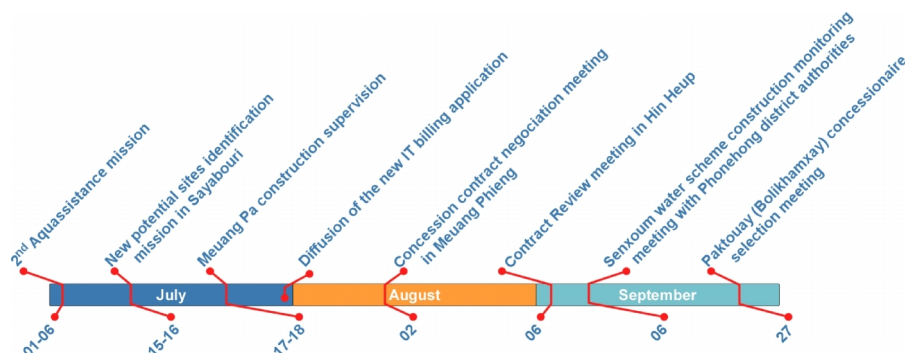


## MIREP PROJECT

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

## NEWSLETTER N°5 / July-September 2013

## Timeline of major events



## Signature the Mirep phase 3 Memorandum of Understanding

The signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding of the third phase of MIREP programme between Gret and the Ministry of Public Works and Transport, was held on September 17 at DHUP.

This new agreement formalizes the partnership framework and the implementation of activities of the third phase of the programme. The delay is due to the discussions that took place with the municipality of Vientiane about the project Samphana. This site was finally removed from the list of target locations. This change brings the objective to 9 sites. However, the total number of beneficiaries is maintained : 7,000 households or 39,000 people.

2<sup>nd</sup> Aquassistance mission

The second mission of Aquassistance took place from July 1 to 6. Accompanied by an engineer from Gret, two experts visited five sites (Namone Tha Heua, Feuang, Hinheup and Senxoum) to continue the technical diagnostics started during the first mission in November 2012.

Following the first mission, the concessionaires had implemented some of Aquassistance's recommendations to optimize the water production and improve the monitoring of the service.

This second mission is conducted at a time when some concessionaires are considering some extensions of their production unit. Aquassistance experts have therefore focused on solutions to increase the production capacity of the treatment systems.

## Avancement des nouveaux services d'eau (Mirep phase 3)

- The investor that was selected for Pakfang has withdrawn from the project for reasons internal to the company. The concessionaire of Nonesavanh, interested from the beginning by Pakfang site, proposed to the district authorities to transfer the concession of Pakfang water service to him. The transfer procedure is on-going. It has been validated by the district authorities, owner of the water service, and must be endorsed by the provincial authorities. This entrepreneur from Vientiane will become the first concessionaire of two sites.

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 safe water supply and sanitation in small towns of Laos through small-scale piped water schemes managed under Public Private Partnership (PPP). Between 2004 and 2011, eight water supply services were set-up (Mirep phases 1 & 2), and also one sewer and one solid waste management service.

In 2012, Mirep enters in a 3<sup>rd</sup> phase with the objective to establish 9 additional water supply systems in 3 provinces.

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**.



Signature of the MoU of Mirep 3rd phase between Gret and the DHUP, on September the 17<sup>th</sup>



Aquassistance expert, Thomas Loubier, and the operator of Hinheup water service

The start of the construction is delayed the time to finalize the concession contracts of the two sites. The detailed design of **Nonesavanh** network must be modified because the Agriculture and Forestry Office did not authorize the pumping in the irrigation reservoir. The alternative option of using the river Nam Mee will be implemented.

- In **Meuang Pa**, the construction of the network is progressing slowly due to the heavy rains that disrupt the delivery of materials. The current work focuses on the treatment plant. The Gret engineer will soon visit the site to engage the delicate construction of the sedimentation tank. In September, 90% of pipes were installed, and the general progress of the works had reached 70%.

A second installment of the grant (up to 20%) was paid in advance on the calendar to help the concessionaire to deal with temporary cash flow problems.

- **Meuang Phieng** concessionaire should submit the detailed design for verification. It will then be endorsed by the district authorities and the technical services of the Province. The first community training sessions will be organised in the coming weeks. The provincial authorities are considering to increase the governmental contribution to the provincial investment fund for Meuang Pa and Meuang Phieng sites. This decision results from their intention to calculate the amount of the contribution according to the size of the site (number of connectable households).

- **Paktouay** concessionaire has been selected on the 27<sup>th</sup> of September. He will now prepare the detailed design of the water scheme.

- The feasibility study of **Napheng** project is about to be finalised. The district authorities are preparing the concessionaire selection procedure.

## Mirep 2 sites

- A meeting with the head of district was organised on the 6<sup>th</sup> of septembre to discuss about the delayed in **Senxoum** project. The concessionaire committed to complete the remaining construction work and to connect the first households within the next two months.

- The annual contract review meeting of **Hinheup** was held on the 6th of September. The service operation report is globally positive. The concessionaire has presented the extension project. He plans to invest before the end of the year in : (i) the construction of a surface water treatment plant (37 m<sup>3</sup>/h capacity), (ii) a 50 m<sup>3</sup> elevated water tank and (iii) the extension of the network, with an estimated amount of 90 000 US\$.

- Works in **Pak Ngum** have started on the 2<sup>nd</sup> site (Ban Somsavath). The construction of the water tower has begun as well as the laying of the main pipe along the national road.

- To solve the water scarcity issue, **Houay Khoun** concessionaire plans to rehabilitate the old water treatment plant. Once the detailed design will be validated the local authorities will organise the contract review meeting.

- **Namone** concessionaire has changed the defected water production meter and installed a depth gauge in the water tank. The concessionaire has to improve the functioning of the raw water intake in the river.



Private well used by several families in Meuang Phieng



Laying of pipes —Meuang Pa Site



Water tank construction —Meuang Pa Site

### ...and next quarter

- Community trainings in Meuang Phieng, Nonesavanh and Pakfang
- Start of operation in Senxoum
- Selection of Napheng concessionaire
- Start of the water treatment plant extension construction work in Hinheup
- Validation of the detailed designs of Paktouay and Meuang Phieng

With the support from



### Contacts

GRET - Representation in Laos  
Ban Phonxay, Xaysetha District, PO 2483, Vientiane  
Tel. (856) (0)21 453 332

laos@gret.org – www.gret.org

### Contacts in Laos:

Arnaud Vontobel, vontobel@gret.org

Jean-Francois Kibler, kibler@gret.org

Contact in head office (Paris) :

Frederic Naulet, naulet@gret.org

### DHUP

Département de l'habitat et  
de la planification urbaine

Ministère des Travaux Publics des Transports (MPWT)

Av. Lane Xang – Vientiane

Tél. +856(0)21 451 826