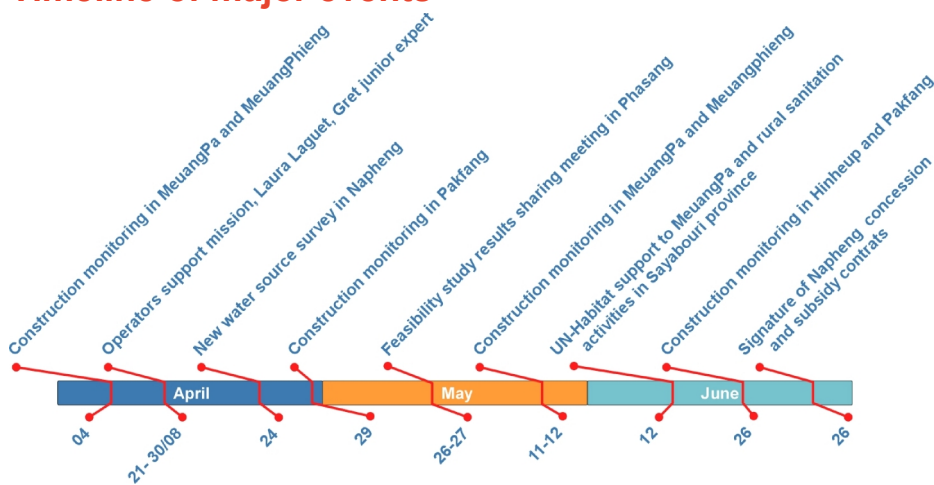


# MIREP PROJECT

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

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### Timeline of major events



### New water services activities progress

- The construction of the water system in **MeuangPhieng** started in January is progressing properly. The work focuses on the treatment plant and the intake. The concessionaire plans to order pipes soon. He is still awaiting a response to its request for credit from the Banque Franco-Lao.
- The construction of the water system in **MeuangPa** experienced delays due to availability of labor issues during farming season. The commissioning of the network is extended to September. The agency UN-Habitat in Laos wished to support MIREP project in Sayaboury province. A contribution is dedicated to the project **MeuangPa** to balance the amount of the investment subsidy following the recent arrival of twenty families under the resettlement program for families displaced by the large dam project on the Mekong.



Pakfang water tower

• The construction of **Pakfang** site is also progressing at a good pace. Three options are being considered for the power supply to the treatment plant, connection to the national grid, a diesel generator or a photovoltaic system. The concessionaire will choose based on the investment.

• A meeting for the identification of the new water source in **Nonesavanh** was held in late April following the ban on the use of irrigation tank. The water intake will finally be installed in the NamMee River. A new land for the treatment plant had to be identified by authorities.

### MIREP

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.



Meeting of the construction monitoring committee in MeuangPhieng



Water meter boxes ready to be installed in MeuangPa

• **Napheng** site (Vientiane province) had a similar situation when the pumping in the irrigation tank was banned for the central authorities. A new source has been identified leading to a complete review of the detailed design. Additional costs were shared between the project and the concessionaire. The signing ceremony of the concession and subsidy contracts took place on June 26. The construction work will begin in August.

## Progress on feasibility studies

The presentation of **Phasang** feasibility study was organized in May. The results demonstrate the infeasibility of a MIREP model for this site for two main reasons: first, the amount of investment is too high for the potential number of users in the coverage area of the service, and then the rate of families wishing to use the service is lower than the minimum threshold for a typical project MIREP. Discussions are underway with the Ministry, provincial and local authorities to confirm the suspension of the project and to identify another site to replace Phasang. Phasang site has received strong support from local authorities who will now have to consider other models than MIREP that would better fit to very rural context of Phasang.

The presentation of **Nampheun** feasibility study is scheduled in July. The findings of the study are in favor of the MIREP project.

## Mirep 2 sites

- The construction of the new surface water treatment in **Hinheup** (expansion project) is progressing slowly. Gret engineers are asked regularly to support the concessionaire in the establishment of the sand filter system and lamellar in the sedimentation tank. The water treatment plant will be completed in late July. The concessionaire will then undertake the construction of the water tower.
- The proposed transfer of the **Tha Heua** water service concession was approved by the local authorities. The current concessionaire and the future one agreed on the amount of compensation. The future concessionaire has established an investment program valued at \$ 100,000. It includes the repairing of the network and the treatment plant to reduce technical losses which became really high. He is also studying the possibility of using an alternative source of water to compensate for the lack of water during the dry season.
- The rate of network connections in **Senxoum** continues to grow at a good pace. A villagers information session will be held in the coming weeks to raise awareness of the rights and obligations of water service users.



Preparation of the sand filter bottom slab in Hinheup



The sedimentation tank in Hinheup



Signature of Napheng concession and subsidy contracts in Vientiane province



Identification of the new water source in Nonesavanh, Vientiane Province



Water Supply Regulatory Office (WASRO) 7 - 6 Gret

### ...and next quarter

- Provincial steering committee meeting in Bolikhamxay
- Concession and subsidy contracts signature of Napheng and Paktouay water systems
- Launching of the construction work in Nonesavanh and Paktouay
- Support to the solid waste management service in Thabok
- Launching of the washoba project
- Commissioning of MeuangPa water service



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