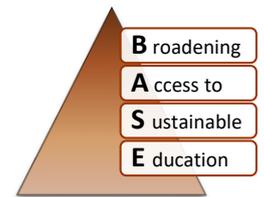




Sam Soum Secondary School - School Building (B)



Facts

Name	Sam Soum
Type of facility	School building
Number of students	779 (466 boys, 313 girls)
Number of teachers	34 (24 men, 10 women)
Number of facilities to be built by us	1 school building with 6 furnished classrooms and 4 toilets (building B)
Size of building	336 m ²
Budget	USD 68,318
Construction period	July to December 2018
Project Manager	Suphattra Matakun (Ms)
Location	Sam Soum Village Vieng Kham District Luang Prabang Province Northern Laos

Description

Sam Soum Secondary School is located among the hills in north central Laos, Luang Prabang Province. With the name "Sam Soum" derived directly from the location of being on top of 3 mountains, the village has a population of 4,000 residents, where the locals' daily occupations are mainly subsistence farming and breeding animal husbandry. Sam Soum educates students aged 11 to 18, starting from lower secondary level (grades 1 – 4) to upper secondary (grades 1 – 3). The campus consists of 7 school buildings - 2 concrete and 5 temporary wooden and bamboo structures, offering 7 and 10 classrooms respectively. Other facilities include 2 student boarding houses (1 for each gender, also built by us), a communal kitchen area, and 4 toilets, which fail to provide sufficient latrine facilities to the many students. Subsidised by the government and another NGO, the concrete buildings were built in 2007 and 2012 respectively, and are in good conditions. The wooden buildings contributed by the community's effort, however, have deteriorated considerably. The structures' frail walls of thin bamboo paneling with rudimentary wooden framework have posed a hazardous learning environment. Especially during the rainy season, the lessons are often disrupted due to water leaking in from the heavy rain. Furthermore, during the past 2 – 3 years, the number of enrolments has increased significantly, thereby making the classrooms very overcrowded. This has given us all the more urgent reason to support the school's infrastructure. We wish to contribute by replacing the 5 rotted wooden buildings with the construction of 2 concrete school buildings (A and B), hosting 6 classrooms each with all the necessary furnishings (desks and chairs) and 8 toilets. This proposal is, however, for building B only, and equipped with 4 toilets. The students deserve a much more welcoming and motivating environment, and this will provide an incentive for them to pursue their secondary education, paving their path towards higher education.

Map



Implementation

The construction work is planned to start in July 2018 and will take approximately 6 months to be completed by end of December 2018. In each of our construction projects, our approach always involves the community to encourage ownership and a sense of solidarity. In this case, the community will contribute materials namely wood for the roof construction, support the implementation of scaffolding and wooden frameworks as well as filling in the soil foundation. For the actual construction work, a professional contractor will be hired under a package deal. He will not only be responsible for the labour but also for purchasing the required materials and transportation to the site. He will be paid in instalments according to the progress of the construction work and 5% of the total labour cost will be held back for one year as a guarantee for the quality of the work. The school administration will be responsible for the facilities after the construction is complete. We consider this a low-risk project as there is sustainability from ongoing upkeep by the school and community's enthusiasm and active engagement. Nearby to the main road, the school is also highly accessible during any season throughout the year.

Photos



Inside one of the classrooms, with 4 - 5 students crammed into each of the narrow wooden desks.

Budget

FX USD/THB 31.15

Item	THB	USD	In %
Construction Materials	1,457,039	46,775	68
Labour	224,057	7,193	11
Interior & Furniture	134,849	4,329	6
Transportation	84,055	2,698	4
Implementation & Monitoring	79,167	2,541	4
Administration Overhead	148,970	4,782	7
Total Budget	2,128,137	68,318	100



The outer look of the wooden buildings with the zinc roof and the dilapidated learning equipment, for which the impoverished community has had to do multi-stage savings and constructions with their limited resources to be able to expand the facilities for the growing number of students.



The concrete buildings in well-maintained condition under the school care. This exudes sustainability in their upkeep for the beneficiaries' new facilities.