

CASE STUDY

Facts and Figures

- 230 people (including 105 women), were trained in participatory approaches to problem-solving, project planning and monitoring and evaluation, amongst other techniques.
- A water system consisting of a water tower, a 5,000-litre storage tank, a 60-meter borehole, water pumps and pipelines and 5 water taps were successfully installed in Xuong Yai Village for less than 5,000 EUR in under two months.
- Over 200 people in Xuong Yai Village (including 105 women) now benefit from easier access to water.
- A woman's journey to collect water is cut from 50 minutes to just 5 minutes allowing her more time for other activities such as childcare and even time to herself!
- A Water Users Group is established to collect 5,000 LAK per month from each household to ensure the maintenance of the water system long after the CANTEEN project has finished.

Total costs

EUR 1,310,980

Collaboration And Networking to Enhance Education and Nutrition (CANTEEN)

Clean water empowers women and improves health in Xuong Yai Village, Nong District, Laos.

A small village development grant, provided through the CANTEEN project, makes a big difference to the lives of women and their children in Xuong Yai Village.

Working together for growth and health!

Context

Before the CANTEEN program, the people of Xuong Village did not have easy access to a clean water supply. Women had to walk long distances to collect dirty water from the river. Diseases such as diarrhoea were common, harming the health of young children. Mothers often had little time to care for their infants amongst their many other chores.

CANTEEN's simple but effective water projects have changed this situation. The drilling of a borehole and installation of taps provided easy access to freshwater, instantly improving the lives of women and their families.

Objectives

- Strengthen the capacity of the Xuong Yai Village Development Committee to select, plan and implement small projects in a participatory manner that directly involves villagers.
- Increase the participation of women and children in village development processes and activities and ensure that any projects undertaken prioritise women's particular needs.
- Implement a cost-effective and sustainable solution to the provision of water in Xuong Yai Village.
- Demonstrate to District and Provincial Authorities the effectiveness of small grants in empowering villagers to take ownership of solutions to the development problems they experience.

Result

- Xuong Yai Village Development Committee was trained in various techniques such as identifying and ranking issues, problem analysis and solving, project planning, financial management and monitoring, evaluation and learning.
- Decision-making by women was built into the process with the support of the local Women's Union Office to ensure women's priorities were addressed and their continued participation in village governance.

Partners

- MCNV (www.mcnv.org)
- Community Development Association (CoDA)
- Xuong Yai Village Development Committee
- Nong District Nutrition Committee
- Nong District Health Office
- Nong District Agriculture and Forestry Office
- Nong District Education and Sports Office
- Nong District Lao Women's Union Office

Duration

January 2017 – December 2021



- Increased engagement of villagers with the local authorities and private sector who all had to be involved within the project to design, install and evaluate Xuong Yai Village's first sustainable water supply system.
- The installation of Xuong Yai's village first water supply system consisting of a storage tank, water, pumps, pipelines and water taps supplying easily accessible water to all 200 villagers.
- Reduction of women's labour time in collecting water and greater knowledge of using water safely and correctly to improve their health, children, and families.



VDCs members and villagers together construction water system in Xuong Yai village (April 2019) © MCNV

Testimony

"I am delighted that we have achieved this water improvement project. Before this project, women and children had to collect water from the river, this often took more than 50 minutes for a single trip. Now the women need only take 5 minutes to collect water from the taps. Women can use the water for a variety of purposes, including watering home gardens. All of this reduces women's work, ensuring they have more time to care for themselves and their children."



Ms Athi Representative of Lao Women's Union in Xuong Yai Village. © MCNV

Time for taps! Water saves time, increases crop yields and improves health.

"The CANTEEN small village grant scheme demonstrates that with the right support, villagers can identify and take ownership of solutions to problems that directly impact their lives. CANTEEN will be supporting further villages with small grants so that they can work with others, local authorities, NGOs and the private sector, to implement various projects managed and owned by themselves"



Done VONGSAVANG, CANTEEN Project Coordinator. © MCNV