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## SCHOOL ROOM COMPLETION REPORT

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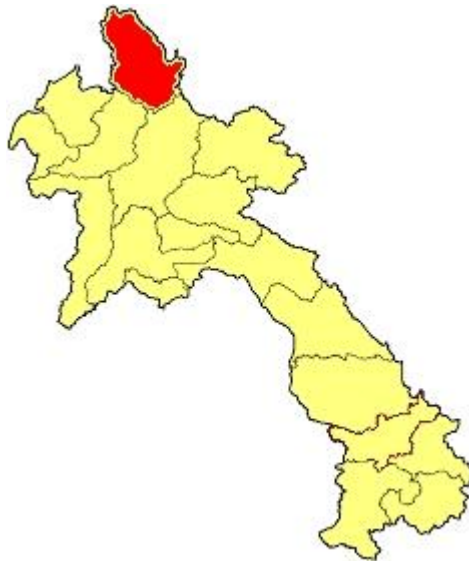
### Overview

Project ID #: **LA-SR-09-0016**  
Name of School or Community: **Phiangdokkham Complete Primary School**

### Location

**Village/City:** Phiangdokkham  
**District/Zone:** Bounneur  
**State/Province:** Phongsaly  
**Country:** Laos

**Description:** Phiangdokkham Complete Primary School is located in the eastern section of Bounneur District, on Road No. 4. The school is 865 km north of the Room to Read (RtR) Country Office in Vientiane, a 15.5 h drive from the capital. It is 45 km (2 h) from the Phongsaly Provincial Education Service (PES) office and 5 km (25 min) from the Bounneur District Education Bureau (DEB) office.



Lao PDR, Phongsaly Province is indicated in red

### Student/Teacher Information

NUMBER OF STUDENTS/CHILDREN		NUMBER OF TEACHERS	
Female:	68	Female:	7
Male:	<u>104</u>	Male:	<u>0</u>
TOTAL:	172	TOTAL:	7

**GRADE/LEVEL OF STUDENTS:** Grades 1 through 5

## Community / School Profile

Phiangdokkham Village is located in the northern part of Laos and is accessible by road in both dry and wet seasons. The village contains 156 households with a total population of 487, of whom 245 are female. The people living here belong primarily to the Ekor and Phou Noy ethnic groups. Trade with China is the primary driver of the economy since Bounneur District shares a border with the Unan District of China. The main occupation is rice farming, supplemented by raising livestock and growing foodstuffs such as watermelon, sugar cane, and peanuts that are exported to China. The weather is generally good all year round and the winter is quite cool, with temperatures in December to March ranging from 0 – 5 degrees (Celsius). Winter is followed by a dry season from April to May. Houses are constructed primarily of wood, bamboo, and concrete and vary in style according to the ethnicity of their inhabitants. The village has communal toilets, access to water, but no electricity. The area also offers beautiful scenery for sightseeing as well as interesting cultural attractions.

The Ho Chi Minh trail, part of which runs through Laos, was a major target for American bombs during the Vietnam War. As a result, many provinces in Laos were heavily bombed and/or covered with landmines. Phongsaly Province was less affected by the Vietnam War than some other provinces in Laos, but a certificate from the government certifying that all unexploded ordnance (UXO) has been removed from the area is still required for all construction sites.

## Current Situation and Reason for Support

The Phiangdokkham Complete Primary School is located in Phiangdokkham Village and serves students from two villages. The school has four buildings, three of which are temporary structures built by the community using locally available materials. These latter buildings, made of wood and bamboo with sheet metal roofs and dirt floors, are in very poor condition. The villagers would like to provide a better learning environment for their children by building a more robust school. Currently, the school accommodates only grades 1 – 3 and students have to travel some 5 km to continue in grades 4 and 5. After completion of the new building, this school will become a Complete Primary School next year and will serve students in grades 1 - 5.

## Date Established

October 2, 2009

## Project Details

Construction of Phiangdokkham Complete Primary School was started on May 26, 2009. It was co-funded by Room to Read and the Phiangdokkham community with strong support from the PES, the DEB, and the district governor's office. The building took five months to complete with labor provided by 1,200 volunteers from the community and was ready for use on October 2, 2009. This building replaced the old school, a building that was in poor condition. The new building covers an area 28m long x 8m wide and is a sturdy, four room brick structure erected on a concrete foundation, with steel-reinforced ground and roof beams and a green sheet metal roof supported by a hardwood frame. The building exterior has been painted a cream color with purple trim on the window shutters. Each of the classrooms is 6m x 7m in size and has a painted white interior, a wood ceiling, and windows with hardwood shutters. The building is equipped with two bathrooms. Three rooms are used as classrooms, serving students in grades 1 - 5 and the remaining room serves as the library.

## Resources Provided

### **Challenge Grant Provided by Community - 24.91% of total**

Construction Materials; Fence; Land; Skilled Labor; Sponsor Opening Ceremony; Volunteer Labor

### **Provided by Room to Read - 75.09% of total**

Educational Materials

Blackboard; Building Design; Chair - Students; Chair - Teacher; Construction Materials; Construction Tools; Desk - Students; Desk - Teacher; Monitoring and Support; Skilled Labor; Sponsor Opening Ceremony; Transportation of Materials

### **Trainings**

Basic Construction Techniques; Financial Management; Specialized Construction Techniques

## Comments

Speaking on behalf of the people of Phiangdokkham Village, we are very pleased and proud that RtR is so aware of the importance of education that it brought the school room program to our village. Everyone in the community clearly understands RtR's Challenge Grant policy and the importance of a community contribution to the project. We promise to maintain this school to keep it clean and we will motivate parents who have school age children to enroll them in school.

Finally, we would like to express our sincere thanks to RtR and to everyone else who contributed to making this project a success. We also wish RtR's staff a long, healthy life and continued success in their work.

Thank you.

Phiangdokkham community

Photos



New toilets



A smiling boy displays his new gloves



The library room in the new school



Overview of the new school building



Children in math class



The dedication plaque for the new school