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Activities of RWSSP's partners

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Call for news contribution

If you have news on rural water supply and sanitation, please send us via email: pcu@rwssp.org.vn

Decision on some enabling mechanism/policies for increased investment and management, exploitation of rural water supply facilities

On the 2nd November 2009, the Prime Minister signed and issued Decision no. 131/2009/QĐ-TTg regarding some enabling mechanism/policies for increased investment and management, exploitation of rural water supply facilities. This Decision will be effective from the 1st January 2010. In the coming time, MARD) in collaboration with related ministries and agencies will organize workshops to disseminate the Decision. *Source: GoV portal page, www.chinhphu.vn*

Rural Water Supply and Sanitation NTP II / Donor Quarterly Meeting

The Standing Office (SO) for the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation National Target Program (RWSS NTP) and Target Program Budget Support donors (DANIDA, AusAID, The Netherlands and DFID) held their latest quarterly meeting on 4 November 2009, to update on the implementation of the NTP II. Key issues covered at the meeting include (i) Capacity building support to new NTP II rollout provinces; (ii) Mobile Teams; (iii) Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E); and (iv) DFID participation in NTP II.

Different types of capacity building support to rollout provinces were discussed including workshops on specific topics (such as financial issues), mobile teams, local Technical Assistance teams and exchange visit with pilot provinces.

A summary of the mobile team's reports from their visits to 12 rollout provinces was presented and discussed. Some of the priority issues include programme management and coordination, decentralisation, IEC activities, M&E and disbursement.

The National Centre for Water Supply and Sanitation (NCERWASS) presented a summary of progress on support to the new M&E system. Many training classes have been conducted so far, and next year further training will be supported by provincial staff and consultants recruited by NCERWASS. It is expected that 43 provinces will report on the NTP II indicators using the new M&E system by early next year. Some provinces (e.g. An Giang) have already introduced the new M&E system and so far results are encouraging.

Next year DFID (UK Government) will begin their support for the NTP II, including setting up a fund for lending activities. Currently, DFID is formulating their programme and finalising internal approval procedures. The proposed support to the Vietnam Bank of Social Policy (VBSP) is facing some difficulties as there is a question on how VBSP would raise funds if DFID provided a grant to cover the cost of interest (DFID do not usually provide loans for this type of assistance). *Source: NTP II, SO*

Activities of RWSSP's partners (continued)

Rural Water Supply and Sanitation National Target Program II Research Panel

The Research Panel fund for the RWSS NTP II finally got off the ground with the first formal Research Panel meeting to assess the 24 applications received, following the call for applications. The research panel consists of representatives from Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Education and Training (MoET), NTPII SO, Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST), MARD, RWSS Partnership and international advisers. The applications covered a wide range of research topics including household water filters; water treatment systems for piped supply; Information Technology for water management; solid waste, animal waste and waste water treatment; climate change and investigative studies for IEC.

The results of the meeting are not yet official but some applications will be selected without change while some will be selected with certain conditions. Others may receive feedback with suggestion that they submit again after the next call for applications. It is expected that there will be another call early next year. *Source: NTP II SO*

Workshop on “Community – Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) in the Asia Pacific region”

From 10 – 14 November 2009, in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, the Ministry of Rural Development of Cambodia in collaboration with co-sponsoring organizations including International Development Organization (IDS), Plan International, UNICEF, Water and Sanitation Program - World Bank (WSP), WaterAid Australia, Swiss Red Cross, LienAid and SNV organized a workshop on “Community – Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) in the Asia Pacific region.”

The purpose of the workshop was to evaluate the implementation of CLTS in the region and to strengthen efforts on policy and implementation to help implement CLTS more successfully.

About 60 people participated in the workshop, coming from 8 countries including Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Việt Nam and specialists from India and some international organizations.

The workshop was a forum for the participants to share experiences and learn from each other and was also a good opportunity to learn about CLTS implementation in Cambodia via fieldtrips to the communes which have been implementing CLTS, environment marketing project and other water supply and environmental sanitation projects in two provinces of Takeo and Tampong, conducted by Red Cross, Cambodia's Ministry of Rural Development and LienAid.

How to help people select low and medium cost latrine models while still ensuring hygienic quality?

This is the urgent need in many rural areas. Appropriate technologies at a reasonable cost need to be studied to diversify options for rural people. Bangladesh is a good example for offering many options for latrines at a variety of costs. Parts of the latrines such as roof, wall, pan, and pit are freely available in the markets.



By the end of the workshop, the participants agreed that CLTS is a good approach to stop open defecation in rural areas. However the application of CLTS should be supported by the Government and integrated with other approaches. CLTS also needs to be applied flexibly keeping in mind the context of each country.

In the picture: A workshop participant checks a low cost latrine self built by local people in Kapoum Chouk village, Koh Andaet district, Takeo province, where CLTS started in 2007. By: Dương Tú Oanh, www.cerwass.org.vn

Activities of RWSSP's partners (continued)

Combined SAWAP Core Team Meetings and SAWAP Steering Committee Meeting

The Sanitation and Water Partnership for the Mekong (SAWAP) Core Teams for Cambodia, Lao PDR, Vietnam and Yunnan Province of China held their 2009 combined meeting in Phnom Penh on 16th November 2009. The meeting comprised key Water and Sanitation stakeholders from the four countries and reviewed new project proposals for implementation in 2010/2011. Discussions also included a review of SAWAP project selection criteria and current structural arrangements.

On 17th November, the inaugural SAWAP Steering Committee Meeting was held to consider and endorse the recommendations from the Combined Core Teams. The SAWAP Steering Committee, comprising SAWAP Regional Coordinator and one representative from each country plus the WSP Regional Team Leader, recommended a total of six new projects to be supported from SAWAP Trust Funds. These projects will now be fully detailed for final endorsement by the Steering Committee in early 2010. *Source: Chris Trethewey, SAWAP Coordinator*

Workshop on “Hygiene among Ethnic Minorities in Lao Cai Province: Current Situations and Future Hygiene Promotion”

On 19 November 2009 in Hanoi, the project of Water Supply, Sanitation, Hygiene Promotion and Health in Vietnam (SANIVAT Project) under the National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology (NIHE) organized a workshop on “Hygiene in Ethnic Minority People in Lao Cai Province: Current Situations and Future Hygiene Promotion”. The aim of the workshop was to present the main findings from the project field studies in relation to hygiene and hygiene promotion in the context of the rural water supply and sanitation (RWSS) program, as well as to obtain feedback and recommendations for on-going and future field studies. All field research activities of SANIVAT have been taking place in Lao Cai province, which is one of the 9 pilot provinces under the RWSS NTP II.

The workshop was attended by representatives from different Vietnamese academic and research institutions including NIHE, the National Institute of Occupational and Environmental Health, National Institute of Nutrition, Hanoi Medical University and Hanoi School of Public Health, as well as from national/international organizations and NGOs working in the WATSAN sector in Vietnam, such as the NTP II SO at MARD, RWSS Partnership, the World Bank, WHO, Embassy of Denmark, PATH, Plan International, Red Cross, SNV, CWS, UCOPEP and others. The participants were highly interested in the multi-disciplinary field studies presented by SANIVAT researchers, ranging from a qualitative study of hygiene practice and perceptions in ethnic minority



villages in Lao Cai (with a focus on hand washing and child excreta management) to hygiene perception and latrine use among school children in the same area. The studies also focused on the microbiological quality of the water and foods of the households included in the RWSS program supported by the RWSS-NTP II and other donors in the local areas. A number of implications/recommendations were proposed on how to improve hygiene promotion and target IEC in the community and school contexts, including awareness-raising on the importance of hygiene, safe water/foods, infectious diseases, and child nutrition. In addition, each promotion program should be tailored by age, ethnicity, and gender. The presentations triggered a lot of fruitful discussions relating to the study designs, implementation and findings. This has contributed to the finalization of SANIVAT research papers/reports as well as the promotion of experience sharing and lesson learning in the WATSAN sector in Vietnam. *Source: Do Thuy Trang, SANIVAT project, NIHE-MoH*

Activities of RWSSP's partners (continued)

Consultation workshop on U3SAP

Following the Prime Minister's letter no. 7659/VPCP-KTN on 11th November 2008, authorizing the Ministry of Construction (MoC) to be the leading agency in the development of the Unified Sanitation Sector Strategy and Action Plan (U3SAP), MoC in collaboration with WSP- World Bank has recruited international consultants to support the U3SAP development process. At the same time, a composing team and U3SAP preparation group led by MoC's Vice Minister, with membership comprising of representatives from related ministries, were established.

From 26 to 27 November 2009, with WSP's support, MoC organized a consultation workshop on U3SAP development in Ha Long city, Quang Ninh province. The purpose of the workshop was (i) to evaluate and comment on the U3SAP concept note and (ii) to orient the development of U3SAP, roles and coordination mechanisms among related ministries. *Source: MoC*

Plan's Sanitation, Hygiene and Water Integrated Project (SHWIP)

The Sanitation, Hygiene and Water Integrated Project (SHWIP) is being conducted in Quang Ngai province, with financial support from AusAID under the Vietnam Australian NGO Cooperation Agreement (VANGOCA).

The project has demonstrated a holistic, sustainable and high-impact approach to RWSS programming with water safety, sanitation, hygiene and health at its centre. The Project design is an integrated approach directed at fostering behaviour change, with strategies to address issues of gender, children's and community participation that fundamentally impact on decisions relating to water, sanitation and hygiene.

The project has been running since July 2005 and is scheduled to finish in November 2010. Activities have been conducted in 16 communes of three districts: Tu Nghia, Nghia Hanh and Son Tinh. The target population is 104,000 people in 23,000 households. The total project budget is US\$1,170,000.

The Project has been managed by Plan Management Unit based in Quang Ngai and implemented in partnership with local service-providers of the Department of Health, Provincial Centre for Rural Water Supply and Sanitation, and the Vietnam Women's Union

The SHIWP project has made significant progress in reaching targets for sanitation, hygiene and water improvements through the strategy of creating strengthened supply, demand and financing options for WASH improvements at the household and community levels. With 12 months of project implementation remaining, the progress towards targets is as follows:

By 2010 the project will have enabled 1,300 water-scarce families to have improved access at household level to water of adequate quantity and quality for essential human health and hygiene use. At the end of September 2009, the target for water had already been achieved with 1,596 households accessing clean water through improved existing household wells, communal wells and household water filter tanks. By the end of the project the target is expected to be exceeded by 500 households.

By 2010 the project will have enabled 10,000 households to invest in improved household latrines and hygiene-enabling facilities, with priority given to those most disadvantaged. At the end of September 2009, over 8,000 households have already invested in sanitation and hygiene facilities. In Year 4, the target will be easily reached and exceeded with 2,500 facilities expected to be constructed with priority given to the poorest and most vulnerable. *Source: Nguyen Quy Hoa, Plan WASH Manager*

Upcoming events

- Consultation on annual workplan of 2010 of RWSSP, from November to December 2009
- Final consultation workshop on "Water quality management project proposal", 8/12/2010
- NTP II's Gala workshop with provinces, 22/12/2009, Da Nang city
- Workshop on "Integration of Hand Washing with soap into the activities of Vietnam Women's Union", 22-23/12/2009
- Workshop on the web based mapping information on RWSS investment, 30/12/2009
- NGO WAT SAN workshop, 14-15/1/2010