FSM Services in Laos: Critical Gaps and Important Ways Forward

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Netherlands
Development
Organisation
Sanitation situation in Laos

- Sanitation coverage has been steadily increasing in Laos
- 70% people use some form of toilets throughout the country
- Majority of the toilets are OSS constructed by the households
- They need emptying when become full and sludge needs to be managed properly
Data and methodology

- A preliminary assessment of existing FSM service
- Detail assessment of 1100 households 25 villages in 3 rural districts in Savannakhet province
- Interviews with key stakeholders
- Literature review
- Policy review and analysis
76.2% toilets were constructed during the programme period.
Toilet finance

• Most of the toilets were constructed by the households without any external support

• Those who received external support – they only received 3/4 rings and a slab only.

Chart 2: Toilet finance

94%

Self-finance

Exteranl support
Pit ever become full and measures taken?

**CHART 3: PIT EVER FULL?**

- **YES:** 13.30%
- **NO:** 86.70%

**CHART 4: MEASURES TAKEN?**

- **EMPTY:** 86.9%
- **CONSTRUCTED NEW PIT:** 5.5%
- **BUILT NEW TOILET:** 3.4%
- **RETURN TO OD SHARE OTHER'S TOILET:** 2.1%
Average cost of emptying is about **US$ 50** which close to the cost of sub-structure of a toilet
Knowledge and awareness about service and cost of emptying

**Chart 6: Know how and where to get services**

- Yes: 75.60%
- No: 24.40%

**Chart 7: Aware about cost of emptying**

- Yes: 47.50%
- No: 52.50%
Knowledge about disposal and awareness about health hazards

**Chart 8: Know about disposal**
- Yes: 92.00%
- No: 8.00%

**Chart 9: Aware about health hazard of random disposal**
- Yes: 95.10%
- No: 4.90%
Willingness to re-use FS

**Chart 9: Willingness to Use FS**

- Biogas as cooking fuel: 44.80%
- Dry sludge as cooking fuel: 42.10%
- Soil conditioner: 54.60%
Private Sector: emerging player in FS emptying

- The private sector has already become an important FSM player in Savannakhet
- Four pit emptying companies already cover all 15 districts in the province.
- The companies are registered as SME and pay tax to the government
- Private companies operate under no regulatory framework; as a result, they charge high cost and dump raw sludge in the open environment
Conclusions and ways forward

- FSM is almost entirely missing in the existing policies and plans.
- No institution is responsible for rural areas.
- It is extremely important for the government to define its own role, create institutional responsibility, introduce a regulatory mechanism for the FSM sector and ensure enforcement.
- No service or unaffordable service may result in a return to OD.
- It is therefore critical to identify and develop socially and culturally acceptable resource recovery options to create revenue, which can be used to reduce the direct cost to households of pit emptying.