



SNV/Aiden Dockery

Water for Women: Lao PDR

Improving the health, equality and wellbeing of communities in Lao PDR with *Beyond the Finish Line: Sustainable Sanitation and Hygiene for All*

Access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) is essential to health and wellbeing.

Water for Women is partnering with SNV Netherlands Development Organisation (SNV) to deliver *Beyond the Finish Line* to improve the health and wellbeing of an estimated 229,000 people in Lao PDR.

Gender equality and social inclusion are central to Water for Women. Actively involving all people within communities (women, men, marginalised groups, people with disabilities) ensures more equitable and inclusive processes, which lead to more effective and sustainable outcomes in WASH.

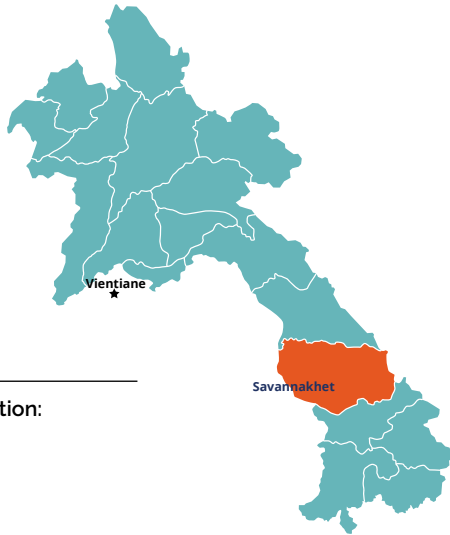
Water for Women is the Australian Government's flagship WASH program and will be delivered over five years from 2018 to 2022.

Partnering with

SNV UTS Institute for Sustainable Futures

Sanitation Water Hygiene

Benefiting an estimated **229,000** people



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Lao PDR

- Regions of operation:**
- Atsaphone
 - Champhone
 - Xonbuli

Beyond the Finish Line: Sustainable Sanitation and Hygiene for All

The Australian Government is committed to delivering effective and sustainable WASH access. Water for Women will contribute to Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG6), water and sanitation for all.

Whilst Lao PDR has made significant and progressive advances in its national development over the past two decades, it still faces key challenges in terms of increasing access to and usage of sanitation and hygiene services.

2.4 million people (38% of the population) continue to practice open defecation. Progress towards universal access to safely managed sanitation services and ending open defecation, together with the adoption of key hygiene behaviours, will deliver significant benefits to the country in terms of health, wellbeing and increased productivity.

Beyond the Finish Line will support opportunities and benefits in WASH for everyone in the community, with its emphasis on gender equality and social inclusion.

The benefits of improved, safe access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) are clear. Not only does access to WASH prevent disease and death, it also has profound, lasting socio-economic impacts on a community and its ability to prosper, particularly for women and girls.

“Our ambition is that by the end of the project, the three districts will be able to demonstrate successful models for District WASH planning, budgeting and implementation. Our goal is to support the government to achieve “Sustainable Sanitation and Hygiene for All” using the Government’s own system with the resources available... The government’s team of district officials will be the lead agencies for the implementation of all project interventions with the support of SNV’s technical assistance through a learning by doing process.”

- Allert van den Ham, Country Director, SNV Lao PDR and Myanmar

Some expected outcomes by 2022 include an estimated:

- 85,000 people using basic sanitation services;
- 15,000 people having access to safely managed sanitation;
- A number of institutions providing basic or above sanitation;
- 80,000 people with basic handwashing facilities in their household;
- A number of institutions with basic handwashing facilities;
- A number of communities with all public institutions that have universally accessible basic or safely managed WASH facilities;
- 50 Schools with adequate toilet ratios;
- A number of schools with improved access to safe menstrual hygiene management facilities;
- 15 Health care facilities with premise level solid waste management for health care facilities.



The Australian aid program is investing in Lao PDR over a five-year period. Water for Women is proud to be partnering with SNV Netherlands Development Organisation and research partner, Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology Sydney and the Ministry of Health along with our local partners Care Lao and Gender and Development Association with technical support from CBM Australia.