



Clean Water Reaches Rural Oudomxay

The more than 500 residents of Mokchark village in Houn district, Oudomxay province, hope their new gravity-fed water system, which became operational last week, will lower the risk of infection from waterborne diseases.

Installation of the new clean water system, which was completed in January, cost about US\$17,525. The Lao Rehabilitation Foundation of the United States provided US\$12,515, or 71 percent of the total funding, while the villagers raised the remaining US\$5,010, or 29 percent.

An official from the provincial Health Department, Dr. Bounlien Vongpasith, said the gravity-fed water system will improve the living conditions of local people.

“In particular, it will mean that women won't have to travel to fetch water that is far from their homes,” he said, adding that children will have clean water to drink, which will reduce their risk of falling ill from diarrhea, typhoid, dysentery, parasites and other ailments. In the past, the people of Mokchark village, who are of Khmu ethnicity, did not have access to clean water or latrines.

The handover ceremony for the clean water system was held last week, attended by President of the Lao Rehabilitation Foundation Dr. Luc Janssens and Houn district Governor Mr Khamdy Vonglom.

By **Xayxana** Leukai
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