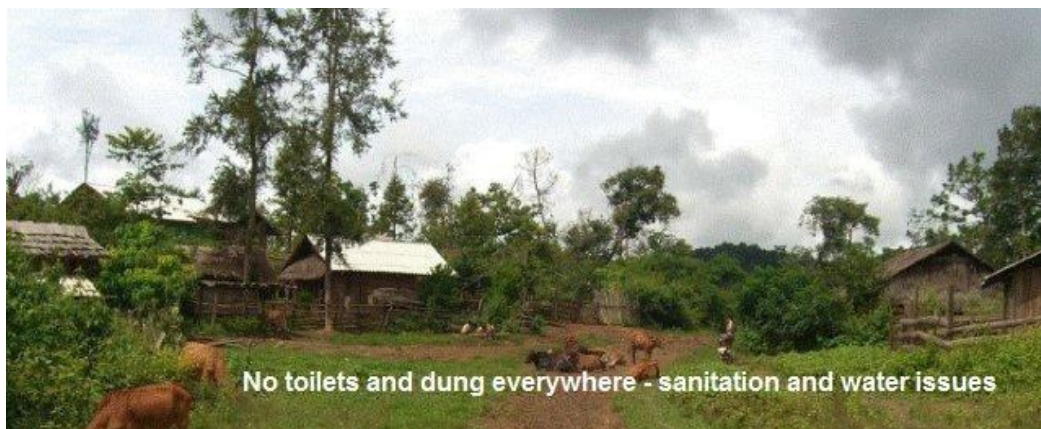


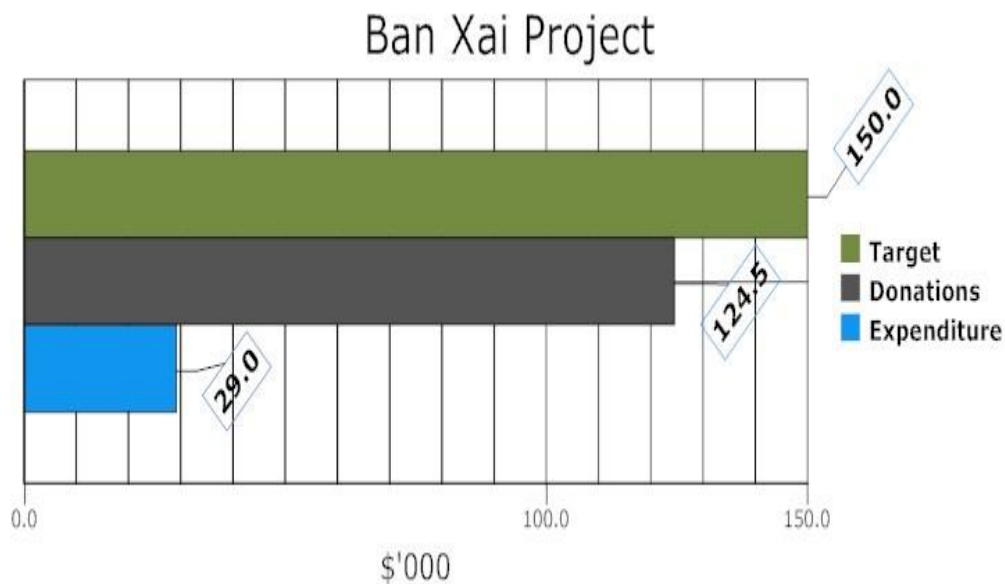


# The Latest News On The Ban Xai Project

23 Feb 2012



THERE HAS BEEN SOME FUNDS RAISED - WE WILL DEFINITELY HAVE AN UPDATE IN MARCH





### ***New to MiVAC- Read This First***

***Picture - Hmong at their New Year Celebrations - notice all the umbrellas.***

If you are new to this particular News Bullitin then you could look at some history in previous editions. You will find them under NEWS at the [MiVAC website](#). Furthermore you will see much more detail of the Ban Xai project at this link [View the detail of the project.](#)

### ***MiVAC Needs - Some Great Success***

***Picture - Very Basic Furniture at this primary school with a dirt floor.***

We have a new Treasurer, a News Letter Editor, A PR and Marketing Advisor, and a Project Volunteers Coordinator - so well done and thank you for the response.

We are still looking for:

#### **Membership committee**

People to coordinate the membership list and communicate with existing and members regarding their contributions to MiVAC.

#### **Google Docs administrator**

A member who can oversee the uploading and sharing of documents and calendars on Google Documents / Calendars and can assist members to learn how to use these resources.



### ***More Minefields Around Ban***

***Xai Picture: Here is the Minefield Clearance Team finishing off K2 Minefield at Ban Xai***

We thought there were 4 Minefields just North of the Road at Ban Xai. How wrong we are! Phoenix Clearance Limited were finishing off clearing K2 Minefield for MiVAC when they were told of 40 cattle having their leg blown off (and therefore being shot). Furthermore, in the rainy season, the locals could see the M14 Mines sticking out above the ground.

What we are doing about this is a longer range plan. Our plan is to call tenders to clear these minefields - one at a time (hopefully being supported by Rotary in WA) and the asking for assistance from Ausaid for finance.

## News From The Field



**Picture: A Sketch of a Biogas System**

One of the main aspects in the project at Ban Xai is the construction of biogas systems which will produce methane gas for cooking, heating and lighting and the processed product will be used for market gardens. Whilst Peter Moroney has developed a biogas system to be built at Ban Xai which is slightly different to the one above the essentials are the same.

Starting from the left of the picture you will see penned cattle. These cattle are penned at night so that their dung can be collected - and this along with pig dung is the raw material for the biogas system. The next picture shows the farmer mixing the dung with water and the entrance pipe leading to the bottom of the biogas system. As the dung enters the system there is also a discharge of the processed dung (being less dense) seen on the right hand side of the system.

In the system Methane Gas is given off and funnelled to those taps in the centre of the Dome. Then there is a piped system of gas running to the farmers house.

Now look at the right hand side of the picture. Notice the discharge of the processed dung being collected in a pit of some sort and then used on the market gardens at the extreme right of the picture.



*Some*

## Planning

**Picture** - When you arrive at the Phonsavan Airport have a look at the picture on the wall and see how many interesting things there are to do in Xiengkhouang.

**Sandy MacGregor will be in Ban Xai with the new Project Manager on 2 - 5 March and then in Vientiane for 4 days negotiating with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.**

**MiVAC's Project Manager, Steve Carroll, and his wife Doreen will be arriving in Vientiane on 18 Mar and will be in Ban Xai for 14 weeks. We will see some progress when Steve arrives!**

**The first of the volunteers arrive in Vientiane in the third week of April (this is the rainy season so lets hope the rain is late.)**

So John, know that this is the seventh of the updates about the Ban Xai project in Xiengkhouang Province in Lao PDR (formerly Laos). Please forward this News Bulletin to others and encourage them to join and donate to MiVAC at <http://www.mivactrust.org/>.

**Take action - you can assist!**

From the Ban Xai Team

