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Water Supply and Sanitation Improvement Project

Background

Cambodia achieved the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for water supply and made progress toward the sanitation targets in 2015 but the persistent low coverage of piped water and the lack of sanitation infrastructure present a huge challenge to the timely achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all by 2030.

Only 21 percent of people in Cambodia have access to piped water supply to their home, and this access is concentrated in larger towns. Phnom Penh is well covered with piped water supply, while Siem Reap City and a handful of provincial and district towns have limited coverage. These water supply systems are operated by autonomous water authorities in Phnom Penh and Siem Reap City, and by public waterworks departments in the rest of the country.

Only 41 percent of people receive sanitation services and 11 percent of households are connected to a sewerage network. Even where wastewater is collected, only a small portion is treated. Currently, only Siem Reap City, Preah Sihanouk Ville and Battambang provincial towns have wastewater treatment facilities, but these suffer from a lack of financial resources (including low revenue collection) and capacity constraints. Fecal sludge management which addresses sanitation issue among households that are not connecting to sewerage network is currently underdeveloped.

Responsibility for providing water supply and sanitation services is instilled, respectively, in the Ministry of Industry and Handicraft and Ministry of Public Works and Transport.

About the Project

The project development objective is to increase access to piped water supply and improved sanitation services and strengthen the operational performance of service providers in selected towns and communes. The project has two components:

Component 1: Provincial Water Supply:

- Supporting public provincial water service providers in selected areas to expand water distribution networks and increase production capacity to serve more customers and health and school facilities within the service area.
- Supporting the development of small-scale piped water supply systems in selected communes outside the main provincial towns that are not yet served but where the population has reached the size and density suitable for piped water supply.
- Supporting technical assistance to the Ministry of Industry and Handicraft to develop an urban water supply strategy, including policies on cost recovery and investment planning.

Component 2: Provincial Sanitation Improvement:

- Supporting the development and construction of secondary and tertiary sewers to the existing main sewer transmission lines in Siem Reap City to enable households and businesses to connect directly to the city's sewerage system.
- Improving the management of fecal sludge services in Siem Reap City including collection, transport and treatment of fecal sludge.
- Providing technical assistance to the Ministry of Public Works and Transport in developing an urban sanitation strategy, including policies on cost recovery (for example, tariff and subsidies), city-wide inclusive sanitation, fecal sludge management and a sanitation investment plan.

Beneficiaries and Results

The project aims to provide water supply services to about 105,000 people in targeted towns/communes, and sanitation services to about 27,000 people in Siem Reap City.



Location: Siem Reap, Kampong Thom, Mondul Kiri, and Battambang

Financiers:

- International Development Association (World Bank), **US\$55.00 million**,
- Royal Government of Cambodia, **US\$2.5 million**

Implementing Agencies:

- Ministry of Industry and Handicraft
- Ministry of Public Works and Transport

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June 28, 2024

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