

Education Project School Renovations in Laos

Project Summary

The Social and Economic Developers Association (SEDA), Laos, is launching a fundraising campaign to raise the money needed to renovate three schools in the remote Southern Provinces on Laos.

The project will pay for the renovations of the schools, and the provision of basic school supplies and materials, including desks, chairs and blackboards.

The three have requested SEDA's assistance and have been evaluated and selected as the focus of this project because they are some of the poorest and most dilapidated schools in the region.

Over 1000 children, from up to twenty villages, will benefit from this project.

Background Information

Many schools in rural Laos suffer from neglect and lack of funds. The buildings are unsafe and unsuitable for teaching children. In the worst cases, schools may be simple bamboo huts, with dirt floors, no desk or chairs and no blackboard.

In the rainy season children are forced to stand for lessons, as the roofs are unable to keep water out. Some classrooms become flooded during heavy storms and are unusable. In schools with electricity, the wiring is often unsafe, particularly when it rains.

SEDA has traveled to three schools in the Southern Provinces that are in desperate need of renovations and supplies.

According to AusAid, "educational statistics in Laos are poor and national budget allocations to the sector are amongst the lowest in the world." With poor infrastructure and minimal spending, education and literacy rates remain poor.

The fight against poverty in Laos relies on good education – the children of today will build the Laos of tomorrow, and we need to equip them to build a bright future.

Funding Information

SEDA aims to raise \$50,000 to complete the renovations for all three schools. The donated funds will pay for building materials and school supplies, such as desks and chairs, and the villages will provide the manual labour.

Breakdown of costs:

- \$15 dollars will pay for a fan for a classroom
- \$20 will pay for a good quality blackboard and a supply of chalk for a classroom
- \$50 will pay for safe electrical wiring for one classroom
- \$100 will pay for a desk and two chairs for children
- \$200 will pay for the floor of one classroom to be concreted

Project Message

"It is hard for people in the West to imagine just how bad the schools in Laos are. Things that you take for granted, such as desks and chairs, are considered a luxury here. How are the children supposed to learn without these basic things? Please help us."

Souly QuachAngkham, Director/Founder