



Selecting new projects

How do we select projects to undertake?

Any member may nominate a project for the consideration of the Trustees through the Project Officer.

Members are also encouraged to participate in fieldwork and are invited to visit and review projects

Goals for 2010/11

• Demining Khangpunghor 2 minefield

Next we will clear Khangpunghor 2 minefield near to the previous field cleared at Ban Xai. This minefield is also recognised as a 'killer' minefield. Estimated cost US\$62,000.

• Training of women deminers

In this undertaking, female deminers will be trained to Level 4 status which will provide employment and job skills in an area where few job prospects exist. Income earned by the women will provide some financial stability for their families. Estimated cost US\$17,000.

• Further development at Ko Hai village

In November, a team of MiVAC volunteers will oversee the construction of toilets, a clean water supply and dormitory accommodation at the school to assist the village's continued development. Approximate cost is US\$8,000.

• Joint venture with RENEW in Vietnam

Plans are well advanced to partner with RENEW in Vietnam to train local personnel in demining techniques in heavily contaminated Quant Tri Province. .



Annual Report

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The way forward

2010 has proven a successful year for MiVAC.

New projects in Lao PDR have spurred MiVAC to raise a record level of donations and this trend is expected to continue for several years.

We will now move into new projects in Vietnam and Cambodia.

While some projects will be undertaken directly by MiVAC other projects will be undertaken in partnership with local NGO's leveraging the economic and social benefits to local communities.

2011 will prove another challenging year as we move forward.

MiVAC's mission.

MiVAC's objects and purpose are to provide assistance and support to the survivors of and other persons affected by mine warfare so that they may be relieved of conditions of poverty, sickness, suffering, distress, destitution, helplessness or any other effects of mine warfare and without limiting the generality of the foregoing:

a. to provide care of individuals and communities identified as being victims of mine warfare, in the form of food, clothing, personal necessities, money or whatever other form the Trustees in their sole and absolute discretion consider appropriate

b. to provide care of individuals who have been rendered orphans, homeless or destitute as a result of mine warfare and to provide such refuges, shelters, homes, institutions and other places of care as the Trustees in their sole and absolute discretion consider appropriate

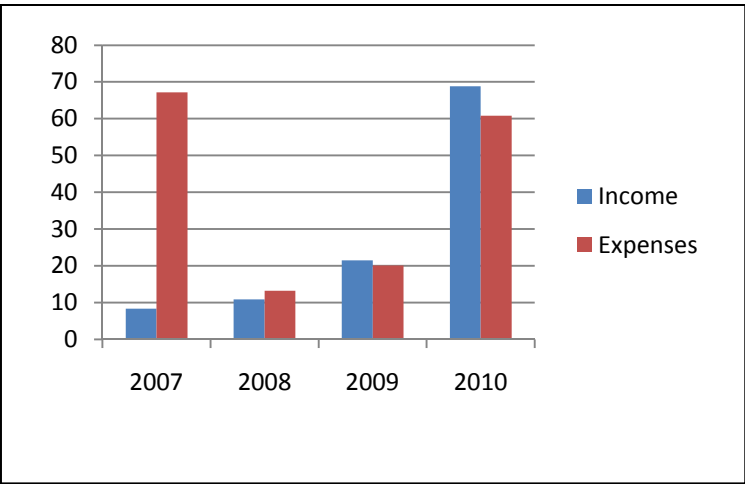
c. to encourage and support counselling (for the provision of a positive emotional and social response but not limited to these aims) and to support education

(to promote the enhancement of self esteem, self confidence, self motivation, individual responsibility and an awareness of the needs and rights of others but not limited to these aims) for persons directly or indirectly affected by mine warfare;

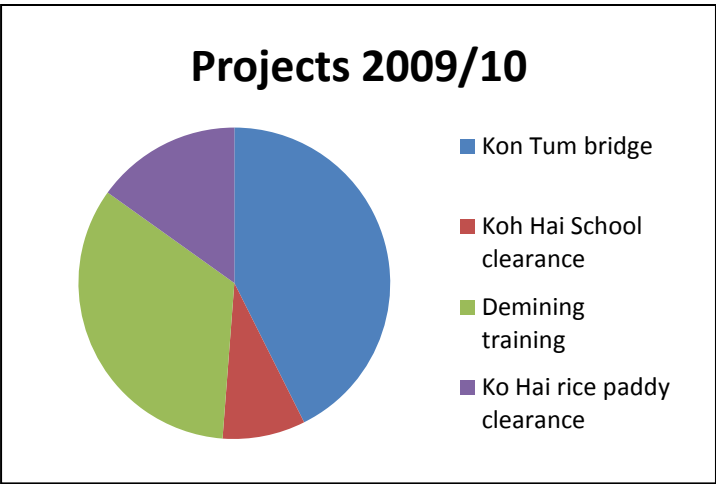
d. to provide medical assistance to the survivors or other persons affected by mine warfare in such manner as the Trustees shall from time to time in their sole discretion determine;

e. to assist in funding land mine clearance teams or to provide funding for land mine clearance teams including the provision of equipment and training in order to facilitate the clearance of land mines in areas identified as requiring clearance;

f. to do such other acts or things as the Trustees may in their sole discretion consider appropriate to assist the survivors of or other persons affected by mine warfare or the laying of mines



In 2006 the Tasmanian State government granted MiVAC \$50K to rebuild the orphanage at Batticaloa. This grant was expended in 2007 as shown above.



The above pie graph shows how the relative expenditure on projects for 2009/10.

Fundraising

The foundation of any group like MiVAC is how well it raises funds from the public. In the past year a growing awareness of what MiVAC does and how efficiently it achieves its goals has attracted new donors to help us achieve our mission. In the past year we have spread our message to service organizations and this programme will be extended to RSL sub-branches and church groups. Several donors have also come onboard and in this regard we would like to thank Bio Distributors, Mojo Communications and Dick Smith. Members too show their commitment to MiVAC's work through both monetary and in-kind donations. We would also like to acknowledge the contributions that Sister Pak Poy has motivated to MiVAC. In the past the wide distribution has undermined the holding of events. However, increased membership is overcoming this challenge and several events are planned in during 2010/ 2011.



What MiVAC accomplished in 2009/10

Members' commitment to MiVAC has enabled us to complete the following projects in 2009/10



Demining training

Ten women from Houy Kong were trained to Level 1 UXO technician level. Some will now be selected for further training up to Level 4. This training is aimed at merging demining needs wider socioeconomic goals such as employment creation, income generation, gender equality, skills transfer and capacity building. Additionally ten men from Taoi were also trained during the year with the goal of increasing UXO detection skills at the local level. Training continues to be a focus for MiVAC as the spinoff benefits in local employment, empowerment and gaining control over UXO clearance in local areas for local villagers are great. With these programmes complete successfully in 20010, MiVAC will enage in more training programmes over the coming years mindful of the social and economic differences they make.

Jackfruit Crossing

Three villages housing around 1600 ethnic Bahmnar and several orphanages were cut off from markets and health facilities by a tributary of Dak Bla River which flooded at the onset of the monsoon season each year. MiVAC partners with a American NGO, East Meets West Foundation to build a culvert to give year round access to markets, schools hospitals and other facilities.

Available on the other side of the river. The bridge has now been completed and local report they cross the river without danger.

facilities available on the other side of the river. The bridge has now been completed and locals can now cross the river without danger year round. No longer are cut off from the world for six months of the year



Ko Hai School

A clearance team travelling to a project in southern Lao stopped beside the school in Ko Hai Village and that led to a sequence of continuing

"We can't change the whole world but we can make a whole lot of difference to a bit of it."

projects. First teachers asked for removal of bombs from the playground as four children had died right in the playground in the previous two years.

MiVAC funded the clearance the playground as well as a site for a future high school but discovered a highly dangerous cache of munitions in a nearby rice paddy directly behind the school. Nine hectares of this rice paddy was cleared as a mattur of urgency as not only were there many UXO's in the rice paddy but villagers had stockpiled munitions on top of a 250 pound bomb 'out of harm's way.



Administration

Changes during the past year have witnessed the introduction of a more robust accounting system. Any member wanting information on any aspect of MiVAC's revenue or expenditure should ask any Trustee as we are aiming to full accountability and transparency to all members. The year has also seen the implementation of new child protection, anti-terrorism financing and volunteer policies. Although we are not legally bound to enforce these policies, they have been introduced as a matter of good working practice and will be followed by all volunteers.

PR

Work is well advanced on a new website being designed by ex-Engineer Daryl Westrup which will be up and running by year end. During the year Sandy MacGregor and Luc Verbeeck, a Belgian documentary maker, travelled to Lao PDR to shoot a documentary on MiVAC's work there. This documentary is currently in the editing phase and should be finished by our AGM John Laws and Dick Smith have both given interview for inclusion on our website in support of MiVAC. Sandy also appeared on the ABC's Macca All Over after the launch of Beneath Hill 60.

Membership

Many new members have joined in the past year mainly due to increased publicity in the community and from members forward our newsletter to potential members. Annual fees were introduced during the year and these will both help defray internal administration costs and enable donations to continue to be channeled into our overseas projects. The number of members who have travelled to project sites during the past year to see what we are achieving has increased substantially. That trend is set to continue in the year ahead.

Replacing.....

What was.....

Over and above the whole gamut of UXO's , extremely dangerous Bouncing Betty M16's and almost undetectable M14's have prevented local villagers from using their land. Moreover, villagers have been exposed to death and injury by accidentally detonating mines and UXO's or from injuries sustained while attempting to collect scrap metal from UXO's Removing these threats not only protects locals but offers new hone for the future

.....with what is now

- UXO clearance is the first step to
- Agircultural programmes to enable villagers to plant crops year round
 - Clean water to source water supplies and ensure wells are hygienic
 - Installation of biodigesters to provide cooking gas and reduce deforestation
 - Refurbishment of local facilities such as schools and clinics.

Vale
Mike Roberts

Sadly on March 26th 2010, one of MiVAC's staunchest supporters, Mike Roberts passed away. Mike spent his last years in Cambodia where he oversaw projects at Tum Nub, Kampi and Krati. One of Mike's outstanding achievements during this time was to mentor the establishment of the Cambodian Rural Development Team. To Mike's credit, this group has gone on to become self-sufficient and to fulfil their purpose in a number of rural projects. Mike spent his latter time in Cambodia at Kai's village orphanage helping complete several projects to help the orphanage become self-sustaining. His innovative but practical approach to challenges in the field earned him respect wherever he went. Mike will be sorely missed by his family, his children at Kai's village, CRDT and the members of MiVAC.