Youth & Children Radio Programmes on Water, Sanitation & Hygiene in Lao PDR
Lao PDR

- Landlocked country
- 5.79 million people
- > 50% of population under 18 yrs
- 49 ethnic groups
Situation

- Child survival – a major problem in Lao PDR
- Diarrhoea, malaria and malnutrition are direct causes of more than 70% of deaths among children < 5yrs
- Children are infected with diseases due to lack of clean drinking water, sanitary latrines and poor knowledge of personal hygiene
- At present only 30% of primary schools have water and latrine
Villagers obtain drinking water from rivers and wells
Due to lack of water and overwhelming poverty, villagers go to the bushes thus puts public hygiene at risk.
Can Lao youth make a difference in WES?
Youth Participation in WES

40 young people in 2 provinces were trained and mentored as radio presenters.

We learned about water, sanitation and hygiene issues and how to organize outreach activities in the communities.
Target provinces

Youth Radio Programme on Water, Sanitation & Hygiene
How do we participate?

In preparation for the youth radio programme, we travel to rural villages to interview children and adults.
How do we participate?

We conduct outreach activities: games, cultural songs, dance, comedy and drama to promote good hygiene practices and clean water.
How do we participate?

We provide not only entertainment…

… but also deliver important messages to improve hygiene behavior.
How do we participate?

After coming back from the village, we would produce a 30-minute weekly youth & children radio programmes.
How do we participate?

In schools we are setting good examples to student peers on good hygiene practices.
Lessons learnt on youth participation in WES

Youth needs:

- A supportive environment to promote participation
- Correct information and good understanding of the problem/issues
- Capacity building in order to increase skills & confidence