

Community-based Water Supply and Sanitation Project Xieng Ngeun, Luangprabang, Lao PDR

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



Expected Impact of the Project:

Indicator	
Total population of Xieng Ngeun Town	6,537
Town population distribution by gender	Male: 3,297 Female: 3,240
People with access to water supply in Xieng Ngeun Town before intervention	0
People with access to adequate water supply in Xieng Ngeun Town after intervention	80%
People with access to sanitation in Xieng Ngeun Town before intervention	0
People with access to adequate sanitation in Xieng Ngeun Town after intervention	100%

Local Partners:

Organisation	Contact Person
Ministry of Communication Transport, Post and Construction (MCTPC)	Dr. Somphone Dethoudom, Director General, Department of Housing and Urban Planning, MCTPC Tel: +856-21-412282-3 Fax: +856-21-412282 E-mail: dethoudomdhup@yahoo.com
Xieng Ngeun District Authority	Mr. Somdy Douangpasith, Governor
Water Supply Enterprise, Luangprabang	Mr. Soulith Chindamany, Managing Director



UN HABITAT

Andre Dzikus
Programme Manager
Water for Cities Programmes
United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)
Water, Sanitation and Infrastructure Branch
P.O. Box 30030, Nairobi, Kenya
Tel: (254-20) 7623060, 7625082
Fax: (254-20) 7623588
E-mail: andre.dzikus@unhabitat.org

Avi Sarkar
Chief Technical Advisor
Mekong Region Water and Sanitation Initiative (MEK-WATSAN) and Focal Point Asia HVWSHE
United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)
3rd Floor Building, Urban Research Institute, Dongpalane Road, Vientiane, Lao PDR
Tel: +856-30-5259949
Fax: +856-21-415658
Mobile: +856-20-5555654
E-mail: Avi.Sarkar@unhabitat.org

Choung Phanrajsavong
Chief Technical Advisor, Lao PDR
United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)
3rd Floor Building, Urban Research Institute, Dongpalane Road, Vientiane, Lao PDR
Tel: +856-21-264097-9
Mobile: +856-20-5516735
Email: Choung.Phanrajsavong@gmail.com



UN HABITAT



Community-based Water Supply and Sanitation Project, Xieng Ngeun, Luangprabang, Lao PDR

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



MEK-WATSAN

The Mekong Region Water and Sanitation Initiative (MEK-WATSAN) was initiated at the request of the Governments of the Mekong Region - Kingdom of Cambodia, the People's Republic of China (Yunnan province), the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

The whole philosophy of MEK-WATSAN is to support participating Governments attain their water and sanitation related MDGs agreed in 2000, **to halve the proportion of people without access to improved water supply and sanitation services by 2015.**

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:

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

Community-based Water Supply and Sanitation Project, Xieng Ngeun, Luangprabang, Lao PDR

In August 2005, UN-HABITAT entered into a cooperation agreement with the Water Supply State Owned Enterprise of the Province of Luang Prabang for implementing an innovative fast-track "Community-based Water Supply and Sanitation Project" in Xieng Ngeun, Luangprabang to demonstrate how a community can work with a Water Supply Entity (WSE) to acquire water and adequate sanitation and also enhance capacity of the Public Utility and the Civil Society.

This Project is the first community-based project in the Lao PDR in which the community has been actively involved in all stages from project planning to implementation.

The Project is being implemented under the MEK-WATSAN initiative aimed at addressing the problems of water by local Governments and rapidly expanding urban poverty.

Project Objectives:

- Demonstrate how a community can work with a water supply entity to acquire safe water and adequate sanitation that meet its needs;
- Demonstrate pro-poor water connection charges and tariffs;
- Improve community awareness of environmental sanitation;
- Enhance capacity of WSE and local artisans.

The project comprises of 3 main components:

- Water Supply
- Sanitation, and
- Policy Support and Capacity Building.

Pro-poor Water and Sanitation Focus in Xieng Ngeun Project

Promoting pro-poor water and sanitation governance policies and investments in secondary urban centres is one of the overriding objectives of MEK-WATSAN. In Xieng Ngeun Town, a list of poor households was determined through a survey, which also determines the household's willingness to access for piped water system and their affordability to pay for water connection. The following policies are being applied to the villages of the project coverage area to demonstrate pro-poor connection charges and tariffs.

- a. A flat rate of 7500Kips/month, equivalent to 0.75US\$/month for the monthly consumption of not more than 10 cum/month;
- b. Various options for households that cannot afford to pay upfront the cost of water connection (about US\$75).

Revolving Fund for Water Connection and Latrine Construction

Since November 2006, revolving funds for water connections and construction of latrines are operational, which will enable poor households to have access to piped water and sanitation facilities. Community awareness programmes conducted in close collaboration with the Public Health Department of Luangprabang.

Key issues addressed:

- (1) Households eligible for a loan from revolving funds are actually among the poorest in the area, and
- (2) Persuade poor households to invest in latrine construction.

The project area has a total number of 1221 households, of which 181 households or 15 percent have no latrines.

Project Status

The fast-track project implementation commenced in September 2006 and is expected to be completed in about 10 months, benefiting the total population of over 6500 of the Xieng Ngeun town. Participatory approach is adopted by the Utility for the delivery of the basic services with the involvement of local residents. The Project is funded under UN-HABITAT financial assistance of US\$ 250,000 with counterpart contributions in kind from the local community and the Utility of the order of US\$ 100,000 each.

Location Map of Xieng Ngeun

