



Water, Environment and Sanitation (WES)

Bhutan

Country Setting

- ▶ Bhutan's child survival indicators are the lowest in South Asia.
- ▶ Poverty is widespread, particularly in remote rural areas.
- ▶ Acute respiratory infections, diarrhoea and poor nutrition are the major causes of morbidity and mortality among children under five.
- ▶ Bhutan is in the bottom 25 countries for girls' school enrolment.

WES Sector Setting

- ▶ Local administrative reforms have recently been completed, with increased decentralization at the local level.
- ▶ Water and sanitation coverage are high but actual use and maintenance are low.
- ▶ There is high biological contamination of drinking water – and improvement of water quality is a priority.
- ▶ Government envisaged water and sanitation for all by end of current Five Year Plan (mid 2002- mid 2007).
- ▶ School health programmes aim to improve hygiene practices.
- ▶ Seventy-seven per cent of monastic schools do not have water supply and proper sanitation.

Basic Indicators

Total population (1000s)	2,257
Under-five mortality rate (per 1000)	85
Total adult literacy rate (%)	47

Water and Sanitation Coverage

	Water (%)	Sanitation (%)
Urban	86	65
Rural	60	70
Total	62	70

UNICEF WES Programme

Main Components

- ▶ The UNICEF country programme in Bhutan consists of three core programmes:
 - Child Care and Development;
 - Health and Nutrition;
 - Basic Expanded Education.
- ▶ The WES component is integrated into the Child Care and Development programme.
- ▶ WES is focused in schools and monastic institutions.

Programme Highlights and Achievements

- ▶ There is a cost-sharing mechanism for service delivery, which includes community participation.
- ▶ The multi-sectoral approach to school health programme is very successful.
- ▶ There is a school sanitation programme in every district.
- ▶ Two thirds of schools have trained health coordinators.
- ▶ Water supply has been enhanced with the introduction of an operation and maintenance workshop.