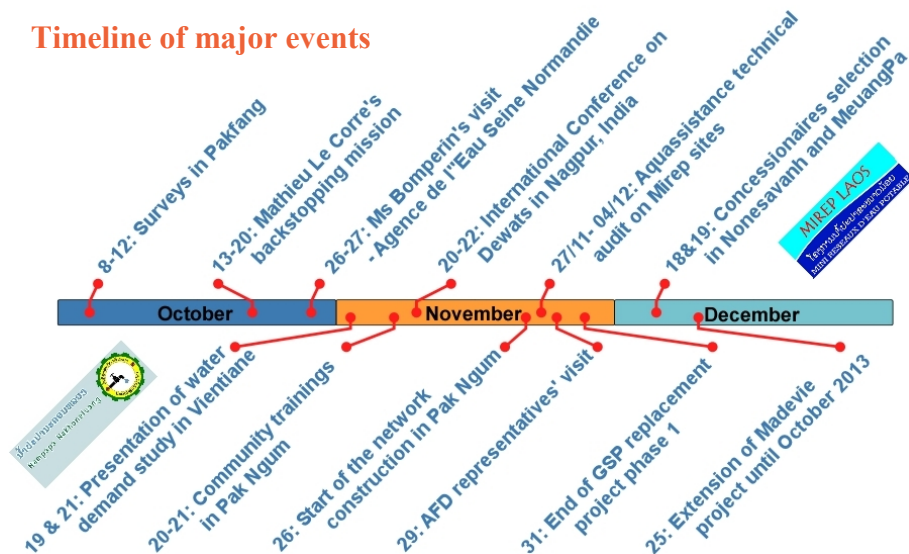


MIREP & MADEVIE PROJECTS

SMALL SCALE PIPED WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION PROGRAMME IN SMALL TOWNS UNDER PPP SCHEME IMPROVING BUSINESS MANAGEMENT & INCREASING ACCESS TO WATER SUPPLY IN VIENTIANE CAPITAL

NEWSLETTER N°2 / October - December 2012

Timeline of major events



Progress of the implementation of new Mirep water services

The implementation of the new Mirep projects has been progressing well thanks to an effective collaboration with highly committed local authorities and motivated private entrepreneurs.

Feasibility studies of Nonesavanh, MeuangPa and Pakfang were completed and results shared with the local authorities in November and December. All feasibility studies (7 are remaining) will be completed in the coming months before the end of the dry season.



Pakfong: Inspection of a potential location of the intake along the Mekong river



Location of Mirep sites

Two concessionaires are selected, for MeuangPa and Nonesavanh sites. A quicker concessionaire selection process was successfully tested.

The newly selected concessionaires have hired the consultants to prepare the detailed designs. The construction works are expected to start in March 2013 for these two sites.

The provincial authorities in Sayaboury and Vientiane Provinces have signed **the convention of partnership** and validated their financial contribution to the investment in the new Mirep sites.

MIREP LAOS

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MINI RESEAUX D'EAU POTABLE

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 3rd phase with the objective to establish 10 additional water supply systems in 4 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**.

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Nampapa Nakhoneluang



MaDeVie project is implemented within the **strategic partnership framework** established between **NPNL** (Nam Papa Nakhone Luang – Vientiane Water Supply) and **SEDIF** (Syndicat des Eaux d’Île-de-France). **Gret** provides technical assistance to NPNL for the implementation of AEP2 project funded by **AFD**.

MaDéVie aims at improving the service quality and extending service coverage with **four main components**:

1. Strengthen strategic planning and governance; 2. Modernize commercial and financial management; 3. Improve asset management capacity and technical skills; and 4. Extend service coverage by piloting innovative PPP schemes (Public Private Partnership).

Visit of Seine-Normandie Water Agency representative (AESN)

Ms Laetitia Bomperin visited Mirep project on the 25th & 26th of October. Field visits were organised in Vientiane and Bolikhamxay provinces at Hinheup and Thabok sites. Ms Bomperin met the operators and local authorities. The Seine-Normandie Water Agency is funding water and sanitation activities of Mirep III.

International conference on decentralized wastewater management in Asia (20-22/11/12, Nagpur, India)

Mr Sengaloun Khammoungkhoun, Mirep engineer, presented the Hinheup sewer project during a major international event on sanitation to which participated more than 200 people from 30 countries. Hinheup project has received the attention of many participants interested by the management model based on PPP.

News from existing Mirep sites

Technical audit from Aquassistance

From the 27th November to 04th December, two experts from Aquassistance conducted a technical audit of Namone, ThaHeua, HinHeup, HouayKhoun and Thabok water services. It was the first mission from a series of five planned during Mirep III. Aquassistance will provide technical expertise on water treatment technologies and sanitation aspects. The findings and recommendations from the audit will be shared with the concessionaires and the local authorities. The Mirep team will assist them for the implementation.

Feuang site

The concessionaire has finished the extension work of the water production facility. The new facility includes surface water sedimentation and storage tanks where ground and surface waters are mixed. The concessionaire has chosen this temporary solution to prevent water scarcity problems in the coming months, the driest of the year.

Senxoum site

The construction of the water utility is 80% completed. The remaining work concerns the installation of the intake pumps and the implementation of pressure tests on the network. The first households should be connected in the coming weeks. MPWT is considering awarding Mirep project once WASRO and a special evaluation committee will have conducted the evaluation of Senxoum project.

Thabok

In October, the new operator of the **solid waste collection service** informed Mirep team about on-going excavation work that was damaging the landfill. The local authorities suspended immediately the excavation operation. Fortunately the damages to the landfill are limited and the site will be restored by the local authorities. This incident pointed out some misunderstandings from the previous concessionaire and the local authorities regarding their own responsibilities as stated in the contract. Mirep team will assist all parties during the contract review process to ensure that such incidents will not happen again.

Pak Ngum site

The construction of the network started at the end of November. During the project steering committee meeting held on the 16th of November, the pending issue related to the provision of the land by the local authorities was raised. The committee allowed the concessionaire to lay pipes in the buffer zone along the national road. **The detailed design** is still being adjusted to include the groundwater option with 150m³ elevated reservoir on both production sites. The laying of the pipes is progressing well and the boreholes will be drilled in the coming weeks.

In November, the **first community trainings** session were organized in the four target villages to present to the population the construction phases and the financial and economic aspects of the water service. Hygiene and health messages were also disseminated by the trainers.



Sharing of feasibility study results in Nonesavanh



Ms Bomperin (AESN) with local authorities visiting a Mirep site in Vientiane Province



Mr Sengaloun (Gret- Laos) at DEWATS conference in Nagpur, India



Mrs Dalga and Mr Loubier from Aquassistance with Tha Heua site operator



Excavator in action in Thabok landfill

NPNL financial management and strategy

NPNL is finalizing the Terms of References of an **external financial and accounting audit**. The audit firm will be selected in January through a competitive tendering process opened to international audit firms with local representations in Laos. The audit is a preliminary step to the next Gret expert's mission to analyse NPNL current financial situation and draw up financial projections. This mission is scheduled in March 2013.

NPNL commercial management

Alexandre Georgieff, an expert from Gret, has completed the **study on the water demand in Vientiane capital** in December. Two workshops were organized to share the study results with the heads of branches and NPNL managers. The study shows that users consider the water quantity and pressure as the main water service quality criteria. Other interesting results are the users' high level of satisfaction regarding the water tariff as almost 80% of the users think that water is cheap and the important consumption of bottled water which is preferred to piped-water for cooking and drinking. This study on the NPNL customers' perception of water service was the first of this type ever conducted in Laos. It will help NPNL to define a communication strategy towards users and local authorities.

Following a request from NPNL, NSS submitted a proposal for the extension of its contract to further improve **NPNL Customer Water Billing System (CWBS)**. The proposal includes: (i) the development of a tool to export water consumption data from the billing database to the hydraulic model, (ii) the inclusion of decentralized NPNL water services from Sangthong and Pak Ngum districts in the CWBS; (iii) and the development of debt management procedures. The proposal is under review.

NPNL asset management

The phase 1 of the **GSP replacement project** ended in November. The Lieman-inseng Company replaced 33km out of the 47km initially planned. As-built drawings are currently being prepared. The bidding for the selection of a new contractor will be launched in January. The phase 2 of the GSP project concerns the replacement of 26km of old leaking pipes mainly located in the center of Vientiane. The phase 2 should be completed before the end of August 2013.

The NPNL has signed the contract with Water Asia Pacific Company for the purchase of approximately 9'000 **domestic water meters** to replace old defected ones. The delivery of the meters is expected during the first quarter of 2013.

NPNL technical department is implementing some of the recommendations based on the **hydraulic model** simulations to increase the pressure in the network (full opening of the valves at the production sites).

The NPNL training sessions on GIS by WTA/ESRI consultants are finished. For the next phase of the project NPNL GIS team will be assisted by WTA consultants to upgrade the network attributes database and develop **GIS and hydraulic model management** procedures for data management between NPNL departments. Sedif has offered its assistance to NPNL on these aspects.



Gret expert A. Georgieff and the surveyors team for the preparation of the study on water demand in Vientiane



NPNL and MADEVIE team visiting Pak Ngum site

... and next quarter

- Selection of the concessionaire for Pakfang site.
- Feasibility studies in 7 new Mirep sites.
- Completion of construction work in Senxoum.
- Setting-up off the VRF in Feuang.
- Signature of concession and subsidy contracts in Nonesavanh and MeuangPa, start of the construction work.
- Upgrading of the Mirep M&E database with Wasro and setting-up of the new system in Mirep sites.
- Signature of the Mirep 3 MoU with the MPWT.
- Identification of poor households in Pak Ngum.
- External audit of NPNL & Gret expert mission on NPNL financial system.
- Procurement of equipment for NPNL leak detection unit and Emergency Repair Team.
- Selection of the contractor for the phase 2 of GS pipes replacement project and start of the work.

With the support from



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