

# dāna asia

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<b>Grant Category:</b>	Education
<b>Project Name:</b>	Long Kang Nursery and Primary School, Champasak, Laos
<b>Implementing Partner:</b>	Child's Dream Foundation
<b>Project Status:</b>	Completed
<b>Start Date:</b>	Mar 2011
<b>Completion Date:</b>	Oct 2011

### Project Update

The construction of new school was completed three months ahead of schedule in July 2011. The new school incorporates five fully equipped classrooms including one for the nursery and accommodates 198 students, 160 in grades 1-5, 38 in the nursery and 8 teachers.



### Project Objective

Replacement of the unsafe, poorly resourced 45-year-old school building with a new one developed through a collaborative community lead process to ensure the construction of a school that suits the needs of the students and ensures a sense of community ownership.

### Project Impact

The new safe, secure, well-equipped school has boosted both educational performance and attendance at school with a resultant decrease in dropout rates. These improvements should result in increased participation in education at higher levels.

The construction of additional classrooms will also accommodate the anticipated growth in the student population.



### Budget vs Actual

The budget was estimated with a buffer due to volatility in raw materials prices, and was implemented under budget.

Item	Budget (US\$)	Actual (US\$)	Deviation
Construction Materials	31,823	23,681	8,142
Interior Equip	4,187	3,903	284
Labour	5,631	4,894	737
Transport	1,325	0	1,325
Project Admin	1,289	1,069	220
Admin	3,098	3,170	-72
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>47,352</b>	<b>36,717</b>	<b>10,635</b>

### Project Description

Long Kang School is situated in Don Than village on an island in the district of Meung Khong. The community of 500 relies on agriculture and fishing for their income earning around US\$2/day.

The School was established nearly 100 years ago and continues to play a vital role in the education of children from five surrounding villages on the many islands of the district.

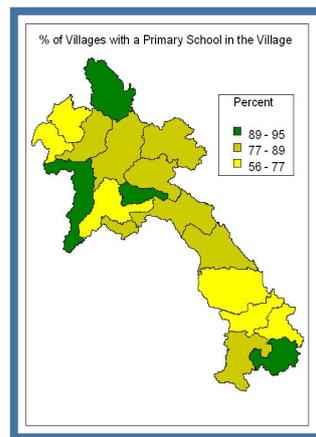


The school consists of two buildings, one built 45 years ago and a second constructed with government support in 2003. The new building is not large enough to accommodate the student population resulting in classes being held in the older unsafe and poorly equipped building.

### Background

Education is a fundamental human right and essential for the exercise of all other human rights according to UNESCO.

Literacy rates in Laos average 73% with 83% of males and only 63% of females able to read and write. 51% of household heads and 71% of their spouses have no or incomplete primary education according to the World Food Program, and only 21% of heads have more than primary education. Ethnic minorities lag behind these levels with estimates of up to 60% of heads and 80% of spouses having no schooling.



The World Food Program assessment of national statistics indicates a rise in school enrolments and decrease in dropout rates and repetition due to the government school building program in remote areas and private sector participation. However, 30% of girls and 15% of boys over 6 have never attended school due to a continued lack of primary schools in some areas.