

Facts

Name	Phon Toum Primary School
Type of facility	School Building
Number of students	322 (168 boys, 154 girls)
Number of teachers	6 (2 men, 4 women)
Number of classrooms to be built by us	1 new building with 5 fully furnished rooms, and 4 additional toilets
Size of building	280 m ²
Budget	USD 45,340
Construction period	February – September 2021
Project manager	Chirasak Phetchompoo (Gee)
Location	Phon Toum Village Outhoumphone District Savannakhet Province Lao PDR

Description

Phon Toum Primary School is located in Phon Toum Village, Outhoumphone District, Savannakhet Province, South Lao PDR. Founded in 1707, this village is comprised of 3,528 people, living in 450 households. They mostly rely on subsistence farming, plantation work, and animal husbandry for their livelihoods. The village has mobile phone coverage, water, and electricity, but no local access to health care. Established in 1974, Phon Toum Primary School has two school buildings. The concrete building with five classrooms built in 2011 is in robust condition and can last for some more years. On the other hand, the one classroom building built in 1974 is made out of substandard timber columns, wood slat walls, and rusty corrugated metal roof. During the hot season, the interior becomes unbearably hot and when it rains hard, the rainwater gush through nail holes in the roof, causing intense structural damage. Additionally, termites have ravaged some wooden parts of the building, leaving the structure weak and vulnerable to collapse. The building has been in a state of great despair, beyond repair, and is in dire need of replacement. The student population has been steadily increasing over the last few years and classrooms have become very crowded (50 plus students/classroom); creating an unproductive and chaotic learning environment for the students. Under these circumstances, the students cannot focus on their studies and easily get distracted in this chaotic learning environment. Currently, the school serves 322 students, ranging from 6-11 years old and employs six teachers. The students lack a safe and suitable environment to focus on their learning. To address the pressing condition, we will support Phon Toum Primary School with the construction of one new concrete school building with five fully furnished classrooms to help ease the students' hardship and to support their education and well-being. After implementation, the school will have a capacity of up to 400 students (40 students/classroom). This will also cater to the expected growing student number in the coming academic years. In addition, we will also build four new toilets to help improve the sanitation standards of the school and prevent hygiene-related illnesses, hence reducing dropout rates.

Map



Implementation

As with all our projects, the local community will be involved in the construction process. Involvement of the community is critical, as it encourages a stronger sense of ownership over the project. The community will contribute by backfilling the foundation, wood for scaffolding, and sand and water for construction. A local contractor will be hired to manage the labour and transportation of materials, oversee the construction, and arrange for the needed school furniture. Payments will be made in instalments according to the progress of the construction with 10% of the total labour cost held back for 12 months, as a guarantee for the quality of the work. The teachers' salaries and training are supported and managed by the government. The school management and the community have agreed to maintain and manage the facility after completion. We consider this a low risk project, but we will have to allow for potential delays during the construction, as the road condition is quite poor during the rainy season and access could be impeded. Construction is scheduled to begin in February 2021 and is targeted to be completed in September 2021.

Photos



The one classroom building built in 1974 is made of substandard materials, fast deteriorating, and in dire need of replacement

Budget

FX: USD 1 = LAK 9,275

Item	LAK	USD	In %
Construction Materials	216,945,000	23,390	52
Interior Equipment & Furniture	38,500,000	4,151	9
Labour Cost	120,000,000	12,938	28
Implementation & Monitoring Cost	15,643,542	1,687	4
Administration Overhead	29,436,772	3,174	7
Total Budget	420,525,314	45,340	100



The classrooms are very cramped creating a chaotic and loud environment for the young students



The integrity of the buildings presents severe safety risks to the students and teachers



The concrete building with five classrooms built in 2011 is still in good condition