



FACT SHEET

Luang Namtha



Quick Facts

Country:	Lao PDR
Population:	19,895 Inh.
Adm. Area:	12.0 km ²



Executive Member of City Alliance
since 2017

Contact

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Project Start/End Year
2014-2028

Introduction

The town of Luang Namtha is the administrative capital and the urban center of Luang Namtha province in north-western Lao People's Democratic Republic, bordering China and Myanmar. Luang Namtha has been heavily dependent on traditional forms of agriculture. However, because of its strategic position in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) corridor it has an expanding economy based around agricultural diversification and eco-tourism.

Lao PDR was among the earliest countries to localize the SDGs and integrate them into its national planning framework. The National Socio-Economic Development Plan has embedded the SDGs in its outcomes. To implement the national agenda, the Lao government and ADB had agreed the loan for Second GMS Corridor Town Development Project, Luang Namtha is one of two towns under this project. The project is implemented by the Ministry of Public Works and Transport, with the Department of Housing and Urban Planning (DHUP) as the project coordination unit (PCU) and the Luang Namtha Department of Public Works and Transport as the project implementation unit (PIU). Implementation of the concept of Integrated Sanitation that is applied in this city contributes to achievement of a cluster of Sustainable Development Goals and Targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, such as SDG 1- No Poverty; SDG 6 - Clean Water and Sanitation; SDG 7 - Affordable and Clean Energy; SDG 9 - Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure; SDG 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities; and SDG 17 - Partnerships for the Goals.

Challenges Related to Water and Sanitation

Luang Namtha's generated wastewater is collected in a septic tank for black water and the effluent is combined with grey water discharging to the road drainage which is also mixed with storm water. At the moment 85 per cent of the inhabitants use septic tanks and the other 15 per cent use different facilities.

There is no wastewater treatment in Luang Namtha other than the natural separation and settlement in the septic tanks yet. The government and private vacuum trucks offer desludging services where sludge is disposed directly to the environment, mostly on rice fields or rubber plantations. There was a sludge disposal area at the existing solid waste dumpsite which is now inaccessible due to dumped garbage. Storm water and grey water currently flow to the lower parts of the city area and drain into the Namtha River, some ponds and rice field areas.



System Solution

Integrated Sanitation Management



Town-wide development planning in Luang Namtha applied the following seven modules:

- Decentralized Wastewater Management (DEWATS)¹
- Fecal Sludge Management
- Septic Tank Overflow (Super Natant)
- Operation & Maintenance
- Capacity Building
- Monitoring & Evaluation
- Re-Use

Key Project Interventions

- ISA system solution and modules workshop in Luang Namtha
- FSM toolbox training and assessment
- Implementation for fecal sludge treatment plant
- Implementation of decentralized wastewater treatment system for night market
- Operation and maintenance trainings

Financing Mechanism (see Case Study: Financing Integrated Sanitation, 2019)

The Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic through the Ministry of Finance manages a loan from the Asian Development Bank to the Ministry of Public Works and Transport and the Luang Namtha Public Works and Transport Department to implement the GMS2 project.

Project Images



Informal and untreated dumpsite



Informal disposal of wastewater and sludge in nearby lake



Insufficient sewer system

Contacts

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Mallory Bellairs, UN ESCAP (Layout)

Jakrapong Tawala, UNITAR (Administrative map)

¹ UN ESCAP, UN-Habitat and Asian Institute of Technology, 2015. Policy Guidance Manual on Wastewater Management with a Special Emphasis on Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems.