



Lao PDR WASH Technical Working Group



in the Lao PDR



Outline of the presentation

Context: sanitation in the Lao PDR

- ❖ Where are we?
- ❖ What is being done?

CLTS in the Lao PDR

- ❖ CLTS pilots
- ❖ CLTS lessons learned

Future plans and initiatives

Context – where are we? (1)

MDG #7: Access to improved sanitation

*Current status*¹

- ➔ 48% of the total population has access to improved sanitation
 - Only 38% rural areas, compared to 87% in urban areas

Prevalence of open defecation

- ➔ 46% of the total population (~3 million people) are currently forced to defecate in the open
 - In rural areas this is 56% (~2.5 million people)

¹ WHO/UNICEF (2008) *JMP Report* (2006 data)



Context – where are we? (2)

MDG #7: Access to improved sanitation

MDG 2015 targets

- ➔ Government of Lao target for 2015 is 70% of the population with access to sanitation
 - ~330,000 households need to gain access to improved sanitation between 2006 and 2015

Even if the MDG targets are met ~340,000 households (~2 Million people) will still remain without access to improved sanitation

Context – where are we? (3)

Impacts of poor sanitation

In 2006 poor sanitation and hygiene caused¹

- ➔ An overall economic losses of US\$ 193 million/year (~5.6% of GDP, a cost of US\$ 34 per person/year)
- ➔ 6,000 premature deaths and at least 3 million disease episodes
- ➔ Countless others suffer from poor health, diminished productivity and missed opportunities

Annually an estimated US\$ 130 million could be saved by improving sanitation and hygiene

¹ *WSP-EAP (2009) Economic Impacts of Sanitation in Lao PDR*

Context – what is being done? (1)

Current ongoing activities¹

- ➔ Small scale and often integrated in livelihood projects representing a small fraction of investments and scope of works
- ➔ Approaches used are often a mix of hygiene education (such as PHAST) and subsidy support
- ➔ Focus is on partially increasing access to sanitation in target areas rather than on the complete eradication of open defecation practices
- ➔ Pour-flush latrines are the norm for most development actors – with in many cases no choice being offered to households

¹ SNV (2009) *Overview of international organisations active in the rural WASH sector in Laos*

Context – what is being done? (2)

Current approaches

- ➔ Some of the approaches being supported:
 - Radio and television campaigns (e.g. UNICEF)
 - Developing appropriate IEC materials (e.g. UNICEF, WSP/CAWST)
 - A 'Model Healthy Village' Concept (MoPH and ADB)
- ➔ A lot of testing and piloting but nothing going to scale
- ➔ Little or no innovation and creativity that could give rise to real breakthroughs
- ➔ Limited sanitation expertise available in Laos
- ➔ WASH actors (national and international) remain within their own 'comfort zones'

CLTS

CLTS in the Lao PDR

CLTS in Laos – CLTS pilots (1)

How did it start?

- ➔ During 2008 a number of study tours were organised:
 - WSP took a team of national and provincial level government staff to Indonesia to learn from the Total Sanitation and Sanitation Marketing Project (TSSM)
 - Concern Worldwide took a team of provincial level government staff to Cambodia to visit the Royal Governments/UNICEF CLTS programme
 - SNV took a team of national and provincial government staff to Cambodia to visit MRD and Swiss Red Cross CLTS programmes

- ➔ In September 2008 Plan International invited Kamal Kar to give a presentation on CLTS to a mixed WASH actor audience in Vientiane

CLTS in Laos – CLTS pilots (2)

Two CLTS pilots to date

- ➔ ***Concern Worldwide***: Houaphan province (north Laos)
 - CLTS facilitators training for 17 government and project staff in November 2008 – trainers from MRD in Cambodia
 - As part of the facilitators training CLTS triggering was conducted in two villages
 - Between February-March 2009, CLTS triggering done in a further 22 villages

- ➔ ***WSP***: Champasak and Sekong province (south Laos)
 - CLTS facilitators training for 18 Government staff, 21 village representatives in December 2008 – trainers from WSP Indonesia.
 - As part of the facilitators training CLTS triggering was conducted in two villages

CLTS in Laos – CLTS pilots (3)

Results of the CLTS pilots

Concern Worldwide

- CLTS triggering in a total of 24 villages across two districts
- 100% latrine construction targets achieved in 8 villages; overall latrine coverage is now 73% (1,011 latrines)
- Peer review by SNV in 12 out of the 24 villages reported:
 - An overall latrine coverage of 86% versus 13% at start of the pilot
 - Three out of twelve villages have 100% latrine coverage, and two of those were ODF at time of review
 - An significant reduction in OD, from 87% at the start to 21% at the time of the review

CLTS in Laos – CLTS pilots (4)

Results of the CLTS pilots

WSP

- CLTS triggering in 2 villages in two provinces
- Overall latrine coverage is 66% (148 latrines), versus 47% at the start of pilot
- One trained village chief in Champasak took it upon himself to introduce CLTS in his village: 100% latrine coverage was achieved without any outside support

CLTS in Laos – CLTS pilots (5)

CLTS pilots: summary

	Province	# of villages	# of HH	# of latrines			
				Prior to CLTS	After CLTS	Total	As % of # of HH
WSP	Champasak	1	114	45	10	55	48%
WSP	Sekong	1	109	60	33	93	85%
Village chief	Champasak	1	75	32	43	75	100%
CWW	Houaphan	24	1,390	180	1,210	1,011	73%

CLTS in Laos – CLTS pilots (6)

CLTS pilots – lessons learnt

- ➔ Triggering is an effective approach to create initial demand
- ➔ Start in easy villages (e.g. try to avoid villages that have received subsidy support in the past)
- ➔ Role of local formal and informal leaders is crucial to kick-start actions and to maintain momentum
- ➔ Effective post-triggering support and guidance is crucial to enhance sustainability and to avoid slippage
- ➔ CLTS can be cost-effective if done through existing channels
- ➔ CLTS works well within existing government structures
- ➔ Focus primarily on behavioural change
- ➔ Newly established supportive village regulations can reinforce community action

CLTS in Laos – CLTS pilots (7)

CLTS pilots – challenges

- Prevailing attitudes of involved and responsible actors - need to convince them that CLTS works and is the right starting point
- Attitudes and beliefs of government facilitators
- Competing with interventions by other actors in neighbouring areas often applying subsidy approaches
- Plenty of alternatives for defecation - too much cover available for open defecation
- Insufficient competent human resources:
 - For developing and applying appropriate sanitation technologies
 - For drawing and sharing lessons, innovation and continuous adaptation of approaches and technologies
 - Applying facilitation techniques for active participation versus teaching/instructing

CLTS in Laos – CLTS pilots (8)

CLTS pilots – recommendations¹

- ➔ Focus on igniting a change in sanitation behaviours and practices rather than on latrine construction
- ➔ Encourage more local innovation by drawing on local culture and conditions to strengthen triggering
- ➔ Pay greater attention to the post-triggering phase
- ➔ Invest more time and resources to advise individual households to construct hygienic latrines
- ➔ Encourage existing formal and informal community structures & community members to play a more active role
- ➔ Improve the skills and competences of existing CLTS facilitators
- ➔ Develop and objectively verifiable system for certifying ODF status in villages

¹ Abstracted from *SNV and Concern Worldwide (2009) CLTS Pilot Programme Review*

CLTS

Future plans and initiatives

Plans for the future (1)

Who is planning to do what



Concept paper prepared for scaling up TSSM approach in four southern provinces as part of a global project



Continuing to scale up CLTS in Hua Meuang district to cover a total of 81 villages



CLTS program to start early 2009 in Bokeo province
CLTS, ToT by Kamal Kar planned for early 2010



Funding proposal developed for Savannakhet: 150 villages

A CLTS facilitators training and testing of materials and tools in Houaphan to start in December 2009

Plans for the future (2)

Other plans and ideas

- ➔ SNV and WSP are presently adapting and testing CLTS materials and tools for the culturally diverse Lao context
- ➔ SNV, supported by WSP, will organise a CLTS Training for Trainers and Facilitators before the end of the year to start building up in-country training capacity
- ➔ A number of like-minded organisations are considering to set up a community-of-practice