

What is holding back effective WSP implementation?

Low participation in WSP activities
Many villagers miss WSP meetings due to competing priorities or lack of interest.

Training challenges
Technical language and digital tools (e.g., computers) are difficult for many.

Financial barriers
Lack of subsidies for materials like toilets or water filters.

Barriers for gender
Gender-based discrimination, difficulties in balancing professional and personal responsibilities, limited access to skill and capacity development.

Gaps in water management knowledge
Villagers struggle to learn about hygiene and safe water.

Recommendations to improve WSP implementation

Promote inclusive community engagement
Adapt WSP guidelines to local contact and ensure roles for marginalised groups (poor, elderly, and people with disabilities).



Include gender equality, disability, and social inclusion (GEDSI)
Make sure to include vulnerable groups in the planning. Offer training and support to women and others who may need extra help, involve them in decision-making, and ensure facilities are accessible for everyone.

Provide capacity building
Regularly train WSP teams on guidelines for climate and environmental risks, ensuring everyone feels included and informed.



Improve access to climate data
Use local climate data and indigenous knowledge (e.g., elders' flood experiences) to better assess climate risks.

Ensure financial support
Offer subsidies on WASH materials for poor households to improve participation and put WASH plans into Commune Development Plans (CDPs) and Commune Investment Plans (CIPs) to secure long-term funding.



Show WSP successful stories
By highlighting their benefits such as cost saving, health improvement, and infrastructure resilience to local.

Cooperate with government agencies, development partners, CSOs, local authorities, private sector, and communities
Use resource and expertise to improve inclusive and WASH implementation.



Create monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems
Create M&E systems with GEDSI indicators to effectively track how well the WSP guidelines are being implemented, ensuring everyone's needs are considered and respected.



Climate-Resilient and Inclusive WASH Services

Lessons from the Implementation of Climate-Resilient Water Safety Planning

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This infographic is a summary of the Policy Brief "From Guideline to Action: Strengthening Climate Resilient Water Safety Planning for Inclusive Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Services in Cambodia".

Why do climate-resilient and inclusive water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services matter in Cambodia?

Cambodia's climate risk



Projection of future total loss and damage on infrastructure will be caused by climate change for 26% by 2030 (UNDP 2019)



During 2015–2016, the El Niño event caused severe drought, affecting 2.5 million people (Save the Children 2016).



Without adaptation, extreme river flood projected to affect 4 million people by the 2040s (World Bank and ADB 2021).

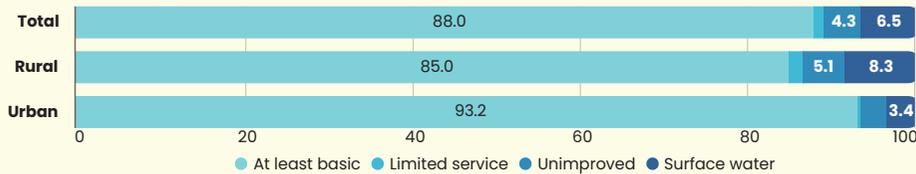


National Strategy for Rural Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene 2011–2025

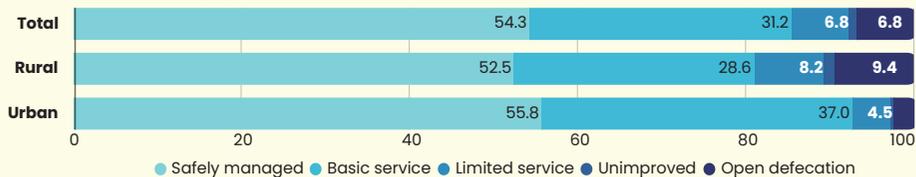
Ensure water supply and sanitation basic services is covered 100% the rural area by 2025.

WASH coverage (%)

Drinking water (%)



Sanitation (%)



Hygiene (%)



Source: CSES 2023

Who is most affected by climate-related WASH disruptions?



Children and elderly

More than 1/3 of Cambodians, particularly children and the elderly, are very vulnerable to climate change (UNICEF 2024)



Vulnerable communes

43% of total communes in Cambodia are highly vulnerable (UNICEF 2024).

How will climate hazards affect WASH services?

Services climate hazards	Pipe-water system	Water source	Latrine
Drought	Water storage became dry	Surface water became dry	Less water uses and poor hygiene
Flood	Flooding damaged WASH infrastructure	Water pollution	Unusable and fecal contamination
High temperature	Higher demand and pipe warping	Reduced surface water availability	Strong smell and faster waste decomposition

Cambodia developed climate-resilient WSP guidelines in 2023 to address climate risks in WASH services and planning

What is climate-resilient water safety planning (WSP)?

WSP is a preventive risk management approach that ensures the safety of drinking water from the water source to the user by integrating climate risks into planning. It typically involves:



Identifying hazards and risks to water sources



Take actions to control



Monitoring and reviewing the plan

How does WSP enhance WASH?



Ensures safe drinking water by preventing contamination from source to tap.



Creates ownership and build capacity of communities.



Builds climate resilience into water supply systems.



Supports equitable and sustainable WASH outcomes.

WSP guidelines in Cambodia

	Ministry of Rural Development	Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology and Innovation
Focus	Rural water supply systems	Private water service providers
Key actors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commune councils /committees School principal Local authorities Representatives of vulnerable groups Local communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private water supplier Technical agencies Local communities (as user) NGOs and sector partners supporting implementation

Source: MRD & MISTI WSP Guidelines 2023

Review and document the improved WSP resilient to climate

Monitor and follow up and verify the effectiveness of the improved measures

Develop and implement an improvement plan and identify options resilient to climate



Assemble/resume group of water safety plan resilient to climate

Describe clean water supply system and assess water sources

Identify and assess environmental and climate risks including improved measures