Water for Women: Cambodia

Improving the health, equality and wellbeing of communities in Cambodia
**Women-Led Output Based Aid (WOBA)**

Water for Women is partnering with Thrive Networks to deliver WOBA to 30,000 households (15,000 of which are identified as the poorest and most vulnerable) in 23 districts across nine provinces of Cambodia.

**Gender equality and social inclusion are central to Water for Women**

Actively involving all people within communities (women, men, marginalised groups, people with disabilities) ensures more equitable and inclusive processes, which lead to more effective and sustainable outcomes in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

Water for Women will support opportunities and benefits in WASH for everyone in the community.

Water for Women is the Australian Government’s flagship WASH program and will be delivered over five years from 2018 to 2022.

**The Cambodia Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Scale-Up Program 2.0 (WASH-SUP2)**

Water for Women is partnering with International Development Enterprises (iDE) to deliver WASH-SUP2: installing 35,000 toilets, upgrading 15,000 dual pits and reaching an estimated 944,800 people with improved WASH services in six provinces of Cambodia.

**Research Partner**

- **Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment in WASH**
- **Changing Hygiene Around Maternal Priorities**

Water for Women also includes a WASH research component. In Cambodia, two research projects are underway.

**Partnering with:**

- **iDE / Tyler Kozole**
- **Thrive Networks**

**Research Partner**

- **Institute for Sustainable Futures**
- **WaterAid**
Cambodia Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Scale-Up Program 2.0 (WASH-SUP2)

The Australian Government is committed to delivering effective and sustainable WASH access. Water for Women will contribute to Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG6), water and sanitation for all. Cambodia has one of the world’s highest rates of disabilities per capita. In addition, the number of elderly in Cambodia is increasing rapidly and expected to triple within a few decades. Accessible sanitation provision is especially challenging in rural areas where there are very few affordable options available for purchase.

Private sector delivery is Cambodia’s primary strategy to reach SDG6 by 2025. The Government has a role in sector coordination, while development partners have supported WASH delivery, including through mobilising the private sector. Research indicates that the remaining first latrine market in the targeted project areas is made up of:

- poor households
- those in challenging environments (such as high groundwater or flood-prone areas)
- migrant workers, sharing latrines
- people with disabilities

WASH-SUP2 will support opportunities and benefits in WASH for everyone in the community, with its emphasis on gender equality and social inclusion.

The project will target communities in six provinces of Cambodia: Svay Rieng, Kandal, Prey Veng, Kampong Thom, Siem Reap and Oddar Meanchey.

By developing connections between latrine suppliers and Provincial Departments of Rural Development (PDRD) and commune and village authorities, the project will ensure that market actors and local government entities coordinate efforts towards the mutual goal of inclusive WASH delivery.

WASH-SUP2 aims to reach the following targets by 2022:

- 37,500 toilets installed (including 9,375 poor households)
- 2,800 shelters with handwashing including 185 PWD (People with Disabilities) households
- 15,000 alternating dual pit upgrades
- 150,000 ceramic water filters delivered
- 100 latrine business owners involved

Australia understands that equitable WASH access is crucial in developing countries. Water for Women and our partners will provide innovative solutions to WASH delivery in Cambodia, and contribute to global WASH evidence and research.
The benefits of improved, safe access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) are clear. Not only does access to WASH prevent disease and death, it also has profound, lasting socio-economic impacts on a community and its ability to prosper, particularly for women and girls.

In Cambodia, the government assesses and identifies households in the lowest poverty quintiles and issues ‘ID Poor 1 and 2’ cards to households based on a number of economic variables. This forms part of a larger effort by the government to reduce poverty by 1% each year. Currently, about 15% of the population are categorised as poor by these criteria.

In general, water and sanitation providers in Cambodia do not specifically target the poor and tend to focus on the general population through conventional projects. Thrive is one of the few organisations that implements WASH with an aim to target the poor and marginalised communities.

WOBA will reach rural, low-income and marginalised households with improved access to clean water, improved sanitation and hygiene education with a focus on ensuring gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) in all activities undertaken.

WOBA targets 23 districts across nine provinces. These districts have been selected based on their capacity and willingness to mobilise commune co-financing for poor/GESI household rebates.

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Thrive estimates that through WOBA:
- 3,750 households will access a pro-GESI subsidy in the service area, to connect to privately owned schemes;
- 30,000 households will build hygienic latrines across nine provinces. (this target will be split equally between poor/GESI households (with WOBA subsidies) and non-poor households);
- 4,000 households reached will be identified as vulnerable (GESI category);
- 3,750 previously unserved households (of the most marginalised within communities) will be connected to existing water schemes in three provinces.

“We are able to mobilise commune budgets in our districts to contribute to this project. There is a female-led structure from village to district level, and we will work with our counterparts in government to realise the aims of the project.”

- Ms. Meng Nhet, District Deputy Governor in Kampot province and Ms. Khleang Vantha, District Deputy Governor in Takeo province.

The Australian aid program is investing in Cambodia over a five-year period. Water for Women is proud to be partnering with Thrive Networks and other partners including the Cambodia Water Association and local governments in the target provinces in Cambodia.