



LAO-SFE-SHH-P01, Sekong Province, Laos
Reporting Period: January to December 2018

Strengthening Health and Hygiene

Budget: \$32,500 for the first year. Fully funded.

Update:

Our partner is working with and living alongside the poorest village people in southern Laos. Entrust is funding the WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) part of a large project in this area providing 4 villages with a proper source of clean water, latrines for most households and hygiene education and training in maintaining the latrine and water system. These four villages were selected because water borne infections are most prevalent here and the water and sanitation equipment is the least developed.

The community is playing a vital role throughout the duration of the project. They are involved in the assessment process, engaged in developing the best ways to address the prioritization of needs and also the technical solutions so that goals are achieved.

20 Health Education seminars were conducted throughout the year focusing on personal hygiene, correct sanitation and the prevention of water borne and seasonal diseases such as diarrhoea, cholera, skin problems and malaria.

82 toilets were constructed during this periods and there has been positive feedback from the government, partners and villagers. Mr Seng (pictured above, right) was excited to build a toilet for his family. He received the iron sheets, nails and support necessary to construct a toilet which costs less than USD50 to build. The two brothers, pictured left, are helping each other with the construction process. Once this toilet is finished they will move onto the other toilet until each one's toilet is completed. Helping each other is one of the values being encouraged in the implementation of this project. It is a value that seems to be fading away in the area so this approach is refreshing and strengthening this value amongst the community.

After the initial survey, our partner realised that a broken down water system in one of the villages build by the government years ago (pictured right) could be repaired instead of replaced. Since the budget was less than the allotted amount, funds were spent on technical training on how to maintain it in the future so as to avoid this kind of problem. The community was also encouraged to establish a revolving fund for future maintenance and repairs.

To ensure sustainability of the project, the community is directly involved at every stage of development. The community participation approach includes cost sharing, labour and local construction committees. This brings its own challenges but eventually leads to an increased sense of ownership, encourages behavioural change and for the community to maintain the facilities independently. Thank you for your support.

