

Facts

Name	Padthana Secondary School
Type of facility	School building
No. of students	816 (414 girls, 402 boys)
No. of teachers	47 (32 females, 15 males)
No. of Buildings	3 buildings (2 permanent brick, 1 temporary in wood)
No. of Classrooms	17 classrooms & 1 teacher's room, 1 computer room
Size of new building	280 m ²
Budget	USD 51,746
Construction period	April – September 2013
Project manager	Thanasak Thaweechoth
Location (Province)	Phonxay Sub-District, Xaignabouli District, Xaignabouli Province, Northern Lao PDR

Map



Photos



The temporary wooden building is not offering the students a good learning environment and poses security and health risks.



Open schools are rather noisy learning environments hindering progress.

Description

Padthana Secondary School is located in Phonxay village, close to the Thai border in the mountainous region in the Xaignabouli province of north-western Laos. Phonxay village was established in 1960 with 18 families and now counts 605 families (2,973 persons). Phonxay is a farming community (growing wheat and millet) and very committed to education. They are willing to hold galas to raise some small funds for the new school. The average annual income per family is about USD 1,200 which – although well below national Lao average – makes the community better off than other Lao communities we work with. The community is heavily affected by natural disasters (such as drought) and children are plagued by diarrhea during summers and dangerous dengue fever in the rainy season.

The first permanent building was finished in 1997. Due to increased student numbers a second permanent building with 10 classrooms was established a year later. Enrolment numbers did not slow down and a third temporary wood building was added in 2004. The school services an area encompassing four villages: Baan Nam Liab, Baan Nam Tuan, Baan Phonxay and Baan Pong Wan. All students are Buddhist and either of Lao Lum, Hmong, Khamu or Mian ethnicity. The 2012-13 academic year is the first where the school offers all seven grades of secondary school (M1 to M7). A total of 816 students are enrolled, aged 10 to 18. There is no need for boarding facilities as villages are all very close and transportation is affordable. The two brick buildings are very crowded as classrooms are unusually small – one used to be the teacher's building and operates now as a school building. In one building walls weren't completed leading to rather noisy learning conditions. The temporary building made of wood is decaying and no longer safe. The general condition of the school is otherwise good (good fences, proper garbage disposal, facilities are clean and tidy), however the sanitary facilities are not adequate as the 2 toilet blocks with 2 toilets for men and 1 toilet for women are insufficient. To improve learning conditions, we will provide a new school building with 5 classrooms and 3 additional toilets.

Implementation

We plan to construct one school building with 5 classrooms and 3 toilets. We will also support furniture. The community will contribute wood, gravel, sand, and fill in soil for construction. A professional contractor from Xaignabouli town will manage the actual construction work. All construction materials not provided by the community can be sourced and transported from the district town to the school. The government will continue to pay salaries for teachers and deliver some teaching materials.

We consider this a low risk project. However, there is always a risk that the community may not be able to contribute materials on time and the unpredictability of the rainy season may affect the construction progress although the road from the city to the village is good. The construction will take place between April and September 2013.

Budget

1 USD = 30 THB

Item	THB	USD	In %
Construction material	994,323	33,144	64%
Interior / Furniture	153,947	5,132	10%
Labour	200,000	6,667	12%
Transportation	30,000	1,000	2%
Monitoring & Implementation cost	72,541	2,418	5%
Administration Overhead contribution	101,557	3,385	7%
Total Budget	1,552,368	51,746	100%



The community has already started filling in soil in preparation of the new construction site.

Project manager

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