



CONTEXT

Laos is a small landlocked country in South East Asia with a population of 7 million. The good economic growth is accompanied by unequal development between the urban and the rural areas, particularly in terms of **access to essential water and sanitation services**. Needs for safe access to water and sanitation are still high in rural areas despite Government's efforts. Communities are of-

ten on their own to manage water and sanitation in villages with no or poorly functioning infrastructures. Poor hygiene and sanitation conditions are an aggravating factor of malnutrition in rural areas of Laos.

Communities living in the mountainous areas of Luang Prabang province are isolated due to low road conditions, especially during the rainy season **and access to basic services like health services**, drinking water and market for sanitary equipment, are limited.

Confluence is a French NGO supporting **rural communities** in Luang Prabang Province since 2012, in the water supply and sanitation sector.

Its actions are **in line with the strategy of the Luang Prabang Province** to sustainably improve access to drinking water and sanitation in rural areas. The **partnership with the Department of Health** reinforces the capacities of the local authorities and helps defining appropriate approaches based on the knowledge of local partners.

The project is part of the historical **decentralized cooperation** between the Région Centre-Val de Loire and Luang Prabang Province.



DEAR Water

🎯 Objectives

1. Improve access to water, and consolidate management mechanisms for rural water systems;
2. Promote secure access to sanitation in schools and for private households;
3. Improve hygiene practice in schools and within communities;
4. Capacity building, monitoring and knowledge sharing.



Duration

3 years, from December 2019



Target area



12 villages, 3 districts: Chomphet, Phonxay and Xieng Nguen



Trenching for pipe laying in Houaysaykhao, Chomphet district, January 2021



Implementation

The main activities that will be implemented during DEAR Water are the following:

- ◆ Construction of community water supply system, with the participation of communities, with collective water points or metered private households connections
- ◆ Implementation of a pilot project for the production of bottled drinking water & support for the marketing of individual water treatment filters
- ◆ Strengthening of water committees through trainings and monitoring to ensure a professional and sustainable community-based governance for the operation and maintenance of infrastructures and service to the users
- ◆ Deployment of a monitoring and regulation tool for water systems by the health authorities
- ◆ Support to private operators for the deployment of the sanitizing strategy to offer affordable and safe toilets to households in rural areas
- ◆ Construction of sanitary blocks in schools with hand-washing stations with sustainable supply of recycled soaps
- ◆ Deployment of Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) campaigns in partnership with district health authorities
- ◆ Hygiene education at school to promote good hygiene practices to the teachers and students.



Methodology

Dear Water methodologies and tools are built on past experiences, adapted to the context, supported by local authorities and taken up by the target communities:

- ◆ **Cultural, social and economic relevance:** continuity of the PERSEA project (2017-2019) thus perpetuating partnerships
- ◆ **Sustainability of the infrastructures:** communities are actively involved throughout the whole project
- ◆ **Sustainability in behavior change:** sanitizing marketing and nudging approaches place villagers as the actors of change. CLTS campaigns and hygiene trainings ensure a deep understanding of the stakes
- ◆ **Governance and partnerships:** involves the private and public sectors to ensure a good appropriation by local stakeholders
- ◆ **Adaptability:** adaptation of the activities to respond to new health challenges of Covid-19 (e.g.: distribution of recycled soaps).



Expected results

- ◆ 11 community water systems and 1 water supply network with private connections constructed or rehabilitated
- ◆ 4 800 villagers with improved access to safe water supply
- ◆ 1 drinking water service adapted to rural area is piloted
- ◆ 100 households equipped with water filter
- ◆ 12 water village committees trained
- ◆ 400 households have access to an improved sanitation service
- ◆ 8 sanitary blocks built in schools
- ◆ 720 students sensitized to good hygiene practices
- ◆ 1 tool for monitoring and regulation of water systems deployed in each district.



A water reservoir under construction in Ban Houaysaykhao

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Budget : 618 440 €, Funded by:



Centre-Val de Loire



Implemented in collaboration with:



Luang Prabang Provincial Health Department



Professionnels du développement solidaire