



EAST ASIA & PACIFIC

Climate-resilient water, sanitation and hygiene services

Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste and the Solomon Islands

Context

In East Asia and the Pacific, 50 million people continue to practice open defecation. 124 million people lack access to basic water services and almost half of the population does not have a handwashing facility at home.

Stunting, a condition characterised by low height-for-age among children under five, has higher prevalence in countries with lower access to basic sanitation.

But water-related diseases that lead to malnutrition, stunting and other health problems are easily preventable by providing access to safe water and sanitation facilities. Research shows that for every US\$1 spent on access to clean water and basic sanitation, the return is US\$ 3.6 on average.

It includes economic gains from time spent on productive activities, social benefits due to reduced deaths and premature mortality, as well as monetary savings from improved health.

Our solution

UNICEF will provide climate-resilient water, sanitation and hygiene services for rural poor communities, health centers and schools in Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste and the Solomon Islands.

Sustained use of safe water supplies and safe sanitation services, as well as the adoption of hygiene practices, will result in the reduction of all water related diseases, malnutrition and stunting in targeted rural districts.



UNICEF key activities



- Give 50,000 people access to climate-resilient and safe water supplies
- Give 100,000 people access to safe sanitation
- Provide 50,000 students in 100 schools with access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene services, including menstrual hygiene management
- Ensure that 100,000 patients in 100 health care facilities have access to safe water and sanitation facilities

Story from the field

The pre-school children at Aloch school in Cambodia know their stuff when it comes to WASH. “We have good facilities and I’m impressed how much the student’s health has improved” says Hov Kimyin, the school director.

Interactive learning and playful engagement has encouraged children to put their new habits into practice. Children have two songs, one for handwashing and one for using the toilet, which they proudly sing. Songs are an excellent way to

teach young children good behavior and skills, and an important part of any pre-school classroom.

One five-year-old boy blew us away with his knowledge of the dangers of bacteria, and how to prevent illnesses like diarrhea.

Mik Vutha, a teacher and parent of a three-year-old student, tells us: “Before I had to tell her to wash her hands. Now, I don’t have to tell her anymore, she does it anyway.”



Financing examples

40,000 €

6,660 persons are trained to promote sanitation and hygiene

85,000 €

100,000 patients receive access to safe water and sanitation facilities

420,000 €

Sanitation and hygiene services, safe water and menstrual hygiene management for 50,000 students

600,000 €

50,000 people have access to climate-resilient and safe water supplies



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