

Strengthening Health and Hygiene

LAO-SFE-SHH-P03



Sekong Province, Laos



Water

Total Budget

Project Timeline

\$89,850

JAN 18

DEC 20



Overview

Our partners have been working with and living alongside the poorest village people in southern Laos for more than 20 years. Entrust funded 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 to maintain the systems. These four villages were selected because water borne infections were most prevalent in this area and the water and sanitation equipment was the least developed. Our partner provided a water expert to assist the village in needs assessment, planning and construction work and the community was involved at every stage of the project.

Objectives

Impact

 <p>Latrine and water system construction</p>	<p>Altogether, 172 households built latrines next to their homes (exceeding the plan at the beginning of the project) and each village constructed a water system. One village received certification as a "clean village" by the provincial authorities.</p>	
 <p>Health Education Sessions</p>	<p>A total of 15 health, hygiene and sanitation educational sessions were conducted, usually in the evening when people returned to the village from the fields. Assessments showed that health knowledge increased significantly.</p>	
 <p>Training and support of committees</p>	<p>Working with district authorities was extremely effective. Capacity and confidence grew in the people responsible for water and sanitation and for the trainers from the health centres, an asset that will be built for future projects.</p>	
 <p>Monitoring, follow-up & evaluation</p>	<p>The community played a vital role, contributing to costs and labour, participating in committees and maintenance trainings. Follow-up with each village showed that this leads to a greater sense of ownership and encourages behavioural change.</p>	



Life change

- 90% of villagers have changed their habits and are now drinking treated water and 50% have fitted water filters in their homes. This is healthier, more convenient, eco-friendly and reduces labour time collecting water.
- Intense education about sanitation and hygiene means that more than 80% of villagers are utilising toilets on a daily basis. This has led to a decrease in water-borne diseases and increased health and productivity.



Miss Kiao's Story

Miss Kiao is 45 years old and has 6 children. Before the project in her village, she did not have water close to her house. She would walk a very long way everyday to fetch water and carry it home. During the dry season, there was never enough water and her family often went without and her crops died.

Kiao was very motivated by the project because she understood the benefit of having water close to the house and having access to water for the whole year. She is now able to provide enough water for her family to drink, cook and wash with, water for her garden and to raise her animals.

The whole village participated in constructing the water system and the latrines



Mr Boundao's Story

Mr Boundao is 79 years old and has lived without a toilet his whole life. His family would defecate right outside the house, their animals would eat the faeces and bring disease to the family and village due to poor sanitation. His family was often sick due to the close contact between humans and animals. This problem was particularly bad during the rainy season. He now understands the importance of hygiene and good sanitation. He was able to build his own toilet close to his house, and thanks to the new water system in the village, he and his family have enough water to drink, wash themselves and flush their toilet. He is very thankful for the huge improvement the project has brought to his village.

