

FRIENDS OF THAILAND
Small Project Assistance Funding
REPORT FORM

Date of Report: **11/08/16**

Total Funds Received: **50,000 Baht**

Type of Report (check one): ___ Final Ongoing (If this is an Ongoing Report, it is **#1** (e.g. #1) of **?** (e.g. 3) Reports to be Submitted)

Title of Project: **Akha Stove-Hood and Chimney Project – pursuing properly ventilated indoor cook stoves**

Dates of Project: **September-October 2016**

Name, Group Number and Address of PCV: **Matthew Wittmer, Group 127, 111 Moo 22, Mae Salong Nai, Mae Fa Luang, Chiang Rai, 57100**

Location of Project: **Ban San Jai, Mae Salong Nai, Mae Fa Luang, Chiang Rai**

Individuals/Groups Responsible: **Project Leader Somporn Shermue and his trained volunteer installation specialists. Assistant Project Leader Bundit Kampong.**

Background Information of the Program/Project

The PCV lives and works with the Akha people, an ethnic upland minority group, in the mountains of far northern Thailand. The village of San Jai, which will benefit from this project, was founded by Akha who migrated from Shan State, Myanmar, and before that Xishuangbanna, Yunnan, China around one-hundred years ago. Ban San Jai has subsequently modernized in many ways, and most villagers are now connected to mainstream Thai life 'down the mountain,' but among themselves, it is still a world apart, and the people hold fast to tradition.

To wit, the Akha continue to cook as they have for centuries, **INSIDE** their homes over **WOOD** fires. The smoke from these 'cook stoves' has no exhaust route, but instead fills kitchens, and lungs. Cooks, almost always women, are often **ENGULFED** in smoke as they work. And children, at greater risk than adults of developing life-long respiratory problems, are adversely affected as well.

The Akha Stove-Hood and Chimney Project has as its aim a solution to the problem of improperly ventilated cook stove smoke.

Describe how the Project's Objectives and Benefits were met

The objectives and benefits of the Akha Stove-Hood and Chimney Project were met through the implementation of an education, training, and installation schedule established in early September 2016 by Project Leader Somporn Shermue and Assistant Project Leader Bundit Kampong. The project met with very few unexpected circumstances, and its every step, in fact, was implemented more rapidly than expected. To date:

- 10 Akha families have been educated as to the negative health effects of improperly ventilated cook stoves.
- Around 15 Akha men have been trained in the assembly, installation, and maintenance of stove-hoods and chimneys.
- 10 Akha homes now have improved stove-smoke ventilation thanks to the installation of a stove-hood and chimney in each.

Describe how the Project Schedule and Initiatives were implemented

After determining need and interest, Sam and Bundit chose 10 families as recipients of stove-hoods and chimneys. A meeting was then called at which Sam, Bundit, and the PCV educated the families as to the benefits of improved stove-smoke ventilation. At that meeting an installation schedule was also set.

On Friday of each of the next three weeks, Assistant Project Leader Bundit Kampong gave Project Leader Somporn Shermue 15,000 baht, the exact amount of money needed to purchase three stove-hoods and chimneys. Sam then purchased three stove-hoods and chimneys the next morning and installed all three with the help of his trainees on Sunday. (The first stove-hood and chimney, aka the 'test stove-hood', had already been installed in Sam's own house two months prior.)

After each weekend's work, Sam gave Bundit the dated and itemized receipts from the past weekend's purchase.

Detail the Project Budget as implemented

50,000 baht was received by Assistant Project Leader Bundit Kampong in the first week of September 2016. During each of three successive weeks later that month

and into early October, Bundit then withdrew and gave to Sam the exact amount of baht needed to meet that Sunday's installation schedule. All withdrawal information and all stove-hood and chimney receipts were dated and saved.

Detail any Community Involvement (if applicable)

First, Project Leader Somporn Shermue and Assistant Project Leader Bundit Kampong chose 10 stove-hood and chimney recipient families.

Second, an educational meeting was held at which Sam, Bundit, and the PCV led a seminar on the negative health effects of improper indoor stove-smoke ventilation and the benefits of properly ventilated cook stoves. The stove-hood and chimney installation process was also explained at this meeting, and the order of installation and installation schedule were also set.

Sam then went about training installation teams. In total, around 15 Akha eventually received Sam's instruction in proper stove-hood and chimney assembly, installation, and maintenance. (Along with three trained teams, the family leader of each of the 10 families was also involved in the installation at his/her own home. There was an overlap of family leaders and team members.)

Describe the Program/Project Sustainability

10 San Jai Akha families have been directly impacted by this project through education and the implementation of improved 'technology'. And around 15 San Jai Akha now have the knowledge to assemble, install, and maintain stove-hoods and chimneys.

These 10 families and knowledgeable villagers now continue to communicate the positive benefits of improved stove-smoke ventilation to their fellow villagers.

The project will continue with Phase II, the installation of 10 more stove-hoods and chimneys in 10 more Akha homes. Phase II will attempt to accomplish the same goals as, and follow a similar schedule to, Phase I.

The PCV also wishes to note – and views it as a contributing factor toward sustainability – that the Akha themselves are now making changes/improvements to the stove-hoods and chimneys within their own homes if/when they deem them necessary. (Lowering a hung hood, for instance, when the result will clearly further aid smoke ventilation.)

The PCV is also hopeful that Sam and Bundit will continue to help the community find ways to enable families to pursue properly ventilated cook stoves within Ban San Jai, and its neighboring villages, into the future.