



HUMAN VALUES-BASED WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE EDUCATION (HVWSHE)

FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

UN  HABITAT

WHAT IS HVWSHE?

Human Values-based Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Education (HVWSHE) programme was created to respond to a need for creating a new water use and sanitation-friendly ethic in human settlements, particularly for children. First piloted in Africa, it has been an important part of many UN-HABITAT projects since 2001. It was introduced to Asia through UN-HABITAT's Water for Asian Cities programme.

HVWSHE is a programme to raise awareness on water, sanitation and hygiene-related issues, but also much more than that. It is a learning process by which people can gain awareness of their living environment, and acquire knowledge, skills, experiences and values that will enable them to act individually and collectively to solve present and future water, sanitation and related hygiene problems. HVWSHE seeks to inspire and motivate learners to change their behavior with a view of promoting and adapting wise and sustainable use of water, sanitation and hygiene.

HVWSHE aims to prepare the children for life through understanding of the major problems of the contemporary world, with a goal of providing the



skills and attitudes needed to play a productive role towards improving living conditions and protecting the living environment. In the education, a particular importance is given to ethical values. HVWSHE aims to constitute a comprehensive lifelong education, responsive to changes in a rapidly changing world.

HVWSHE IN LAO PDR

In Lao PDR UN-HABITAT implements two main programs: The Water for Asian Cities (WAC) and The Mekong Region Water and Sanitation Initiative (MEK-WATSAN). The main objective of these programs is to support participating Governments in the Mekong Region (Lao PDR, Cambodia, Vietnam) attain their water- and sanitation related MDGs agreed in 2000, to halve the proportion of the people without access to improved water supply and sanitation service by 2015. The programs have a specific focus on promoting

pro-poor urban water governance, water conservation and demand management, environmental sanitation and income generation for the urban poor through community-based water and sanitation services.

Within its WAC and MEK-WATSAN programmes UN-HABITAT has implemented a number of HVWSHE-related projects and activities with its partners. These include organising capacity building and training workshops with teachers and staff from water utilities, distributing literature to students and teachers, opening ‘water classrooms’ or educational spaces in target schools, organizing a demonstration on rainwater harvesting and ecological sanitation within a university campus and helping with designing lesson plans on topics such as waste management.

Issues covered by, but not limited to, HVWSHE include

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES:

- Conserving water
- Reducing pollution
- Waste handling
- Efficient use of water

SOCIAL ISSUES:

- Gender
- Equity
- Poverty
- Rights-based approach

ECONOMIC ISSUES:

- Financing water and sanitation
- Paying for water and sanitation

HVWSHE LESSON PLANS AND TEACHING MATERIALS

UN-HABITAT has worked with Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) since 2007 on Human Values-related activities. The main focus of the collaboration has been to integrate HVWSHE into the formal and non-formal education sector in Lao PDR. To achieve this, NCA had UN-HABITAT have worked closely with a teacher training college in Vientiane to develop resource materials and lesson plans for the national curriculum. A number of target schools have been selected for a program where HVWSHE is being taught as part of existing subjects such as science, mathematics and arts.



Sample lesson plans have been developed for different school grades. All materials have been translated into Lao and adapted into the local context. The main topics for the lower grades include “Clean and healthy food”, “Water is life”, “Clean body”, “Toilet” and “Bacteria, virus and sickness”. For the older children the scope of these topics will be further expanded. The children have also participated in the development of the teaching materials by drawing pictures for the publications. The methods of teaching and learning include not only books and posters but also songs, poems, stories and special hands-on materials and equipment to be used in educational research experiments. 11 water classrooms have also been set up.

WATER CLASSROOM FOR A SECOND-ARY SCHOOL

As part of a joint UN-HABITAT and NPSE Savannakhet community-based water, sanitation and hygiene project implemented Phine, Savannakhet province, a HVWSHE water classroom was established in the Phine Secondary School in May 2010.

A second classroom of this kind to be established in Lao PDR, the permanent educational resource is aimed at students and teachers alike, and is filled with posters, leaflets and publications on various topics related to environment, such as water conservation, rainwater harvesting and wastewater treatment.

The centrepiece of the room is a construction made of two models showing household rainwater harvesting systems in Nepal and Lao PDR. The students can

also try doing hands-on activities such as purifying water through an aquifer system, testing water quality with a special kit as well as playing music with bottles with the equipment supplied in the classroom.

The most colourful section of the room is an exhibition put together from works of art made by the students themselves. They are the fruits of a drawing competition that was organised to encourage students to express their thoughts on issues of water, sanitation and the environment.

All students and teachers from the various schools in the area are encouraged to visit the water classroom and learn about issues to do with water and sanitation. In this way, the messages will be able to reach a wider community and hopefully make them more aware of the problems facing the environment as well as achieve a long term and progressive attitude change towards water, sanitation and hygiene.





UN-HABITAT's implementing partners in HVWSHE in Lao PDR include:

- National University of Laos
- Department of Higher Education
- WREO-Luang Prabang
- NPSEs in Sayabouly, Bolikhamsay and Savannakhet
- Norwegian Church Aid

CASE FOR HVWSHE IN LAO PDR

Almost half of the population in Lao PDR is still lacking access to improved water source and/or sanitation facility. In 2008, just 57% had access to a water source protected from outside contamination ("improved water source") and only 53% had a latrine facility that hygienically separates human excreta from human contact ("improved sanitation").

There is an urgent need not just to improve access to water and sanitation facilities, but also to disseminate information about simple practices that can make a big difference to health and the whole environment. Poor hygienic practices and the prevalence of water-borne diseases are major issues affecting many communities.

UN-HABITAT is working with many communities in Lao PDR to help them gain access to clean water and improved sanitation. With a newly gained water source, it is important that people in target areas become aware of conserving, preventing and managing water resources.

ETHICAL VALUES AS PART OF A UNIVERSITY COURSE

UN-HABITAT has collaborated with the Faculty for Environmental Sciences at the National University of Laos (NUoL) to develop a HVWSHE component in the university's Environmental Ethics course. The main objective of the course is to raise the students' awareness of water-related environmental and social issues and to offer the tools to apply human-based values into everyday life.



The 32-hour course unit consists of five chapters including water supply management and scenarios of adaptation to the Climate Change.

The new course was first introduced in 2010 and is received well by the 4th year students, who are encouraged to pass on the messages to the communities outside the lecture room, especially when they enter the working life upon finishing their studies.

Human Values in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Education (HVWSHE) in Lao PDR is implemented by UN-HABITAT through the following partners:



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The United Nations Human Settlements Programme, UN-HABITAT, is the United Nations agency for human settlements. It is mandated by the UN General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all. In Lao PDR, UN-HABITAT runs two major water and sanitation programmes: “Water for Asian Cities Programme” (WAC) and the “Mekong Region Water and Sanitation Initiative” (MEK-WATSAN). Through these, UN-HABITAT seeks to demonstrate replicable and innovative approaches for providing improved access to water and sanitation, particularly for the urban poor.

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