

UNITED STATES AID MISSION TO LAOS

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 9, 1973

TO : Mr. Charles A. Mann, Director *NW Green*  
FROM : Norman W. Green, Chief, Education Division  
SUBJECT: Education Division Monthly Report, March 1973

School Statistics

The Ministry has just published the official complete school statistics for the 1971-72 school year. A copy of the 200 page report is available in EDU for those interested.

Attached to this report is a graph showing 1971-72 enrollment figures for Grades 1-13 in Lao public schools. Laos still has a distorted educational pyramid, affected somewhat by 30,000 refugee children in the lower grades, but the following comparative figures show progress has been made in achieving better proportions in the enrollment distribution in elementary schools.

	<u>1963-64</u> <u>School Year</u>	<u>1971-72</u> <u>School Year</u>
Total enrollment, Grades 1-5	116,785	237,812
Enrollment, Grade 1	57,980	91,751
Percent of Total Enrollment in Grade 1	49.6%	38.5%
Enrollment, Grades 1-3	95,594	117,536
Percent of Total Enrollment in Grades 1-3	81.8%	74.6%

Educational Planning

Mr. Robert Douglass, Vocational Education Advisor with JSOM, Thailand

spent two weeks in Vientiane helping this division and the RLG Director of Technical Education think through staffing needs, total donor support, and other requirements for the development of technical training including training of technical teachers in Laos in the next five years.

The Teacher Training project has also completed a comprehensive review of Lao personnel required by the Normal Schools and the ESP in order to replace foreign staff and to raise the level of instruction, as projected in the next five years.

### Urban Groupes Scolaires

Three more eight-room urban elementary schools have been completed in Paksane Pakse, and the Phou Kheng area of Vientiane City. A similar eight-room school in Sayaboury is the only one of the FY 72-approved projects which is not yet completed. Ten projects approved in FY 73 are in various stages of construction. An eleventh project, at the Wattai Groupe Scolaire in Vientiane, is being supported by the Asian Christian Service. Ten new projects have been proposed for FY 74 under the current five-year development plan.

### Refugee Schools

Activity Plans are being prepared by the Pakse staff for the rehabilitation of the groupe scolaire and the PSI's office in Khongsedone. Plans are also being made to construct an as yet unknown number of temporary classrooms for new refugees from Saravane. Mr. Costantines reports that rehabilitation work on the Kengkok Groupe Scolaire is underway.

Delivery of lumber from local contractors in the Vientiane area has improved and work on several school construction projects is now progressing smoothly. School furniture was also completed at four locations, leaving only two sites to be finished.

CE staff and Ministry officials are working with personnel in Ban Houei Sai to arrange the transfer of about twenty teachers from military to CREC status in the next school year.

### Ministry Personnel

The PS from Sedone Province, Mr. Southeas Khamsingsavath, has been transferred to the Ministry of Education to assume a Deputy Director's position in the Department of Primary Education. This department now has three deputies to handle various aspects of supervision and administration of the expanding elementary and adult education programs.

Nineteen experienced elementary personnel completed six months' training in Thailand - 15 in supervision and 4 in testing. This completes a CE training project started in FY 71 which combined local in-service training with study and observation in Thailand for a total of 29 persons. The goal was to prepare one staff member for each school district to assist the PSI with supervision of classroom instruction and training courses to improve methods of teaching. Those who trained in testing will assist with the continuing reform of the sixth grade final examination and other elementary testing procedures.

### Teachers' Day

Students in schools throughout Laos held ceremonies on March 10 in honor of their teachers. These solemn ceremonies, which are something of a marvel to non-Lao observers, have become a firm annual tradition in the educational program.

### Visit by the AID Administrator

Administrator Hannah inspected the Fa Ngum Vientiane School for about one hour on March 16 during the course of his recent visit to Laos. He obviously enjoyed talking with a number of the students and faculty at the school. The Administrator stated that underdeveloped countries need schools such as the Fa Ngum High School for their brightest young people, but we must seek alternative, less expensive forms of education for the rest.

Educational Materials

Educational Materials completed in February and March:

CE	Ethics, Grade 2	8,000 copies
CE	Ethics, Grade 3	6,000 copies
CE	Ethics, Grade 4	4,000 copies
CE	Ethics, Grade 5	3,000 copies
CE	Ethics, Grade 6	2,000 copies
CE	Notebooks	150,000 copies
SE	Business: Adding Machines	3,000 copies
SE	Advanced Lao Typing	2,000 copies
SE	Horticulture	3,000 copies
SE	Basic Metals	3,000 copies
SE	Machining Metals	3,000 copies
SE	Sheet Metals	3,000 copies

Educational Materials being printed:

CE	Lao Fables, Grades 4-5-6	8,000 copies
CE	Primary School Regulations	10,000 copies
CE	Notebooks (additional)	150,000 copies
AWC/CE	Civics, Grade 4	25,000 copies
AWC/CE	Civics, Grade 5	19,000 copies
AWC/CE	Civics, Grade 6	15,275 copies
SE	Biology	6,000 copies
SE	Lao History	6,000 copies
SE	Business: Accounting II	2,000 copies

Secondary Education Lao language textbooks nearly ready for printing include the following titles: Chemistry, Algebra, Geometry, Mother and Child Care, Business Math, Poultry Production, Study of Thailand, Energy and Electronics, and the Operator's Manual for the John Deere Tractor.

Fa Ngum Pakse School

A waiver has been approved for the off-shore purchase of certain construction materials for the Fa Ngum Pakse School and the problem regarding claims for trees on the school property has been resolved.

OICC states they will go out for bids on the construction in early April and a contractor should be on the site by early May. We expect to have one building ready by the opening of school on October 1.

#### Curriculum Center Building, Vientiane

Construction of the new ten-room building at the Vientiane Fa Ngum School is progressing ahead of schedule. A problem related to the sewerage disposal system will take a little extra money to remedy; otherwise the work is progressing well. We are investigating possibilities of having the Vientiane Technical School manufacture at least some of the furniture required for this building.

#### School Maintenance and Improvement Projects

A well drilling rig is presently putting in a second well at the Fa Ngum Vientiane School. We expect the new well, plus a ground level storage tank to be constructed soon, will relieve the critical water shortage at this school.

A new deep well will also be drilled at the ESP campus, replacing one that caved in several months ago. In addition, work is progressing on extending the school's system of surface water to the girls' dormitories for use in bathing and washing clothes.

At Fa Ngum Savannakhet, a concrete-lined drainage ditch has been completed in front of the school, curbing has been installed and work is nearing completion on improvements to the water system.

At Fa Ngum Luang Prabang the irrigation line, pump, and storage tank have been completed by a PWD crew under the supervision of Frank Bewetz and the system is now being used. PWD will also take charge of connecting the potable water system to the city line.

Student work projects at Fa Ngum Schools, some of which have been supported by the American Women's Club work scholarship grants, have included the following activities: landscaping at Luang Prabang, sealing the fish pond and helping construct the Home Economics cottage

at Vientiane, and painting the water tanks and coating the water tower with linseed oil at Phone Hong.

Personnel

Mr. Chanty Rithivong has been assigned as Community Education Assistant in Luang Prabang. He formerly worked for ORA.

attachment: a/s

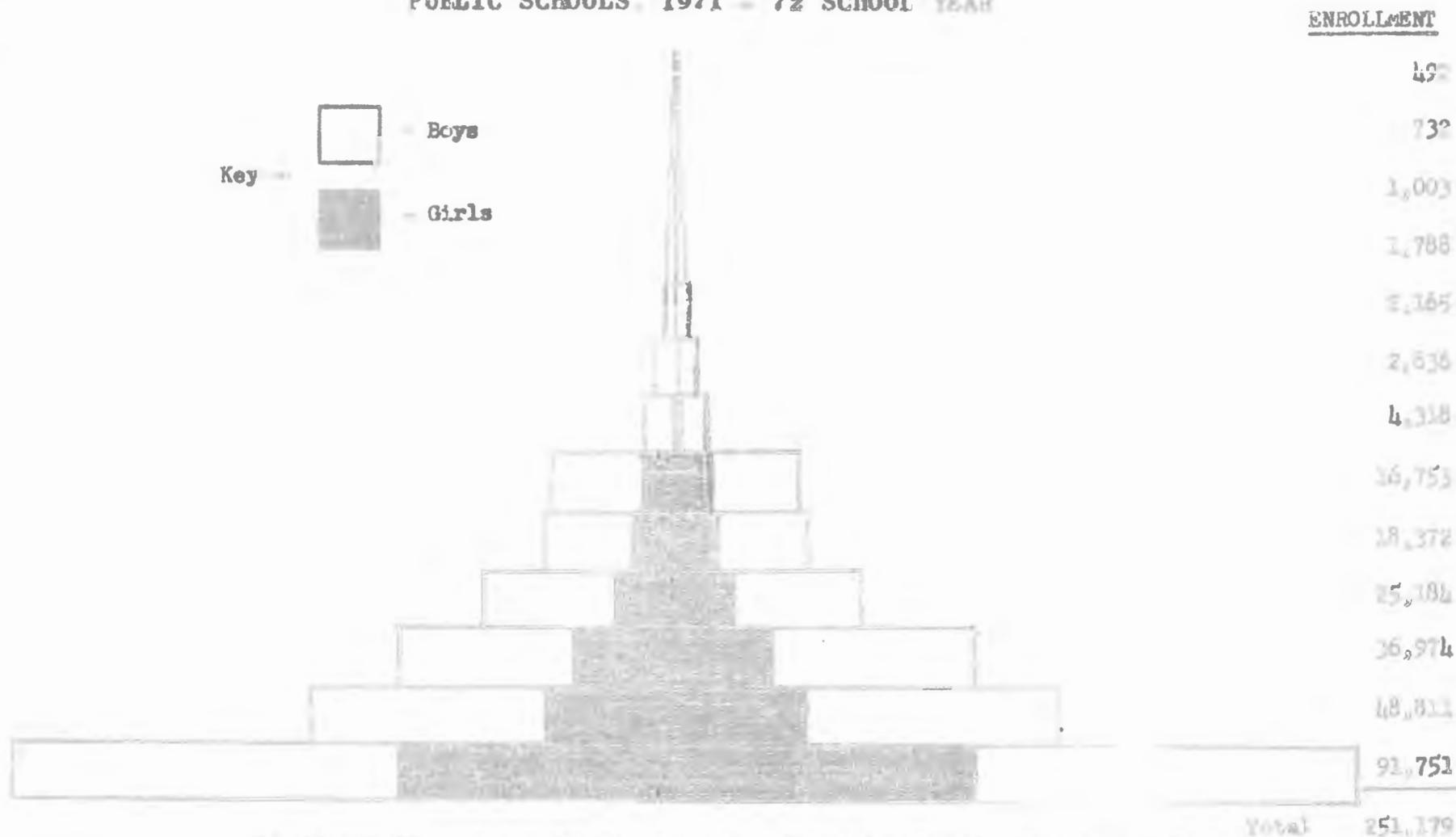
Reporting Units: School Maintenance and Supply Advisor  
Teacher Training  
Secondary Education  
Community Education

EDU:NWGreen:ei

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EDUCATIONAL PYRAMID — KINGDOM OF LAOS  
 FOR  
 PUBLIC SCHOOLS, 1971 — 72 SCHOOL YEAR



Enrollment figures are for the following schools under the Ministry of Education  
 (a) all Elementary Schools (except kindergartens), (b) all Secondary Schools,  
 (c) all Technical Schools, (d) the Fine Arts Schools, (e) all Teacher Training  
 Schools, up to the 13th Grade level, (f) the Law School, the Medical School,  
 and the Buddhist Institute, up to the 13th Grade Level.

Source: Ministry of Education  
 "Statistique de l'Education, 1971-72"

USAID/EDU; April, 1973