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HUMPTY DUMPTY INSTITUTE  
PUTTING THE PIECES BACK TOGETHER

*The HDI 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 improve U.S.-U.N. relations, to support mine-action programs around the world, and to help alleviate both domestic and international hunger.*

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# Laos Communiqué

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Students posing with peanuts from school garden

In the summer of 2009 HDI began phase two of its UXO clearance and school feeding and rehabilitation project, building on the impressive accomplishments completed in phase one. These accomplishments include:

- Fostering a safer educational environment for schoolchildren by clearing unexploded ordnance (UXO) from school sites;
- Increasing school attendance rates, particularly among girls, by providing nutritional meals as incentives;
- Improving learning resources by providing school supplies, teacher training, and improved school facilities; and

Establishing school gardens to ensure that nutritional school feeding continues after the project is finished.

The removal of UXO linked with our educational development project has brought more and safer opportunities 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 2.5 million nutritious daily snacks. Since the project began, over 65,000 take home rations have been provided to 17,000 children as incentives to stay in school. All 109 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 151 projects completed to date in 2009. School gardens have been planted with many already providing food to supplement HDI's daily school feeding. Of the 109 schools targeted for this activity, over 100 have received seeds and tools; 35 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 donated by LDS Charities.

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. Due to the use of improved mine detection equipment allowing for faster clearance, we have increased our clearance output by 225% from October, 2008.



Completing the construction of the water pump in the school ground for the gravity-fed water system in Thongkong Village