

## Health and Hygiene Matters!

LAO-SFE-HHM-P03



Sekong Province, Laos



Water

Total Budget

\$116,500

Project Timeline

JAN 21

DEC 23



### 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



Latrine and water system construction

Altogether, 154 households built latrines next to their homes (exceeding 145 planned at the beginning of the project). Each village constructed a water system and has a dedicated village water committee for maintenance and repairs.



Train and support committees

Working with district authorities was highly effective. Good foundations previously laid enabled the district person responsible for water and sanitation to continue developing their skills and experience in supporting communities.



Health Education Sessions

Health, hygiene and sanitation educational sessions encouraged behavioural change over the course of the project. Assessments showed that health knowledge increased significantly and that members are practising good hygiene.



Train skilled village health volunteers

Ten people (5 male village health volunteers and 5 Women Union village representatives) were trained in basic health over 13 sessions. They implemented the campaign activities on handwashing and antenatal care.



### Life change

- 71% of villagers have changed their habits and are now drinking treated water and 21% 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.



## Mr Yang's Story

I am a village health volunteer and I am very excited that we now have running water. There are 20 people in my household and there was never enough water to wash ourselves - we did that directly in the river. We used to go to the forest to defecate. During the dry season, this was not such a problem but in the rainy season we got wet and bitten by lots of mosquitoes, and this made us sick. When I planted vegetables, we collected water from far away, which was difficult. Now we are so comfortable and grateful - there is enough water for everyone, to wash, cook, use toilets and grow our vegetables. Thank you so much.

## Health & handwashing at school



## Mrs Noy's Story

Life was so much more difficult before the project came to help us in our village. I am a 30 year old farmer with a husband and two children. I had to walk far into the forest to defecate and I could only fetch water for use at the river, which was also far from my home. My two children would come with me to help me fetch water. Even during the rainy season, we had to fetch water together. This was so time consuming and my children would be so tired at school. The project has really helped us to live a better life. We now have a toilet and access to enough water right next to our house. We even use this water to grow our vegetables! My children are happy and have more energy for school and helping at home.

