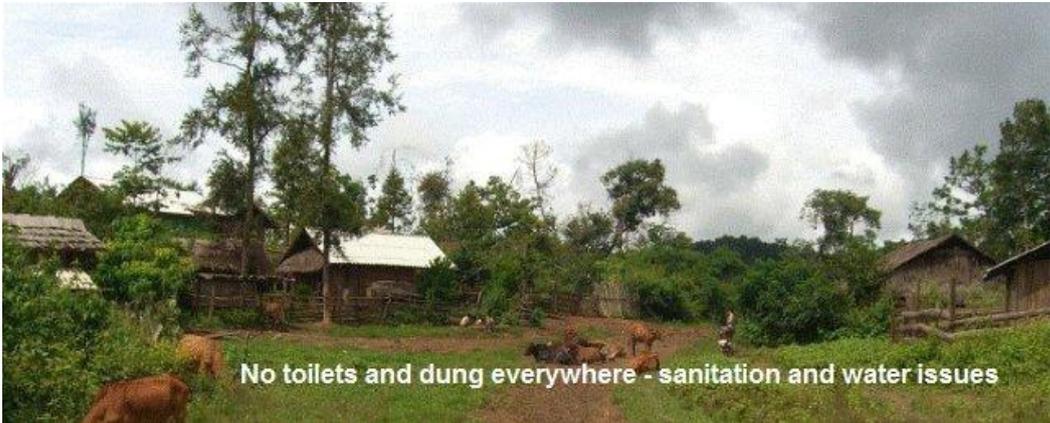
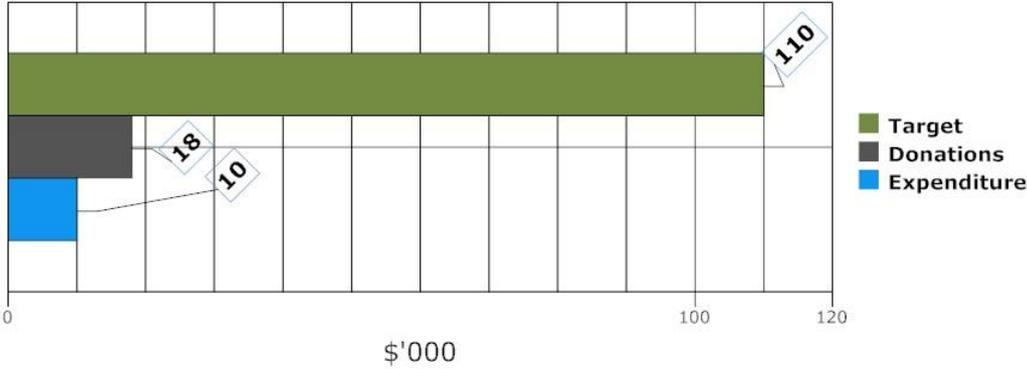




# The Latest News On The Ban Xai Project



Ban Xai Project





## ***New To The Ban Xai Project Then Here's A Brief Introduction***

### ***Picture - Pedestrian Bridge in Wet Season***

After clearing two minefields at Ban Xai, the village council sought assistance for several village projects. When we agreed to help, we sat down together to develop joint project goals. That approach resulted in villagers identifying with and taking ownership of the project and led to them pushing for government support at district, provincial and national levels. Consequently, government officials at all levels have expedited the approval process and supported MiVAC in every way possible.

[View the detail of the project.](#)

## ***You Are Making A Difference***

### ***Picture - Some of the Jars on Plaine des Jarres***

Have a look at the grapp above! When we commenced the Ban Xai project we appealed to members for help. Many have responded with cash donations which have enabled us to start construction of the facilities building which will be handed over to the village on completion of the project. Work is being undertaken by local labour and materials will be sourced as close to Ban Xai as possible to assist the local economy.



## ***A Great Offer Has Come In!***

### ***Picture: The grinding mill for 22 families in Hinmou Pueng***

David Murray will cycle around Australia for MiVAC. He is a Vietnam vet, super fit, retired, and has a bit of time on his hands. He feels the best way he can leverage that time is to raise money for MiVAC. Planning is well under way for the ride and we would be keen to hear from members who can provide accommodation or accompany David for part of the way - in a car.

## ***News From The Field***

### ***Picture: Watch this space - virgin area for Facilities Building.***

Steve Carroll, a MiVAC Trustee, has been in Ban Xai hob nobbing with Xiengkhouang's Deputy Governor who has asked MiVAC to look at an even poorer village than Ban Xai when the project is complete.

During Steve's visit he confirmed that the supply of water is a huge issue despite the extreme wet and has organised for the facilities building to be built starting 20 Nov 2011. Steve and his wife plan to live and work there for 3 months starting in April 2012. Are you interested in joining them?





### ***Here's A Story From Ban Xai***

Picture - This is an 11 year old Hmong girl. She weighs about 20 kilos. She arrived at the Water Point with this 20 litre square drum. She undid the lid and proceeded to fill up the drum - it now weighs 20 Kilos. I wondered what she was going to do next! She manoeuvred the drum up to that ledge behind her. With a wrap of cloth going around the drum and her shoulders she bent forward and took the weight of the drum onto her hips. Then, bent double, she carried the water several hundred metres to her home. Is it any wonder why we see so many people in Asia bent double - permanently?

### ***Action and Needs***

So John, know that this is the third of the updates about the Ban Xai project in Xiengkhouang Province in Lao PDR (formerly Laos).

If you have any fund raising ideas or you can organise a fund raiser like a backyard BBQ or a Progressive Dinner then let us know by replying to this email and we can help with Information, Pictures, DVD, and Pamphlets.

For direct donations please go to [www.mivactrust.org](http://www.mivactrust.org) or send your donation to The Secretary, MiVAC Trust, PO Box 967, Sandy Bay TAS 7006.

**Please remember to add something in the BLOG.**

We want you to forward this News Bulletin to others and encourage them to join MiVAC at [www.mivactrust.org](http://www.mivactrust.org).

**Take action - you can assist!**

From the Ban Xai Team