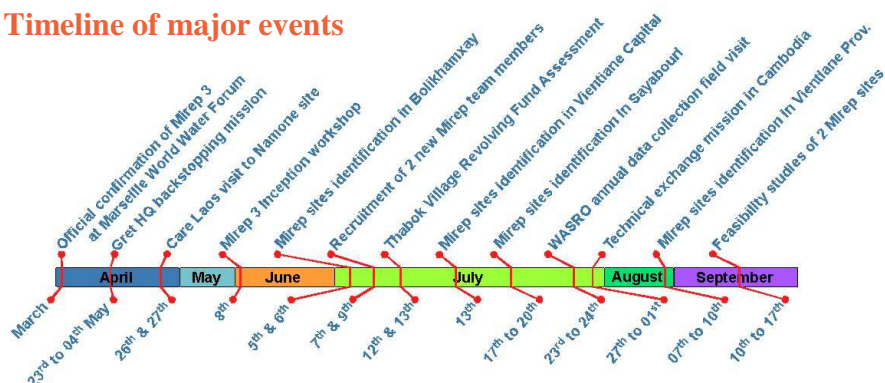


MIREP PROGRAMME – LAO PDR

SMALL SCALE PIPED WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION PROGRAMME IN SMALL TOWNS UNDER PPP SCHEME

NEWSLETTER N°1 / June - September 2012

Timeline of major events



Mirep phase III - Inception workshop

The inception workshop was hosted by DHUP in the Ministry of Public Work and Transportation on the 08th of June. Several stakeholders participated including officials from ministries, provincial authorities, representatives from INGO's and existing and potential water supply entrepreneurs. Discussions focused on the selection of the new sites and the financial contribution of the public authorities to the investment. In Mirep 3, the Provincial authorities will cofinance at least 5'000 usd per site.

Mirep project coordination

DHUP and GRET are working closer for a better coordination of the project and to build up the autonomy of the public authorities. In April, DHUP appointed a full-time senior coordinator for Mirep and offered a new office space in the Institute of Public Work and Transport with other international cooperation projects.

During Mirep 3 implementation, GRET team will progressively step back from project coordination to encourage public partners at central and local levels to take more responsibilities in the coordination of the project.

Objectives are set for 2012 : Identification of all new Mirep sites and feasibility studies for the three first sites

DHUP and GRET team have finalized the action plan for 2012. The main objectives for the first year are to, (1) identify and prioritize the new sites in the three target provinces and Vientiane Capital, (2) select the concessionaires for the first three new Mirep sites.

Four missions were organised in July and August to select the sites proposed by the provincial authorities. 18 sites in total were suggested by the local authorities. The selection is based on five main criteria: 1- the density of the population, 2- the number of households 3- existence of potential investors, 4- existence of a water source, 5- population demand for water. 10 sites are currently pre-selected and the feasibility studies have started in the three first sites, Nonesavanh and Pakfang in Sanakham district, Vientiane Province and MeuangPa in Paklay district, Sayabour province.

MIREP IN BRIEF

MIREP programme is implemented under the responsibility of the **Department of Housing and Urban Planning (DHUP)** – Started in 2004, Mirep aims at developing the access to water supply and sanitation in small towns of Laos through small-scale piped water schemes managed under Public Private Partnership (PPP). Eight water supply services were set-up during Mirep phases 1 & 2 and also one sewer and one solid waste management service.

In 2012, Mirep enters in the 3rd phase with the objective to establish 10 more water supply systems in 4 target provinces including Vientiane Capital.

Mirep 3 is funded by the Syndicat des Eaux d'Iles de France (**SEDIF**), the Agence de l'Eau Seine Normandie (**AESN**), **Aquassistance**, provincial authorities and local entrepreneurs.



The new Mirep team in July 2012



Mirep 3 Inception workshop in MPWT, 08/06/2012

The assessment of the Village Revolving Fund (VRF)

In July, Thabok VRF was assessed in order to identify potential improvements. The evaluation pointed out some issues related to reimbursements schedule from the families: it has not been optimal yet and could attract higher number of borrowers. For future sites, Gret will assist local authorities to set comprehensive rules to reimburse loans. The next target site for VRF is Feuang where the operators is struggling to increase the water connections rate.

News from existing Mirep sites

Houay Khoun : Water users's complaints about water hardness

Water users complained about high water hardness level. They are worried about health impact, mainly kidney stones. The annual concession Contract Review Meeting is planned before the end of the year. Gret team will assist the concessionaire and local authorities in addressing customers' concerns.

Hin Heup : A new entrepreneur for the waste water service

The concessionaire wishes to terminate his concession contract of the sewer system to concentrate in the water supply service. A new entrepreneur is interested in taking over the management of waste water and solid waste services in Hin Heup. Mirep team provides support through this process.

Feuang site : Plan for extension work

The concessionaire is planning major works in the coming months with the construction of a surface water treatment plant and the extension off the service area to a new village of 200 households.

Tha Heua site : Some difficulties during the dry season

The operator is investigating technical solutions to increase its production capacity during the dry season. Gret team is assisting him and the local authorities to improve the continuity of the water service which was disrupted several times during the last season. A mission from Aquassistance will be conducted in November to assess the water supply scheme and provide recommendations.

Senxoum site : Construction work under progress

The construction work is still progressing but slowly over the last months due to the heavy rains. The concessionaire plans to complete the work within the next 3 to 4 months. The inauguration is planned for Lao New Year in April 2013.

Pak Ngum site : construction started, finally!

The work started in July with the construction of the fences and water service offices. The concessionaire is currently reviewing the detailed designs together with the supervisor (WTA). After a long starting phase, the project is now progressing well.

Namone site : High level of NRW

The concessionaire reported new households connections and some difficulties with Non-Revenue Water mainly linked to commercial issues with customers. He is asking for some support to analyse the problem of illegal water connections in the service area. Local authorities are expecting a report on the situation soon in order to provide assistance to the concessionaire.



WASRO and Mirep teams collecting operation data from Feuang Site



Feasibility study in MeuangPa, Sayabouri province, in September

... and next quarter

- Pak Ngum and Senxoum water supply systems construction progress.
- Community training in Pak Ngum.
- Visit of AESN representative in October.
- Aquassistance technical assistance mission in November.
- Finalisation of the feasibility studies and launching of bidding process for the new concessionaires.
- Signature of the Mirep 3 MoU with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Annual Contract Review Meetings for Hin Heup and Houay Khoun sites.
- Follow-up on Thabok solid waste management service development.
- Setting-up off the VRF for water connections in Feuang.
- Dewats conference in Nagpur (India) 20-23/11/12. Gret will present Hin Heup wastewater management project.
- New Mirep Movie on YOU TUBE!

With the support from:



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