

# Sustainable Sanitation and Hygiene for All Programme (SSH4A)

## Cambodia

### Sanitation situation in Cambodia

Sanitation and hygiene in Cambodia is facing huge challenges, especially in the rural areas where more than 80% of the population live in. These difficulties are reflected in the very low access to sanitation and hygiene and the high incidence of open defecation.

The climate condition and frequent flooding makes sustainable sanitation solution particularly challenging in Cambodia.

### SSH4A programme in Cambodia

SNV in Cambodia is supporting the Ministry for Rural Development on several levels to improve the health and quality of life of rural communities through the SSH4A programme.

The linkages of SNV activities to existing government policies, strategies and guidelines at district and provincial level has ensured greater sustainability of the SSH4A programme. A good example of this is the high priority given to district sanitation in the district integration plans.

CLTS triggering has motivated the commune councils to integrate sanitation and hygiene issues into commune development and budget plans. Similarly, sharing of lessons learned at district level with the central (policy formulation) level will ensure sustainable outcomes and impact on a larger scale than in the target area alone.

Issues of social exclusion are extensively shared and discussed in communal and provincial meetings to create space for poor representatives to lobby government service providers (PDRD) to demand their right to sanitation and hygiene.

### Programme goal

To improve the health and quality of life of 2,588 households in Kratie and Kampot provinces through improved access to sustainable sanitation and hygiene.

### Partners

Ministry of Rural Development and Provincial Departments of Rural Development and SNV in Cambodia

### Emerging results

- More than 50% of the target population now have adequate facilities for washing hands with soap
- 43% of the target household have access to sanitary toilets
- 95% of women, poor and excluded group are reached by hygiene promotion
- Enhanced capacity of national and local stakeholders to take responsibility for their own development and pursue appropriate action.

### Key lessons

- Well-organised national level fora, sectoral working groups and provincial multi-stakeholder meetings ensure good collaboration and joint planning with all stakeholders
- Increase in social benefits (privacy, comfort and safety) is essential for behaviour change
- A functional sanitary supply chain is a requirement for successful sanitation demand creation
- It is important to explicitly involve children in the CLTS process or even give them a leadership role (e.g. through the student council) to achieve strong links between schools and communities
- Limited presence/absence of female staff for project implementation makes it difficult to maximise women participation
- Constant monitoring and follow up, including regular home visits to poor and socially excluded groups is important to ensure a workable approach to support them
- Women and poor households need to be well prepared to voice issues concerning sanitation and hygiene in higher level meetings. Sometimes they need an external person to represent their voice and concerns.



"I am happy to have joined the CLTS triggering. Now, I know about hygiene and how to construct a latrine."

**Workshop participant, Kampot province**

"I have built my latrines because I want to protect my daughters. Anything can happen when they go out in the night."

**A father of 3 daughters in Kratie province**

"We are shitting in toilets! And you?"

**A signpost set up by a village after being awarded ODF status**

"We don't want to eat any more adult shit!"

**Slogan shouted in a children's march after CLTS triggering workshop in Kampot province**

For more information on SSH4A Cambodia, contact: Heino Guellemann, [hguellemann@snvworld.org](mailto:hguellemann@snvworld.org) or visit: [www.irc.nl](http://www.irc.nl)



Australian Government  
AusAID

