



Water, Environment and Sanitation (WES)

Cambodia

Country Setting

- Cambodia has the highest infant and under-five mortality rates in the East Asia and the Pacific Region, and there has been no clear declining trend for more than ten years.
- Malnutrition and maternal mortality rates are also high, as is the percentage of people living below the poverty line (about 35 per cent).
- Primary school drop-out rates are persistently high (only 57 per cent of students reached Grade 5 in 2002/2003).

WES Sector Setting

- The new National Policy on Water Supply and Sanitation issued in 2003 promotes greater community participation, more active hygiene and sanitation promotion and increased involvement of the private sector in implementation.
- Under the new policy, government's role is changing from direct implementation to a monitoring, facilitating and coordinating role.
- Rural/urban coverage disparities are very high, and at only 8 per cent, rural sanitation coverage is the lowest in the region and the second lowest outside of Africa.
- Arsenic contamination of aquifers is a significant problem, especially in the lowland areas near the Mekong River and its major tributaries.

Basic Indicators

Total population (1000s)	14,144
Under-five mortality rate (per 1000)	140
Total adult literacy rate (%)	68

Water and Sanitation Coverage

	Water (%)	Sanitation (%)
Urban	58	53
Rural	29	8
Total	34	16

UNICEF WES Programme

Main Components

- WES-related activities are carried out under the Seth Koma (Community Action for Child Rights) programme.
- UNICEF-supported WES activities include the following:
 - Safe drinking water in rural communities and schools;
 - Improved sanitation for families and schools in rural areas;
 - Water quality monitoring including arsenic testing and mitigation.
- All WES activities include support to capacity building at central, provincial and local government levels.

Programme Highlights and Achievements

- In 2004, 538 school and community wells, 1,170 family latrine units and 60 school latrine units were constructed with UNICEF assistance.
- Establishment of a new technical monitoring system involving communities, government counterparts and UNICEF.
- Improved capacity of government and NGOs to address arsenic contamination through testing, communication and mitigation.
- Strengthened national water quality monitoring, including arsenic, iron, fluoride and microbiological contamination.