



A GUIDE TO THE
TALIENG PEOPLE

Talieng live in more remote mountain areas. They are an independent-thinking people, who do not integrate easily with others. Most Talieng are subsistence farmers, with hillside rice cultivation their main activity. Many older Talieng do not speak the national language, and still many younger Talieng only complete the first few years of primary schooling in poor schools; so consequently do not speak or read Lao fluently.



Southern Laos, in Sanxay District and Dakcheung District - Approx. 50,000 people.



Annual festival centred on the slaughter of a buffalo.



Men do metalwork and basketry; women dye, spin, and weave cotton to make cloth & clothing.



Talieng is a Bahnaric language in the Mon-Khmer family; there are several dialects of Talieng inside Laos.



Religion - Animism



Alcohol is a major part of the lifestyle of Talieng people - expected to consume large quantities to “tell stories.”



Amongst the Talieng in Laos, there are only a small number of believers. There is no church. There is a recent recording of gospel stories in Talieng, being distributed on tablets and microSD cards. There is no written material in Talieng.