The Sanitation Ladder: Rural Sanitation Options and Consumer’s Choice in Lao PDR…….

Presented By:
Dr. Soutsakhone Chanthaphone and Santanu Lahiri

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Lao RWSS Sector Strategy

The Sector Strategy emphasizes:

Demand Responsive Approach
Based on willingness & ability to pay
Bottom-up planning
Focus on Poorest and remote areas
ON-GOING TRANSITION VIA RWSS SECTOR STRATEGY & GUIDELINE NATIONAL FRAMEWORK IN LAO PDR, Phase II: 1998-2002

“Towards A Strong Community Focussed Approach”

From: PAST PRACTICES
Top-down

- Focus on Lowland, easily accessible areas
- Agency driven approach & technology preference
- Improved service selected by technicians alone
- High subsidy

DRIVEN

COMMUNITIES as "OWNERS"

- What communities want and what communities can afford – (need to contribute to large part of investment cost and full O&M / recurrent cost)
- Technical options based on feasibility & informed choices
- Poorest areas, based on real need
- Demand based focussed on willingness to pay

SUPPORTED

COMMUNITIES as "RECIPIENTS"

To: CURRENT and FUTURE
Demand Responsive
What Transition Means......

Promote Community-Based Approach
- using DRA
- offering Informed Choice

Servicing Remote Areas

Ensure Use, Sustainability and Impact of Improved RWSS Services

Promote Nationally-led Design and Implementation Process
How the transition is supported...

Developing New Organizational Set-up by
- establishing horizontal and vertical partnerships
- developing clearer job descriptions

Developing New Tools for:
- Informed Choices
- Costs Sharing
- Community Dialogue

Promoting ownership by supporting a nationally led process with measured advisory support

Ensuring learning... bringing other sector partners in line with RWSS Strategy
Developing New Organizational Set-up

Villages, Schools, Clinics through Village WSS Committee

- Hygiene Promotion Team
- Technical Team
- Line Agencies

District & Provincial Coordination Unit (PCU/DCU)

Coordination between PCUs/DCUs

Nam Saat Central, MoH
- Supported by WSP-EAP, UNICEF, World Bank, JICA
- Nam Saat CTA, Provincial Advisers and STCs
- Selected NGOs
Developing Tools….

SANITATION LADDER

Pour-flush

VIP*

Lid

ITP*

Dry

ITP* means Improved Traditional Practice
VIP* means Ventilated Improved Pit
Example of local variations on:

**PIT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diagram</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image1" alt="Diagram 3.1" /></td>
<td>Lining Part - Clay lining</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image2" alt="Diagram 3.2" /></td>
<td>Lining Part - Bamboo-pit lining</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image3" alt="Diagram 3.2" /></td>
<td>Lining Part - Bamboo-pit lining</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image4" alt="Diagram 3.3" /></td>
<td>Lining Part - One slab-one ring pit lining</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image5" alt="Diagram 3.4" /></td>
<td>Lining Part - Brick-masonry pit lining</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image6" alt="Diagram 3.5" /></td>
<td>Lining Part - Concrete ring pit lining</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image7" alt="Diagram 3.6" /></td>
<td>Lining Part - Stone masonry pit lining</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Example of local variations on:

**SQUATTING PLATE**
Example of local variations on:

SUPPORT STRUCTURE- POST
Example of local variations on: WALL
Example of local variations on:

ROOF
Developing Tools

Example of one Option selected

Superstructure
Roof Part
Grass Roofing Sheets

Superstructure
Wall Part
Bamboo mat wall with door

Floor Slab
Concrete slab with Porcelain pan (wet system)

Lining Part
Bamboo-pit lining
Developing Tools....

Unit Costs of Each Options
Guideline for Capital Cost Sharing Profile:

- Community: 75%
- Government: 5%
- External Support Agency: 20%
Community Dialogue and its Purpose

- Use participatory hygiene analysis as entry point
- Set Priorities
- Gather Information
- Assess Demand for RWSS Services
## Twelve Community Dialogue Steps

1. Village History Profiling
2. Village Mapping
3. Gender Analysis of Tasks & Roles
4. Control of Resources in the Household
5. Past Decision Making Practices
6. Hygiene Awareness Assessment
7. Community’s perception on Faecal-Oral Contamination
8. Local Blocking Methods for Faecal-Oral Contamination
9. Analysis of Health Status of the Community
10. Prioritising of Problems of the Community
11. Sanitation Ladder and Informed Choices
12. Water supply Ladder and Informed Choices
Promoting Ownership......

Bringing sector partners in line with national strategy
- an example of applying DRA and Informed Choice

Situation in 1997
Only applied in the preparation of HASWAS Component of Infrastructure Project for IDA funding

Main partners supporting/promoting the concept:
- 2 staff from NS
- Provincial NS, LWU and YU staff of Oudomxay and Phongsali
- District staff of Oudomxay and Phongsali
- WSP

Situation in May, 2001
Under application in all Provinces in Lao PDR, with especial emphasis of 7 Spearhead Provinces

Main partners supporting/promoting the concept:
- 12 staff from NSC Central
- All Provincial staff of NS, LWU and YU
- District staff of selected districts
- Selected NGOs
- WSP-EAP, UNICEF, WB, JICA
Emerging Learning …..

- Promoting the understanding of DRA through Informed Choice requires adequate training and capacity building efforts for local and central partners.

- Percentage calculation for cost sharing is important for ESAs but not useful at local level - community want to know in simple terms what they have to share and what support they will receive from the Government and ESA.

- Promoting DRA at grass root level requires quality time and well trained facilitators.

- Confidence on the concept among all partners increases with experience on Informed Choice and Community Resourcing on the ground.
Question to Resolve…….

- Quality of informed choice process
- Behavioral change of technicians
- Quality of facilitators
- Incentive structure for field work