

Factsheet

WATER AND SANITATION IN THE LAO PDR

Goals

- Provide access to clean water and sanitary facilities - a basic human right
- Improve the quality of daily life for poor, remote communities, especially among ethnic populations and women

National Targets by 2015

- 80 per cent of rural people to have safe water
- 67 per cent of households to have sanitary latrines
- 48 per cent of primary schools to have water and latrines

Progress

People with access to safe water:

1990: 30 per cent 2003: 60 per cent

Access to improved sanitation:

1990: 11 per cent 2003: 45 per cent

- Over the past two years 240,000 people gained access to improved water and sanitation facilities.
- There is now a national strategy promoting community participation, empowerment and sustainability.
- With sufficient funding, national targets can be achieved by 2015.

Challenges

Financing Rural Water Supply

Most public investment benefits towns, while 80% of people live in rural areas

Without renewed funding, targets will not be met in rural areas

Disparities in Access

- In 3 mountainous provinces, over half the population lack clean water and over 75 per cent of people have no latrines
- Reaching the poorest and most vulnerable is also the most costly, since they are the hardest to reach.