Current Sanitation Situation

In Laos, a large number of people lack access to adequate sanitation. According to the UN Country Report 2015, the nationwide coverage of improved sanitation is estimated to be approximately 71%. Much has been done to achieve this, but there remain some problems. Especially the high prevalence of open defecation of estimated 23% is concerning.

The lack of adequate wastewater treatment solutions leads to the disposal of solid waste, wastewater, grey water and even faecal sludge into open drainage channels. This wastewater is polluting rivers and wetlands, threatening food security, and access to safe drinking and bathing water for Laos’ people. It can quickly become foul-smelling as it decomposes. The wastewater supports the spread of water related vector-borne and faecal/orally transmitted diseases like malaria and diarrhea.

CBS Package

The Community Based Sanitation (CBS) Service package is tailored to improve sanitation conditions in densely populated urban and peri-urban areas. CBS projects are planned and implemented within a participative, demand responsive, multi-stakeholder framework.

Objectives

The following objectives build the basis for the facilitation of CBS Service Packages:

- City development: targeting improved sanitation infrastructure
- Involving recipients as equal partners of their development by supporting them in establishing action plans
- Capacity building through provision of health & hygiene education as well as operation & maintenance training
- Improving WASH facilities including on-site wastewater treatment (DEWATS) and operation & maintenance (O&M)
- Exploring co-management models (partnership between local authorities, communities, social entrepreneurs, and NGOs) to support communities in the O&M
Implementation Steps

Step 1: Develop CBS Facilitation Capacity
As a first step, the local Community Coordination Facilitator is selected and trained for their special tasks.

Step 2: Community Selection
As a second step, the community is selected. Recipient communities are selected through a competitive and demand-based selection process to ensure that the communities have the willingness and ability to continue key activities in the long run.

Step 3: Composing CAP
Once a community is selected, the Community Action Plan (CAP) is discussed. It is the guideline for the following steps. Communities are supported in establishing Community Based Organizations (CBO) which are responsible for the management of all DEWATS related activities on a community level. To ensure the community’s commitment and contribution to the project, the final CBS letter is signed by the authorities, BORDA and the community leader.

Step 4: CBS Project Implementation
Step 4 consists of several sub-activities. The CBOs and communities take part in a series of trainings, such as operation & maintenance (O&M) for users and operators, WASH meetings, DEWATS management, and health & hygiene education. These capacity building activities enable communities to coordinate and facilitate key CBS activities (e.g. financial matters, especially operation and maintenance) themselves, and therefore help to ensure the sustainability of these important activities.

Step 5: CBS Project Monitoring & Evaluation
The fifth step takes place 6 and 12 months after the project commissioning. Monitoring and evaluation is conducted by BORDA. After 12 months, the second HIE takes place. If all results are satisfying, the project is officially finished after 12 months. As before, the community is responsible for operation and maintenance. In general, the CBO manages DEWATS on their own, but support of BORDA is always provided.

DEWATS Service Packages

- School Based Sanitation
- Community Based Sanitation
- Emergency Sanitation
- Sanitation for Hospitals & Hotels
- Sanitation for Prisons
- Sanitation for Real Estates
- Sanitation Mapping
- Municipal Sludge Treatment Plant
- Health Impact Assessment
- Health & Hygiene Education
- Capacity Development
- Standardisation