Hygiene Promotion and School Sanitation in Lao PDR

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Supported by:
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Country Snapshot

- Lao PDR is a land-locked country, and shares border with China, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand and Myanmar.
- Total area: 236,800 km²
- Population: 6.62 million
- Density: 23 people/sq km
- Laos is comprised of 17 provinces including Vientiane
- Capita income: USD 500 per annum
- Adult literacy rate: (F: 50%; M: 74%)
- Population growth rate: 2.8% per year
- Life expectancy: 61 years (F: 63; M: 59)
- Population leaving in rural area: 80%

The Challenge

47 ethnic groups, covering
120 ethnic sub-groups and languages
11,000+ small villages and mostly with poor road access
- Only 12% of over 8,000 schools have access to clean water and latrines.
- Dispersed pattern of population settlement makes the provision of basic services a major challenge with high investment required.
- Agriculture = 80% of jobs, mostly subsistence farming in remote areas (Developed countries, Agriculture = 1% of jobs)

### Access to toilets (%)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2020</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>(with road access)</td>
<td>38.4</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(without road access)</td>
<td>15.7</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>83.4</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>80</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>80</td>
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School Sanitation

- Primary schools (2003-04): 8,529
  (Complete school 42.8%)
- Net enrolment: 81.8%
  (girl: 78.8%; boy: 84.8%)
- Primary school teachers: 27,684
  (female 12,413 = 44.8%)
- Schools with clean water and latrines: 12%
- Primary schools received training on hygiene and sanitation program UNICEF: 4000 schools (since 1996)
- Primary school received training on HPS (WHO): 414

Participatory approach to school sanitation the Blue Box

- “Learning with Joy” kit or “Blue Box” has been developed for participatory learning in the classroom using games and stories.
- In the Box there are 20 items
- Since 1996, nearly 4,000 primary school teachers have been trained to use this approach to lead children through “hygiene education games”. The kit is handed over to the school after the teachers have been trained in the proper participatory learning techniques. At present, a total of six hundreds kits have been distributed throughout Lao PDR
- Water facilities should be as close as possible to the school latrines since girls are mostly the ones who carry the water.
- Teachers have to set a good example and become a role model to promote good hygiene practices.
- Schools have to ensure that not only hygiene is properly taught but that hygiene and water use practices are observed every day at school.
- Hygiene behavioral changes and practices take time and require a long term investment.

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**Children use words to make a sentence**

**Student tell story**
Children playing with flash cards during lesson

Children use latrine

Community-designed IEC materials
Process of work with the communities (1)

Travel to remote villages
Process of work with the communities (2)

**Community Dialogue** to select village WSS IEC materials using informed choice

Process of work with the communities (3)

**Training** for village communities on drawing hygiene promotion cartoons and using digital camera
**Process of work with the communities (4)**

*Participating* with the communities to develop their choice of IEC materials (within fixed budget)

**Process of work with the communities (5)**

*Testing* of hygiene promotion materials with community-led evening LCD show and government meetings
THANK YOU!