

Newsletter - March 2019



Our annual trip at the end of January gave us great encouragement about the progress of ongoing and potential projects for the future.

The result of a long-term project: **water supply to Tumnio** thanks to a reservoir overlooking the village (Thateng - Sekong district)



Tumnio has some wells and a small water system, but not all the inhabitants had access to drinking water. SFE was able to reach an agreement to launch this project after discussions with the village development committee, the village chief and the villagers. The hardest to convince to participate in the financing of the project were of course those who already had access to water. Finally after many discussions everyone agreed and Tumnio will soon have an adequate system of drinking water accessible to all, distributed in each house and sufficient in case of population growth.



Medical and community aspect in Saravane:

This project started in a rather laborious way in September 2017. As it was a brand-new project, it was necessary to set up the team and gain the trust of the authorities even though the request came very clearly from the hospital and the provincial health department.

Permits to travel to or even sleep in some villages supported by community health have been slow to arrive. Finally, everything was set up gradually, but it is now working well with two teams for 10 villages supported in an integrated rural development programme.

The hospital has provided SFE with a young dynamic doctor to coordinate the care and training conducted by our team for the staff of the hospital and health centers.



During our meeting with the hospital management, we were given a presentation of all the work done over the past year, supported by statistics and a power point presentation second to none. To show appreciation for the medical support of SFE, the direction of the Saravane hospital invited us to a restaurant with the expatriate team.



Water aspect:

The work of SFE, developed in partnership with the social enterprise Terra Clear Production to provide drinking water to rural populations in Laos, is known as far away as France. SFE was mentioned in December 2018 in an official document of the Water Solidarity Programme (www.pseau.org/traitement-eau-domicile_p41).



Locally based, Terra Clear produces and sells colloidal silver rubbed ceramic filters at an affordable price. These filters are made from purified clay and locally found rice husks, and are then integrated into a plastic container imported from Thailand. The filtered water is analysed regularly, which ensures its efficiency. Thanks to its local production, Terra Clear offers people an affordable system that is easy to use and maintain. A follow-up is carried out by local representatives of the company who travel to the surrounding villages where users can easily obtain spare parts. The sale price is accessible to the majority of Laotian households. For disadvantaged households, SFE has set up a voucher system so that they can also buy equipment.

www.sfe-laos.org/wp/
www.terraclear.org



Emergency assistance aspect in Sanamxai:

We were particularly struck by the recognition of the emergency work done in Attapeu by our team following the dam failure. Thanks to a good knowledge of the province and the local culture, it was possible to be quickly effective in the field. This is why the French Embassy and some international organizations (WFP, FAO) are asking us to be their partner for further assistance. We have had to answer in the negative for the moment due to the lack of a competent person and time to take charge of this project.



Funds brought in by year-end actions :
T-shirt action: more than 300 T-shirts were sold within 10 months. The proceeds will be used towards the purchase of a car for the Saravane project.
Christmas action for an incinerator: 2800€ were raised thanks to your unfailing support.

A warm thank you to all of you who support SFE's commitment in Laos,

Philippe Klopfenstein, Chairman of SFE.

*FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization) is a United Nations agency.

*WFP: World Food Programme

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