of the importance of education

Objectives

- To provide access to basic education for all children in the region
- To increase literacy rates and set the foundation for productive and self-determined lives
- To significantly reduce school dropout rates
- To increase continuation rates from primary to secondary school and on to high school
- To improve teaching quality and the overall learning environments
- To improve hygiene standards at schools and boarding houses
- To encourage parents and community members to support their children in education
Beneficiaries

Children and youth from disadvantaged and neglected communities living in extremely remote and isolated areas in Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar.

Community Involvement

It is our belief that establishing a close partnership with community leaders and the school management, when developing educational infrastructure projects, will lead to more successful projects. This is seen in terms of successfully meeting educational needs and supporting community development that leads to greater sustainability.

We expect the community to actively participate in the construction. This gives villagers a stronger sense of pride and ownership over their project. The community is responsible for all building maintenance works and upkeep after the infrastructure is finished.
Implementation

Guided by our bottom-up approach, community leaders and school committees are engaged in close collaboration and consultation, from the early stages on to develop and construct the facilities.

We believe in fostering good relationships with the communities, as it enables us to understand their real needs and ensure the projects’ sustainability.

Through regular follow-ups and communication, we remain sensitive to their needs even after the project is completed; enabling us to continue supporting them in promoting education and increasing child and youth participation in school.

In Laos and Cambodia we work closely with the respective ministries of education, while in Myanmar we often partner with Community Based Organisations (CBOs) and local NGOs. We more and more start to cooperate with the local education authorities also in Myanmar.
Budget & Reporting

Depending on the size of the student population, the construction of a school building (ranging from four to six classrooms) costs between USD 40,000 and USD 70,000 and normally accommodates from 100 to 200 students. In rare cases, we build smaller or much bigger facilities also.

Boarding houses, accommodating 40 – 50 female or male students as well as one boarding master (teacher), cost approximately USD 50,000, depending on location.

It is also possible to contribute part of the total cost of a new building (e.g. 20 or 50%).

As with all our projects, a final report, including photos will be provided together with a detailed financial reconciliation, no later than two months after completion of the project.

We encourage donors to attend the opening festivities together with us.
Welcome to a school in Cambodia...
A typical classroom in a rural Laos school
Example of a school building we constructed in Laos
...And now a safe and conducive learning environment for primary school children
Typical boarding houses in Laos before our intervention...
...a typical interior of a self made makeshift boarding house
...and after the construction, safe and clean boarding house for the young students
Schooling in Myanmar before...
...and afterwards.