

## Future Implications

- Baseline results are being used to plan and create:
  - Culturally appropriate health interventions
  - Mobilize the community and local health agencies to build sustainable infrastructure to support proper sanitation
- Contributes to the MDG for water and sanitation of halving, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe water and basic sanitation

## Funding

- Laos will be funded by ADRA Canada.
  - It will be a 3 year WaSH/ Nutrition Project

Thank you and khàwp jai lai lai  
to the following partners:



LOMA LINDA  
UNIVERSITY  
School of Public Health

## Using a Community Participatory Approach to Assess Health through a Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Sustainability Project



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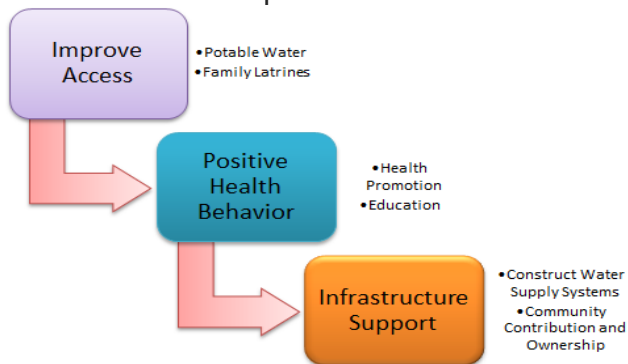
Loma Linda University

## Background

- The Lao People's Democratic Republic or Lao PDR (Laos) is a landlocked, mountainous country, covered by tropical forest
- Laos is one of the poorest countries in South-East Asia <sup>1</sup>
- Poverty in Laos is directly connected to access to clean water and sanitation <sup>2</sup>

## Water, Sanitation, Hygiene (WaSH) for Health

- A health promotion program created for rural populations which addresses:
  - Health and hygiene problems related to water and sanitation with the goal of improving the health of families
  - Coupled with positive health behavior changes through regular health promotion, evaluation, community contribution and ownership.



## Methods

A community- based participatory approach was used to guide a qualitative study of 8 villages

### This included:

- Key informant interviews with village chiefs (n= 8)
- Focus groups with villagers (n= 371)
- Creation of community maps
- Prioritization chart
- Problem tree
- Solution tree

The focus group questions concentrated on sources of income, health practices, water collection methods, latrine facilities, and village expectations



Focus Group in Village Navang

## Results

Three emerging themes:  
 1) Clean Water  
 2) Latrines  
 3) Fully Functional Health Centers

| Priority            | n (Number of Villages) | N (Total Villages) |
|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Water               | 8                      | 8                  |
| Latrines/Sanitation | 6                      | 8                  |
| Health Centers      | 4                      | 8                  |
| Roads               | 2                      | 8                  |

Summary of the top 4 identified priorities by the 8 villages

## Limitations/Challenges

- **Language Barrier**
  - Translation- English, Lao, Hmong, Khamu
  - Untranslatable Concepts
    - "Problem Tree"
    - "Solution Tree"
- **Geography**
  - Mountainous region
- **Climate**
  - Rainy season
- **Schedule/Time**
  - Women off to work in the morning
  - Father at home taking care of children
  - Utilization of daylight
  - Concept of time

<sup>1</sup> World Health Organization, 2001

<sup>2</sup> ADRA Laos, n.d.