

Community-based Water Supply and Sanitation Project Sayabouly, Lao PDR

The Mekong Region Water and Sanitation Initiative
(MEK-WATSAN)



Expected Impact of the Project:

Indicator	
Total population of Sayabouly Town	26,000
Total population of the left bank/project area	4,700
Households of project area with access to piped water before intervention	0
Households of project area to be supplied with piped water after intervention	100%
Households with access to sanitation before intervention	47%
Households to be equipped with adequate sanitation after intervention	100%

Local Partners:

Organisation	Contact Person
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Provincial Department of Communication, Transport, Post and Construction, Sayabouly	Mr. Phengnilanh Khamphanpheng, Director General
Water Supply Enterprise, Sayabouly (Nam Papa State Enterprise)	Mr. Ariya Khanty, Managing Director

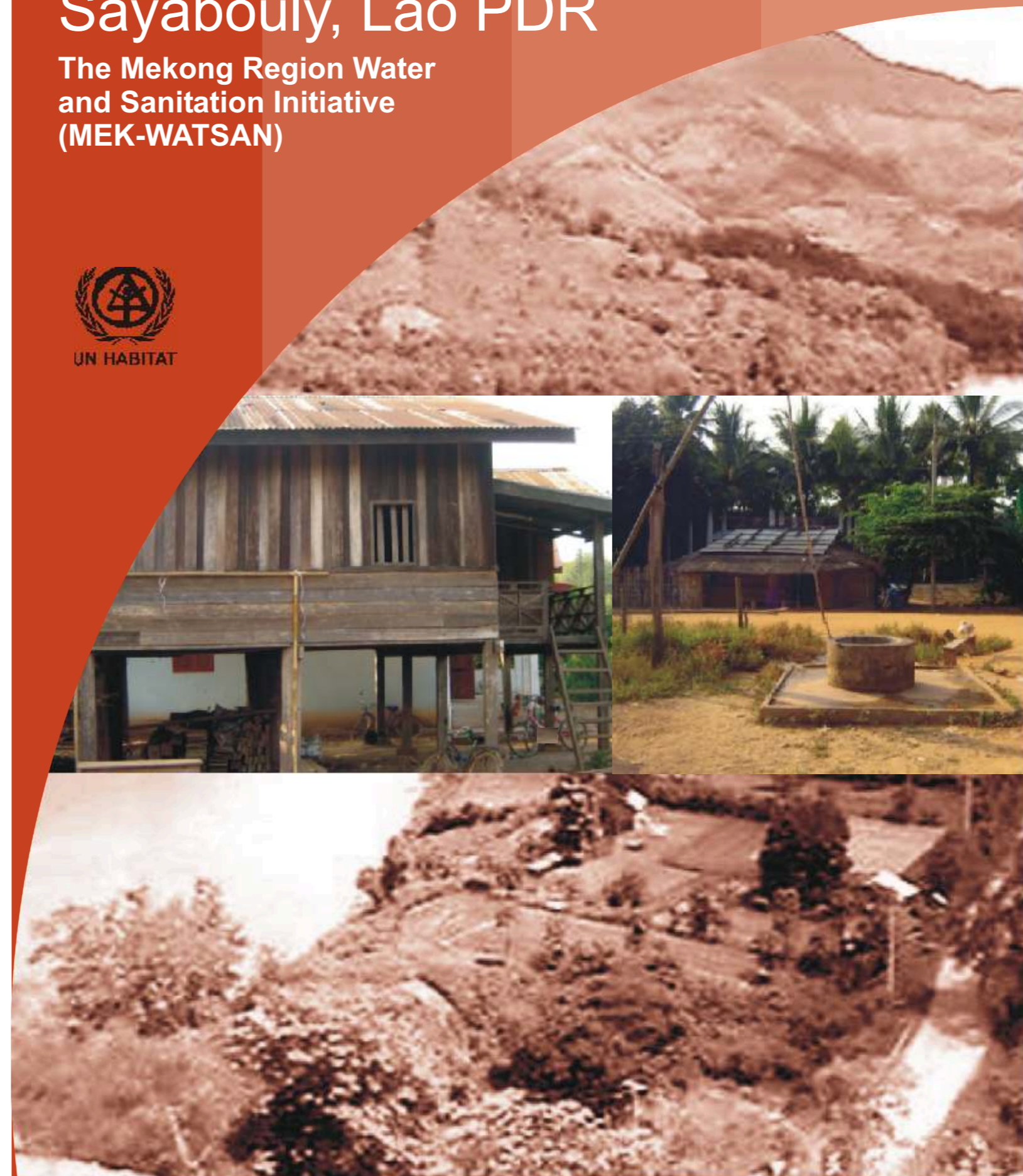


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The Mekong Region Water and Sanitation Initiative (MEK-WATSAN)

MEK-WATSAN initiative is a collaborative effort between UN-HABITAT and the Governments of the Mekong region: Cambodia, Yunnan Province (the People's Republic of China), Lao People's Democratic Republic and Vietnam. The whole philosophy of MEK-WATSAN is to support participating Governments attain their water and sanitation related Millennium Development Goal (MDG) agreed in 2000, **to halve the proportion of people without access to improved water supply and sanitation services by 2015.**

Improving the water and sanitation situation is also a critical factor for meeting most of the other MDGs, which include eradicating extreme poverty and hunger; achieving universal primary education; promoting gender equality and women's empowerment; reducing child mortality; improving maternal health; combating major diseases; and improving environmental sustainability.

MEK-WATSAN promotes:

- Pro-poor urban water governance,
- Urban water conservation and demand management,
- Integrated urban environmental sanitation, and
- Income generation for the urban poor through community-based water and sanitation services

Its specific objectives are:

1. to achieve pro-poor water and sanitation investments in selected secondary urban centres in the Mekong Region;
2. to enhance institutional and human resources capacities at local and regional levels for the sustainability of improved water and sanitation services;
3. to operationalise upstream sector reforms at the local level in the participating secondary towns;
4. to enhance local private sector participation;
5. to reduce the environmental impact of urbanisation on the local river catchments;
6. to enhance economic development in secondary towns through improved water and sanitation, as well as related income generating activities; and
7. to promote economic development for the Mekong Region through enhanced cooperation.

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Background

Sayabouly town, the capital of the Sayabouly province, is located on both sides of the Nam Houng River, a tributary of Mekong River. The town has a population of 26,000 inhabitants of which about 4,700 have the settlements in the left bank of Nam Houng River. There is an obvious gap of socio-economic development between the right bank and left bank settlements. All basic urban infrastructures inherent to small towns including airfield are located on the right bank, while the overall impression on the left bank settlement is not much different from a major rural settlement. With various projects progressing on the improvement of roads, drainage system, street lighting, solid waste management and bank protection of the core area of the town on the right bank, the inequity of basic services has been increasing on the left bank of the town.

Restricted financial resources of the province has delayed the access to safe water and sanitation to the population on the left bank. Unused production capacity of the existing water treatment plant requires investments for extending the pipes to the villages in the left bank. Consequently, the Lao PDR Government requested UN-HABITAT to consider front-loading the MEK-WATSAN initiative in Lao PDR by fast-tracking the implementation of the project proposal of Community-based Water and Sanitation Services for the left bank of the Sayabouly town. This intervention will be a catalyst to bring about socio-economic equity between the two parts of the town.

Being impressed by the Government of Lao PDR with the first fast track initiative in Luangprabang Province, **Sayabouly is the second town in Lao PDR included under the MEK-WATSAN initiative.** UN-HABITAT at the request of the Government of Lao PDR is supporting the second fast track project in Sayabouly with the objective of extending its existing water supply network to cover the settlements located on the left side of the bank of Nam Houng river passing through the town where in water and sanitation facilities are critical.



Project Scope

- Major activities of the Project include the development of implementation modalities based on the concept of full participation of the community and local authority at all stages of project operation.
- Work plans will be developed for all stakeholders. In parallel with the implementation of the facilities, pro-poor household connection and water tariff structure will be developed and implemented.
- Revolving funds for water connections and latrines construction including operational modalities will be established in close consultation with the community.
- Campaign to improve the community awareness of environmental sanitation will be conducted. Measures to protect the contamination of the Nam Houng river caused by dumping of solid waste along the river bank will be taken.
- Human Values Based Water, Sanitation and Hygiene classrooms will be promoted, aiming at achieving a long term and progressive attitudinal change towards developing responsive behaviour to conserve precious natural resource like water, etc.
- Capacity building of the Nam Papa State Enterprise (NPSE) Sayabouly, responsible for implementation of the project will focus on efficient service to customers, maintenance of the water distribution system, accounting and billing, etc.

Project Objectives

The following are the objectives of the Project:

1. Demonstrate the effectiveness of community-based approach in acquiring safe water and adequate sanitation.
2. Provide safe piped water to 895 households (approximately 4,700 citizens) of Sayabouly Town located on the left bank of the Nam Houng River using existing water treatment plant.
3. Implement pro-poor policies related to house water connection, water tariff structure.
4. Establish revolving funds to enhance poor households affordability to pay for safe water supply and to construct latrines.
5. Improve community awareness of environmental sanitation and promote progressive attitudinal change through human values based water, sanitation and hygiene education.
6. Enhance capacity of NPSE, SAYABOULY to achieve efficient service to the community and sustainable use of the facilities thereof.

Project Status

The Government of Lao PDR requested the support of UN-HABITAT in October 2006. A Co-operation Agreement valued at US\$ 259,000 has been signed with the Local Utility in which UN-HABITAT contribution will be US\$ 170,000 and remaining in kind contribution by community and local utilities. Social and Poverty mapping in respect of four poor settlements in Sayabouly has been carried out to inventorize the existing status of the people and the settlement services. The project is undertaken over a period of 12 months from the date of signing the agreement.