

# Rural water supply through PPP

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## Introduction & Background

Water is essential to human life. Access to safe drinking water is basic human rights and is necessary to ensure healthy population. Lack of safe water and adequate sanitation are the root causes of World poverty. These both are a symptom and a cause of poverty.

Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Thailand—countries of mainland Southeast Asia—not only share common borders, but also water resources which ultimately impacts in varying intensity and magnitude. These countries play hosts and are repositories of the earth's diminishing habitats, now under threat. The Mekong Basin has arguably the most diverse biotic and cultural landscape in the world today.

The RWS (Rural Water Supply) sector in Cambodia requires enormous financial and institutional inputs. Cambodia has a population of about 14.4 million of which over 12 million reside in rural areas. Nearly 40% of the rural population or about 5 million do not have access to safe drinking water. It is estimated that up to 20% of the rural children under 5 years of age could be suffering from diarrhea. The infant and under 5 mortality rate is the highest in the region at 97 and 141 per 1,000 live births respectively

The population of Lao PDR is 5.5 million with 49 ethnic groups. Most of the population is located in rural areas. Despite improved coverage in water supply services, health remains a serious problem. The improved services were often not sustained or poorly maintained, while hygiene received inadequate attention. In Lao PDR, as in many other countries, the provision of a safe and reliable water supply and appropriate sanitation services, based on sustainable approaches, therefore, remains a challenge; only 43% of Lao PDR's total population has access to drinking water with rural coverage at 38%. Vulnerability to disease from unsafe water is compounded by inattention to basic hygiene. Many people have fallen victim to infectious waterborne diseases such as cholera, diarrhoea, dysentery, infectious hepatitis, and typhoid fever. Diarrhoeal diseases are common, with regular outbreaks occurring annually at the beginning of the rainy season when human and animal wastes washing down hillsides contaminate drinking water

Almost 95% of Thailand's urban populace had access to water supply but only 82% had the same access in the rural areas. Despite these levels of access, many water quality problems remain unaddressed, particularly microbiological, and increasingly due to chemical contamination, affecting both ground and surface water sources.

The Rural Water Supply (RWS) coverage in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Thailand (Isaan) is low as compared to ever increasing population pressures constraining the already limited supply provision in WatSan. Due to limited financial resources and enormous demand for clean drinking water services and targets set in the MDG goals **“Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation”** it is high time to find a way out to augment the efforts of Government, which can ensure or at least make sure that additional people are benefited. Once possible way to address this problem is trying the Public Private Partnership (PPP) concept, a relatively new phenomenon in third world countries can guarantee somewhat relief in this needed sector.

**Goal: Study on Rural Water Supply (Provision of potable drinking water supply) through Public Private Partnership (Government, NGOs and Community participation)**

### Objective of the Proposed Projects:

It is becoming increasingly clear that governments cannot meet the continually growing demand for services by acting alone, and that there is a need to look for support from other sectors of society. The public-private partnership (PPP) is one of the most promising forms of such collaboration. It is based on the recognition that both the public and

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private sectors can benefit by pooling their financial resources, know-how and expertise to improve the delivery of basic services to all citizens.

The objective of the study is to explore the different PPP models in Thailand (Khonkaen district), Laos, and Cambodia for water services delivery and its impact on rural population. Lessons learnt and experiences shared with different public and private sector institutions (including rural community as beneficiary) prove helpful in implementation of effective services deliveries in developing countries. To exchange and discuss with international expert key issues of PPP in developing countries.

To review existing work addresses the impact of PPP in the water on service delivery to the rural poor, and to identify important gaps. This includes the potential risks and benefits of various institutional arrangements for the provision of infrastructure to poor communities.

## Process and methodology to be adopted

- Desk review and analysis of existing research, secondary data i.e. reports, policies, and information on water issues (especially gender and minorities)
- Interview and focus group meetings with relevant stakeholders, including government officials and technical staff of government agencies ( Ministry of Health, National center of environmental Health and water Supply NGO, community (community based organizations)
- Field work interview and dialogue at field level in selected rural areas
- Consultative workshop with the relevant stakeholders to review report, key findings and recommendations
- Final report writing based on the findings from the field and submit to EWC and share partner organizations

## Focus areas and organization cover

1. Meeting SNV Netherlands development organization working on Water supply in rural areas Houaphan , Vientiane (Lao PDR)
2. Mekong River Commission (Thailand, Lao PDR, Cambodia): PPP model on water supply
3. Meeting with Khon kaen University, Isan, Thailand directly involve and benefit Isan people
4. Meeting with East Water Company (Public Private Partnership in Water) Isaan –Khonkaen District Thailand
5. Meeting Water and Sanitation program (World Bank)
6. Meeting with the rural community (CBO) at Khonkaen District of Thai land
7. Interview and focus group discussions with the **Sustainable Cambodia** rural community Organization.

## Way Forward

My decision comes from various reasons, among which there are two main ones. First, this project extremely suitable with my ability, my interest as well as my Professional experience in Pakistan, secondly my training course on **PPP in Water Sector** (UNESCO institute of Water Management) Delft Netherlands, GIST project is an opportunity for me to implement what I learn from my experience and education in international context. My association with DFID, World Bank, UNICEF and ADB assisted projects helped a lot in consolidating my understanding about the Public Private Partnership in WatSan Sector. From my professional experience I realize that the role of public sector needs to be reduced to a regulator instead of service provider for better service delivery. GIST Project can afford an opportunity for filling the much starved gap of PPP specialist for effective role playing in the scenario of developing country like Pakistan where it is neither possible nor advisable that public alone should do everything in the sky. The area is quite virgin and can make a difference with the implementation of the PPP in WatSan sector.

I bring with me extensive experience of promoting low-cost technologies in Rural and Urban areas of NWFP Pakistan. I have had a practical experience of implementing an integrated water Supply and sanitation Programme

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which aims at providing safe drinking water, better sanitation and adoption of Hygiene education practices through core team of qualified people. I am intimately familiar with local government systems, gender reform initiatives and poverty alleviation programmes implemented for the up-lift of people. These will be great assets in identifying issues relevant to gender mainstreaming and overcoming gender imbalances as well as leadership qualities in managing large teams. I am a strong believer of involvement of local communities in the identification; planning and monitoring of their schemes which gives sustainability to the interventions believe that one of my strengths that can be useful for institutions working for sustainable development in Cambodia, Laos and Thailand. I can contribute to the much-needed development of devolved systems for popularizing low-cost integrated WatSan schemes.

I am a trainer and conducted training for communities, local governments, Public health functionaries, Tehsil and Union councils in WatSan and develop IEC (Information, Education and Communication) material on H&H that I feel useful resource to share with government and private sector in these counties.

I shall also explore in detail the ongoing projects of WB, ADB, UNICEF, IFC, GTZ and IRC regarding water resources currently based in Cambodia, Thailand and Laos. The deliberation and deduction arrived from these projects shall prove helpful to me in devising a customized model as per the local dynamics which could meet the expectation of the poor people especially in the area of costing. Low cost models based on prevailing conditions in these countries may provide a much needed space to the marginalized sections of the society who cannot afford safe drinking water resources. The ultimate beneficiary of such projects are the poor women folk who live in unhygienic condition in rural areas and do not have sufficient safe drinking water and at the same time also increases their time allocation towards fetching water thereby causing a reduction in the productive hours at their disposal. There is still need and lots of potential in these areas to discover many aspects regarding water resources in these countries. I believe that my project would serve a good initiative in unearthing some of the potential resources which can be employed for the benefit of the poor section of the society in managing water resources in rural areas.

Experience sharing and lesson learnt from **Sustainable Cambodia**, a volunteer based nonprofit organization working to help the residents of rural Cambodian. They introduce participatory development model and sustainability model that bring change in the life style of the poor people. There Bio sand water filters (BSF) a low-cost water treatment options for communities where the electricity, technology and running water is not available and that removes fecal cloiforms and other toxicants reduced mortality and morbidity rate in the area.

In my opinion GIST project provide me an opportunity to learn through **“best practices”** concept and play a role of catalyst for sustainable development. Being a change agent there is no need to reinvent the wheel; we utilize the most successful models from around the world, including WASH Program from World Bank and UNICEF, Participatory Empowerment model of Care.

The experience and knowledge gained through this project would also add value to the ongoing efforts of EWC towards sustainable development to the environment. I believe my contribution would help other developing nations as well in adopting and replicating PPP models in their countries for efficient utilization of water resources. This would be totally in consonance with the mission and vision of the EWC to develop a globally sustainable environment with more access to clean water for poor masses of the third world countries.

I will contribute myself to the cause of environmental enhancement and protection in my country. Hopefully, when coming back to Pakistan, I will have chances to work with national or International organizations in the field of environment protection and sustainable development especially water resources. By this, I will be able to fulfill my dream – helping my country fellows towards a sustainable utilization of natural resources in order to boost up our economy as well as our environmental quality.

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### Meeting with Key Person & Organizations

Focal Person	Organization	Country	Address	Project
Mr. Toru Konishi Senior Economist	World Bank	Cambodia	Cambodia Public Information Center and Services The World Bank # 70, Norodom Blvd. Phnom Penh Cambodia	
Mr. Toru Konishi Senior Economist	World Bank	Laos	The World Bank Nehru Road, Pathou Xay, Vientiane, Vientiane, Lao PDR Contact: ,Phone:+856 21 414209, +856 21 414209	
Mr. Toru Konishi Senior Economist	World Bank	Thailand	The World Bank 30th Floor, Siam Tower, 989 Rama I Road, Pathumwan, 10300 Bangkok, Thailand Phone: +66 0 2686 8300 /686 8626	
Terry Rambo Patma Vityakon	Faculty	Khon Kaen Thailand	123 Muang District, Khon Kaen 40002, Thailand email: patma@kku.ac.th Rambo@kku.ac.th Tel : +66 4320 2222-41 Fax : +66 4320 2216	Mekong River Project
Sukthawee Suwannachairop, MRC CCA Communication Officer	Mekong River Commission	Thailand	Email: <a href="mailto:sukthawee@mrcmekong.org">sukthawee@mrcmekong.org</a>	Reducing the impact of Climate Change on Mekong River Basin
Director of Environment Division	Mekong River Commission	Lao PDR	P.O. Box 6101, Unit 18 Ban Sithane Neua, Sikhottabong District, Vientiane 01000, Lao PDR. Tel: (856) 21 263 263, Fax: (856) 21 263 264	Mekong River Commission for sustainable development
WASH officer	UNICEF	Cambodia	UNICEF, P.O. Box 176 Phnom-Penh, Cambodia <a href="mailto:phnompenh@unicef.org">phnompenh@unicef.org</a> Tel: 855-23-426412	WASH Program
David Pred Trainer	Sustainable Cambodia		Pursat Offices No 034A, National Road 5, Sampov Meas District, Pursat Province , Cambodia	Development Model Sustainability Project

### Schedule and Budget Summary

#### The Budget

Category	Bangkok	Lao PDR	Cambodia	Air Fare Cambodia to Honolulu	Total
Boarding(meal )	\$20 per dayx30=600	\$20 per dayx30=600	\$20 per dayx30=600		\$ 1,800
Lodging	\$40 perdayx30=\$1200	\$40 perdayx30=1200	\$40 perdayx30=1200		\$3,600
Air Fare (one way)	\$270	\$250	\$290	\$1,200	\$2,010
Field Expenses	\$15 perdayx30=\$450	\$15 perdayx30=\$450	\$15 perdayx30=\$450		\$1,350
<b>Grand Total</b>					<b>\$8,760</b>