

16/5/2018

Greetings from Nong Khiaw,

Sabaidee! Well the rains have come; lightning and thunder, firefly's in the night air, innumerable leeches on the mountain paths, roads turn to mud and life here becomes a little more interesting...

On May 8th, Confluence, an INGO working on local water sanitation and hygiene (WASH) issues in Luang Prabang Province organised a workshop with district government partners and other INGOs. The focus was Rural Water System Governance, and the challenges surrounding their use. The workshop was timely for Bamboo School (BS) as we are in the planning stages of constructing a water system for Phonxai Village. Their old water system has completely failed, and they are very interested in working with BS to get a new system constructed, with the help of the District Environment and Water Department (Nam Saat).

A water system in the villages in Laos usually comprises of: (1) a water collector from a stream or spring which is piped to, (2) a water tank which is then piped to (3), the village water points. One of the biggest problems is ongoing maintenance of these systems and money involved. Water Funds are created/raised by the Village Water Committees, who use the fund to pay for repairs; but there is a 20% tax on the Water Fund by local government which, in theory, goes to the District Nam Saat. It is unclear where this money ends up though – it does not flow down to the villagers.

Sok dee jak Nong Khiaw,
(Good luck from Nong Khiaw),

Mike Stephens



