

## Don Pung Secondary School Xaignabouli Province, Laos



<b>Grant Category:</b>	Education
<b>Implementing Agency:</b>	Child's Dream Foundation
<b>Project Status:</b>	Completed
<b>Start Date:</b>	Dec 2010
<b>Completion Date:</b>	May 2011

### Project Description

Construction of new fully equipped classrooms and sanitary facilities to accommodate 120 current students aged 13 to 18.

### Objective

Reconstruction of the school through a collaborative community led process to ensure the construction of a school that suits the needs of students and ensures a sense of community ownership.

### Impact

The safe, hygienic school has proven conducive to learning with attendance rates rising and the rate of students going on to high school increasing.

Due to the success of the new school, the Provincial Office for Education has agreed to an upgrade a seven level high school. The government will fund the construction of an additional building to house the 3 new levels, as student numbers are likely to rise to 200.

Governmental recognition is a significant achievement for the school and the local community and ensures students do not have to travel for two hours to attend high school.

### Background

Poor education remains one of the key constraints for the reduction of poverty in many parts of Laos. The governments' education policy provides free education for all up to secondary school, however a lack of safe buildings, trained teachers and teaching materials limits the effectiveness of the policy.

Don Pung is a village in North East Laos, with a population of 455 predominantly minority "Khamu" people. The town has limited resources but built the original Secondary School in 1997 and with the support of the Ministry of Education and Asian Development Bank's Second Education Project a new boarding school was constructed in 2007.

However, in 2008 a severe storm destroyed the school forcing classes to be held in the boarding house with limited space and no desks or chairs.

The school is an important institution not only in the village but also in a much wider area, as it is the only secondary school in the valley, drawing both local students and children from an adjoining province across the Mekong.