



THE  
HUMPTY DUMPTY INSTITUTE  
PUTTING THE PIECES BACK TOGETHER

# Laos Communiqué

## Project Review

### Project Highlights

- 80% attendance rate in all 110 schools in the province
- 21% increase in school attendance by girls
- 13% increase in school attendance by boys
- 1,825,928 school meals served
- Over 2,232,000 square-meters of land cleared for sustainable food security
- 75 schools certified clear of unexploded ordnance
- 47,767 take-home rations distributed to parents of children attending school
- 82 school gardens planted
- 105 school improvement projects completed

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### Laos project expands

As HDI begins phase two of its UXO clearance and school feeding and rehabilitation project in Laos, it is already building on the impressive accomplishments completed in phase one. The removal of UXO coupled with our educational development project has brought renewed hope to the people of Khammoune province. The children we feed now have a better chance for educational advancement and the land we clear has made large areas available for cultivation, and provided new and safer access to schools.

In the school feeding and education component of our project, we have served over 1,825,928 nutritious daily snacks. Since the project began, over 47,000 take home rations have been provided to 13,000 children as incentives to stay in school. All 110 schools in the program reported that all students attended at least 80 percent of classes. We have also made great strides in the school improvement and garden component with 105 projects completed in 2008. 82 school gardens have been planted with 63 already providing food to supplement HDI's daily school feeding. Of the 110 schools targeted for this

activity, 92 have received seeds and tools; 22 wells have been drilled or dug and are operating; and over 6,330 students in 69 schools have received donations of school supplies including paper, pencils, erasers and other items. Moreover, an additional activity this year is the planting of fruit trees in orchards named after the mother of HDI Spokesperson Mary Wilson (of the original Supremes). Johnnie Mae's Orchards have now been planted at 23 schools.

With regard to the removal of unexploded bombs, we have cleared over 2.2 million m<sup>2</sup> since the project began, and destroyed nearly 4,000 UXO. 275 school and agricultural sites have been cleared of unexploded bombs in phase 1 of the project.

HDI, with its partners, International Relief and Development (IRD) and the Mines Advisory Group (MAG), continue to seek out new and innovative ways to enhance the reach of our Laos project. In this regard, we are pleased to announce that we will be receiving an additional 10,000 school and hygiene kits through Deseret International Charities for children partici-



Girls receiving mid morning snack



Children at Johnnie Mae's Orchard, named for the mother of HDI Spokesperson Mary Wilson



US Ambassador to Laos Rovic Huso watches UXO clearance

pating in our project. As we begin the second phase of our project, we anticipate that another 4,000 students will benefit bringing the total number of beneficiaries to 17,000.

### Putting the Pieces Back Together

The Humpty Dumpty Institute forges innovative public-private partnerships to find creative solutions to difficult humanitarian problems through a series of unique programs. Currently, HDI's mandate is to remove landmines and unexploded bombs around the world, help alleviate domestic and international hunger and foster dialogue between the United Nations and the U.S. Congress.



### SOME NUMBERS TO NOTE:

#### During the “secret” bombing campaign between 1964 and 1973;

- One B-52 dropped its load of bombs every eight minutes, 24 hours a day for nine years
- 580,000 bombing missions were flown over Laos
- 55,200 bombing missions were flown over Khammoune province, the site of our program
- 260 million sub-munitions bombs were dropped
- 78 million bombs failed to explode
- 37% of Laos’s agricultural land has been made unsafe by unexploded bombs
- 80% of the Laotian population is involved in agriculture
- 12,000 unexploded bomb-related accidents have occurred since 1973
- 387,645 unexploded bombs have been destroyed between 1996 and 2008

## Highlight on Water Supply and Sanitation

As part of the school facilities improvement component of our project, water supply and sanitation activities add value in bringing safer educational opportunities to the children we serve in Khammoune Province. From water systems for schools and communities for cooking, washing and irrigation, to latrines for improved sanitation, the progress in health and hygiene can be measured in children’s ability to remain healthier and stay in school. 22 wells were drilled in the first phase of the project, 6 wells were dug, and 3 gravity fed water systems were constructed. In phase two, we plan 33 more drilled wells, 3 dug wells and 9 gravity-fed water systems. Latrines have been constructed in 34 villages in phase one. 37 latrines will be constructed community schools in phase two. In addition, water tanks for hand washing have been installed in the villages receiving latrines. Supporting these activities are community based health and hygiene promotion training for teachers through the use of an innovative program using materials provided by UNICEF called the Blue Box, which uses games to support health education.



Students collecting water from the project provided well to water the garden.



Latrine block in Phonkham village

Kaengyalouan is a village of 230 people situated in the northern part of Boualapha district, Khammouane Province. There is one primary school with 44 students. In the past, the village did not grow enough rice to sustain themselves in the dry season. It did not have enough water for all of the residents.

In 2007, MAG, HDI’s mine clearance partner, cleared UXO so that a gravity-fed system could be built for the students and villagers to pipe fresh water to the local

school and the village.

Mr. Boualai, Chief of the village relates how this intervention affected his village:

*“This is the first development project in our village since the war ended (1973). Now the village and school have water. The gravity-fed water system is very useful for students when they are in school. They have established a garden to grow vegetables on the school grounds, and when their vegetables grow they can take it home or sell.*

*The life of villagers and students is getting better and more comfortable, and on behalf of the villagers many thanks to HDI and its partners IRD and MAG for helping my villagers. We will have better life because of these improvements”.*



A villager uses the new gravity fed water system in Kaengyalouan Village