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Water situation in Lao P.D.R.

**Potential for technological  
improvements**

# Lao P.D.R. at a glance

- Landlocked country; borders: Cambodia, China, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam
- Ranked 124<sup>th</sup> out of 169 countries – one of the poorest countries in South East Asia

Selected socio-economic indicators	Lao PDR
Income level	Lower middle income
GDP (current US\$ - 2011)	\$ 8.298 billion
Population (2011)	6.288 million
School enrollment (% gross - 2010)	126%
Poverty headcount ratio (% of population - 2008)	27.6%

*Source: World Bank database*

# Current situation of water in Lao P.D.R.

- Water is abundant: annual flow of 270 billion cubic meters
- Yet, overall water supply coverage is still low: see chart
- MDG status\*: **category of “progress but insufficient”** (UNICEF/WHO Joint Monitoring Program)

*\*69% of the total population has access to improved water by 2015*

	% of population using improved drinking water sources (2008)
Total	57%
Urban	72%
Rural	51%

*Source: UNICEF statistics on Lao*

- To achieve the MDG, the GoL has set a goal of 80% coverage with 24 hour piped water supply for urban populations by 2020.

# Main issues to be tackled (follow)

- **Water quantity:**

- Urban: wide disparities between the five largest towns and the smaller towns (70% versus 21% access in 2006) (*Source: Somvan Mongphachan, 2010*)
- Rural: as many as 30 - 50% of villages suffer water scarcity for an average of 2.7 months annually (*Source: Lao PDR Ministry of Health, 2011*)

- **Water quality:**

- Water quality in rural and to a lesser extent in urban supply systems rarely meets national standards (*Source: ISF-UTS, 2011*)
- Consequence: approximately 30% of infant mortality is attributed to poor WASH (*Source: UN, 2008*)

# Areas for collaboration with Japanese technologies

- To address the water quantity issue:
  - Rainwater harvesting systems (good potential given the hydrological characteristic of Lao);
  - Solar pumps; rope pumps;
  - Community scale water supply networks; etc.
- To tackle the water quality issue:
  - Household water treatment;
  - Solar disinfection technologies;
  - CSP (Ceramic Silver impregnated Pot) filter;
  - And other water purification technologies.

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