**UNICEF Lao PDR**

**Improving Educational Outcomes**

**Concept Note for Basic Education WASH Programme (Bridging Phase) - Laos**

**Background**

Currently, only 38.9% of 8,902 primary schools have functional water supply and latrines (EMIS, Ministry of Education 2010-11), as compared to the Government’s 2015 target of 50% coverage rate. Safe water and sanitation facilities in schools are a prerequisite for providing a healthy, safe environment for children and improving the quality of education outcomes, as reflected in the Ministry of Education and Sports’ Schools of Quality standards[[1]](#footnote-1). They are also key factors influencing girls’ attendance at school. In addition, improved WASH services and behaviours have a significant impact on diarrhoea and pneumonia – the leading causes of child mortality – as well as intestinal worm infections, trachoma, polio and other diseases which negatively impact children’s attendance in school and learning. Clear links between improved hygiene practices and nutritional uptake have also been established. Studies also show that the positive impacts of WASH provision in schools are multiplied when the community as a whole has access to and uses a sustainable WASH system, so investing in a systems approach leverages higher, long term benefits.

Through this proposed project, which provides bridging funds prior to final agreement on a much broader proposal of support, the WASH programme of UNICEF Lao PDR will continue to complement the Government of Lao PDR’s Education For All (EFA) objectives under the Education For All - Fast Track Initiative (EFA-FTI) Catalytic Fund Programme being implemented in 60 educationally disadvantaged districts, in order to help schools meet the Ministry’s quality standards. This proposal focuses on requesting initial funds for the construction of WASH facilities in 107 schools being completed under the Community Based Contracting modality (CBC) under the EFA-FTI Programme, and initial support for capacity development to effectively implement national WASH plans by improving linkages between schools and community. The bridging fund from AusAID will cover 22% of target schools completed under the CBC modality by mid 2013. The remaining 78% will be covered by the tranche received for Luangnamtha and Phongsaly provinces and new fund from the broader proposal of support.

**Project Outcome and Outputs**

**Outcome 1.**

18,190 children (8,186 girls) in target schools in 13 of the most educationally disadvantaged districts benefit from improved water supply and sanitation facilities.

**Output 1.**

18,190 children (8,186 girls) in 107 target schools in 13 districts of 6 provinces have access to and use water and sanitation facilities.

*Activities:*

* 1. Development of water sources, construction of water storage and child friendly hand washing facilities.
	2. Construction of separate latrines for girls and boys in all target schools in line with Ministry quality standards, with technically feasible designs to address specific needs of girls and disabled students, including monitoring and supervision of work.
	3. Printing of hygiene education toolkit (Blue Box) to support teaching and learning in schools.

1.4 Review with Nam Saat and MOES the hygiene promotion materials for the community dialogue process to promote consistent messages and approach in schools and host community.

**Geographical target**

In consultation with MOES, it was agreed that the project will first target schools completed under CBC modality and in provinces formerly supported by UNICEF where discussions with Provincial Nam Saat have already taken place. The bridging fund will cover 100% of schools in 13 selected districts.

**Risk assumption and mitigation**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Risk** | **Impact** | **Probability** | **Mitigation** |
| Hygiene education is not carried out in schools to ensure that children use the toilets, and use the water supply for hand washing.  | High | medium | The project will monitor the presence of hygiene education in schools linked to the monitoring of the water and sanitation services in order to know that it is taking place. If it is not, the project will coordinate with the MoES to take remedial action.  |
| Local capacity of remains a hurdle in achieving targets | High | medium | UNICEF will support Nam Saat at different levels to equip for effective delivery of services, with backup interventions and supports, including the use of consultants |
| Price hike of materials in retail market | High | medium | UNICEF will optimize use of resources to avoid funding shortage to reach the target |
| Natural disasters including floods, epidemics | High | medium | This can cause delay in achieving objectives. UNICEF will use the dry season for construction as far as possible |
| Depleting water tables in some areas | High | medium | Deep drilling options will be explored |
| Security situation deteriorates | High | low | UNICEF invests in its business continuity plan to ensure that core programmatic and operational function can continue |
| Accidental duplication | medium | low | UNICEF coordination with all key partners will avoid duplication  |

**Sensitivity to child protection**

Although the project does not include specific child protection activities, it does recognize some key child protection factors. For example, although construction will mostly take place during the dry season when schools are open, Nam Saat and contractors will be asked to use labour from local villages. Labourers will not have access to classrooms during school hours, and head teachers and village Water and Sanitation Committees will be encouraged to stop children approaching construction areas. No child labour will be allowed.

**Budget**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **No.** | **Activity description** | **Planned amount US$** |
| 1 | Provision of improved water supplies and latrine facilities  | 571,000 |
| 3 | Monitoring and supervision of construction by government | 15,000 |
| 4 | Printing of Blue Boxes  | 64,000 |
| 6 | Review hygiene materials for community dialogue process | 30,000 |
| 7 | Project support  | 70,000 |
|  | **Sub-Total** | **750,000** |
|  | NY Recovery Costs (7%) | 53,000 |
| **Total** | **803,000** |

|  |
| --- |
| **School WASH Construction in 13 Districts in 6 provinces (Phase I) in 2012, supported by AusAID (as of January 2012)** |
| ***Based on the list of Community-based Contracting (CBC)schools from Ministry of Education and Sport*** |
| No. | Name of provinces and No. of districts targeted | *Estimated No. and Types of WASH facilities* | # of schools targeted | Estimate # of School Children |
| WASH in Schools |
| School Latrines with 3-rooms | School latrine w/ith 2-rooms | Boreholes with hand pump | Boreholes with automatic pump | Water tower with submersible .pump | GFS system or Nam Papa piped Connection  |
| **1** | **Luang Prabang** (03 districts) | 16 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 16 | 16 | 2,720 |
|  | Average Unit Costs(US$)  | *4,000* | *3,000* |  *1,700*  | *1,700* | *3,500* | *400* |  |  |
|  | Sub-Total 01 | 64,000  |   |  -  | -  | -  |  6,400  |   |   |
|  | Sub-Total Cost 01 | **70,400** |   |   |
| **2** | **Xiengkuang** (02 districts) | 20 | 7 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 20 | 27 |  4,590  |
|  | Average Unit Costs(US$)  | *4,100* | *3,000* |  *1,800*  | *1,700* | *4,000* | *450* |  |  |
|  | Sub-Total 02 | 82,000  | 21,000  | 3,600 | 3,400  |  8,000  | 9,000  |   |   |
|  | Sub-Total Cost 02 | **127,000** |   |   |
| **3** | **Khammuane** (04 districts) | 20 | 3 | 18 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 23 |  3,910  |
|  | Average Unit Costs(US$)  | *4,100* | *3,100* |  *1,800*  | *1,700* | *3,800* | *500* |  |  |
|  | Sub-Total 03 | 82,000 | 9,300 |  32,400  | 3,400 | 7,600  | 500  |   |   |
|  | Sub-Total Cost 03 | **135,200** |   |   |
| **4** | **Champassack** (02 districts**)** | 22 | 3 | 20 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 25 |  4,250  |
|  | Average Unit Costs(US$)  | *4,200* | *3,100* | *1,800* | *1,700* | *3,800* | *500* |  |  |
|  | Sub-Total 04 | 92,400  | 9,300 | 36,000 | 3,400  | 7,600 | 500  |   |   |
|  | Sub-Total Cost 04 | **149,200** |   |   |
| **5** | **Vientiane province** (Meun district**)** | 10 | 0 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 10 |  1,700  |
|  | Average Unit Costs(US$)  | *4,200* | *3,100* | *1,700* | *1,700* | *3,500* |  *500*  |  |  |
|  | Sub-Total 05 | 42,000  |  -  | 13,600  | 1,700 | 3,700 |  -  |   |   |
|  | Sub-Total Cost 05 | **61,000** |   |   |
| **6** | **Borikhmaxay** (01 district**)** | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 6 |  1,020  |
|  | Average Unit Costs(US$)  | *4,200* | *3,100* | *1,700* | *1,700* | *3,500* |  *500*  |  |  |
|  | Sub-Total 6 | 25,200  |  -  |  -  |  -  |  -  |  3,000  |   |   |
|  | Sub-Total Cost 6 | **28,200** |   |   |
| **Total No. of facilities** | **94** | **13** | **48** | **7** | **7** | **44** |  |  |
| **Sub-Total Cost(US$)** | **387,600** | **39,600** | **85,600** | **11,900** | **26,900** | **19,400** |  |  |
| **Total(US$)** | **571,000** |  **107**  |  **18,190**  |

1. Schools of Quality standards for primary and secondary school will be merged into one unified National Education Quality Standards framework, expected to be approved early in 2012 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)