



# ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF CAMBODIA

# National Strategic Plan for Rural Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene 2014-2025



Approved by the Council of Ministers  
in the plenary session held on January 10, 2014





**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA  
NATION RELIGION KING**

**MESSAGE**

**OF SAMDECH AKKA MOHA SENA PADEI TECO HUN SEN, PRIME MINISTER  
OF THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA**

**IN SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN FOR RURAL WATER SUPPLY,  
SANITATION AND HYGIENE 2014-2025**

On behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia, I support the National Strategic Plan for Rural Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene 2014-2025 in accordance with the Royal Government's National Water Supply and Sanitation Policy which was approved by the Council of Ministers in its plenary session held on June 9, 2000 and in the plenary session held on February 7, 2003. This National Strategic Plan aims at improving and sustaining rural water supply, sanitation and hygiene services in order to contribute to the implementation of the Rectangular Strategy Phase III of the Royal Government in improving health and nutrition.

In order to achieve this objective, the Royal Government has adopted the Cambodian Millennium Development Goals, which define that, by 2015, 50% of rural people will have sustained access to improved water supply, and 30% of rural people will have sustained access to improved sanitation. The Royal Government's National Water Supply and Sanitation Policy specifies a vision that: "Every person in rural communities has sustained access to safe water supply and sanitation services and lives in a hygienic environment by 2025."

Taking this opportunity, I would like to highly compliment and appreciate all the working groups, including the Ministry of Rural Development, inter-ministries, and in particular, the Office of the Council of Ministers and all development partners for the efforts in developing this National Strategic Plan.

I call on all stakeholders and communities to render strong support in order to implement this National Strategic Plan successfully.

I strongly believe that all stakeholders, both in the Royal Government and development partners, will use this National Strategic Plan as the guide and basis for effective implementation.

Phnom Penh, February 3, 2014

**PRIME MINISTER**

**SAMDECH AKKA MOHA SENA PADEI TECO HUN SEN**

**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA  
NATION RELIGION KING**



**Ministry of Rural Development**

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

**BY THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

I have the great honor to present, on behalf of the Ministry of Rural Development, the National Strategic Plan for Rural Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene 2014-2025. The Ministry of Rural Development is especially fortunate to obtain the full support of **SAMDECH AKKA MOHA SENA PADEI TECHO HUN SEN**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the competent, committed, and resilient officials of the Ministry of Rural Development and in particular the inter-ministerial/agency cooperation under the coordination of the Office of the Council of Ministers, in developing the National Strategic Plan for Rural Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene 2014-2025 that has been approved by the Royal Government of Cambodia.

Clearly understanding the adverse effects of lack of rural water supply, sanitation and hygiene, the Royal Government of Cambodia and all development partners, national and international agencies have developed key strategies and analyzed resource availability for implementing this Strategic Plan through active participation of all stakeholders in order to achieve the vision "Every person in rural communities has sustained access to safe water supply and sanitation services and lives in a hygienic environment by 2025." These efforts are an important contribution to the implementation of the Royal Government of Cambodia's Rectangular Strategy Phase III in enhancing people's well-being and poverty reduction as well as sustainable socio-economic development.

The Ministry of Rural Development is committed to working with all stakeholders in order to implement this National Strategic Plan effectively and successfully according to its objectives. I remain optimistic of the support and cooperation from ministries/agencies of the Royal Government, local authorities, all national and international agencies as well as development partners in ensuring smooth implementation of this National Strategic Plan and achieving the expected outcomes.

In conclusion, I would like to express my highest appreciation for **SAMDECH AKKA MOHA SENA PADEI TECHO HUN SEN**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, who has always paid attention to people's health and happiness, and supported and given priority to the rural development sector. **SAMDECH TECHO** has given recommendations and strong support for the National Strategic Plan for Rural Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene 2014-2025.



I also extend my appreciation to all relevant ministries, agencies, and units as well as national and international organizations and development partners for contributing to development of this National Strategic Plan, I am fully committed to continuing smooth cooperation under the leadership of **SAMDECH AKKA MOHA SENA PADEI TECHO HUN SEN** to achieve success in the implementation of the National Strategic Plan for Rural Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene 2014-2025.

Phnom Penh, January 24, 2014

**CHEA SOPHARA**





**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA**

**NATION RELIGION KING**

**ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF CAMBODIA**

**National Strategic Plan**

**For**

**Rural Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene**

**2014-2025**

Approved by the Council of Ministers  
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## Contents

1. Introduction.....	6
2. Vision .....	6
3. Mission .....	7
4. Goal and Objectives.....	7
4.1 Goal .....	7
4.2 Objectives.....	7
5. Strategic Framework .....	7
5.1 Strategic Analysis.....	7
5.2 Strategic Objectives.....	8
5.3 Strategies.....	8
6. Activities .....	10
6.1 Develop mechanisms to enable sustainable provision of rural water supply, sanitation and hygiene services .....	10
6.2 Increase financing for provision of rural water supply, sanitation and hygiene services .....	13
6.3 Promote and increase sustainable access to rural water supply services .....	14
6.4 Promote and increase sustainable rural sanitation services .....	15
6.5 Promote sustained hygiene behavior change in relation to water supply and sanitation ....	16
7. Financial Resources .....	17
8. Monitoring and Evaluation.....	17
9. Conclusion .....	17
Glossary.....	19



## **1. Introduction**

This National Strategic Plan is to define the rural water supply, sanitation and hygiene services for people living in rural areas in accordance with the Royal Government of Cambodia's National Water Supply and Sanitation Policy approved by the Council of Ministers meetings on June 09, 2000 and February 7, 2003. Rural water supply in this National Strategic Plan covers rural areas with communities as managers and owners, and profit making is not the main purpose.

Institutional arrangements, financial, human and other resources are necessary to provide services and to improve public health sustainably. The main objective is to accelerate the progress towards achieving the vision of rural water supply, sanitation and hygiene for all by 2025.

The National Strategic Plan will be used by all relevant institutions including national and sub-national level government agencies, development partners, civil society and the private sector.

The rural water supply, sanitation and hygiene sector operates at different levels: household and community, commune, district, province and national. At each of these levels, there are several different implementers, stakeholders and individuals, each of whom has different views and ideas. All of these add up to a complexity in terms of shared values, understanding the challenges, systems and procedures and the means to address the overall challenge of enabling rural people to have sustainable access to water supply and sanitation services.

The strategy to address all these challenges is similarly complex. There needs to be a range of strategic and detailed actions to address the individual challenges, and all these actions need to be coordinated to achieve the overall purpose of the National Strategic Plan.

The Ministry of Rural Development (MRD) established the Technical Working Group on Rural Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (TWG-RWSSH) to lead the formulation of the National Strategic Plan. The consultative process included field work in some provinces, and Situational Analysis Workshops that included representatives of commune councils, the Commune Council for Women and Children (CCWC), District Governors, the Provincial Department of Rural Development (PDRD), Provincial Local Administration Units (PLAU), line ministries, development partners, NGOs and the private sector. It included workshops to address specific technical issues with key specialists in the field of rural water supply, sanitation and hygiene and briefings to the TWG-RWSSH.

The National Strategic Plan is to be implemented in two phases. Phase 1 is from 2014 to 2018. In 2018, a mid-term review is to be conducted to assess progress and challenges as necessary. Phase 2 is to be implemented from 2019 to 2025. In 2025, a final evaluation is to be conducted.

## **2. Vision**

The National Strategic Plan has a vision where by all rural people have access to equitable and sustainable water supply, sanitation and hygiene services.



### **3. Mission**

The National Strategic Plan has a mission to improve the health of rural people through development of rural water supply, sanitation and hygiene services.

## **4. Goal and Objectives**

### **4.1 Goal**

The goal of the National Strategic Plan is to sustainably improve rural water supply, sanitation and hygiene services by 2025.

### **4.2 Objectives**

The objective of the National Strategic Plan is to develop and increase access to rural water supply, sanitation and hygiene services. According to the Cambodian Millennium Development Goals, by 2015 50% of rural people will gain access to improved water supply, and 30% of rural people will have access to improved sanitation. The vision of the National Strategic Plan is to ensure that every person in a rural community has sustained access to safe water supply and sanitation services and lives in a hygienic environment by 2025.

## **5. Strategic Framework**

The National Strategic Plan provides direction for relevant ministries and institutions, sub-national administration, private sector, development partners, civil society and philanthropists for effective development of rural water supply, sanitation and hygiene in order to improve the health of rural people across the country.

### **5.1 Strategic Analysis**

The results of the Cambodian 2008 Census show that water supply coverage is 41% and coverage of rural sanitation is 23%. These figures indicate that access to rural water supply and sanitation services is still low compared to those of other countries in the region. At the same time, there is variation of access to water supply and sanitation across different regions in Cambodia. Access to water supply in coastal region is low (24.2%) compared to other regions. The coverage in the plain region is 51.5%; the Tonle Sap region is 30.3%; plateau and mountainous region is 35.9%; and Phnom Penh region is 41.6%. Sanitation coverage in the plateau and mountainous region is low (15.6%) compared with other regions. The sanitation coverage rate in the plain region is 24.4%; the Tonle Sap region is 23.1%, the coastal region is 24.2% and Phnom Penh region is 67.1%. If there is no solution to the lack of access to rural water supply, sanitation and hygiene, it will affect health, education and poverty. Health problems caused by lack of water supply, sanitation and hygiene are diarrhea, stunting, malnutrition and other water, sanitation and hygiene related diseases. Children's learning ability is reduced due to poor health condition, and dropout of girls increases due to poor water and sanitation at schools. The ability for income generation is reduced due to poor health and there are time losses in fetching water and losses of business opportunities. Moreover, women are



burdened resulting in little opportunities for income generation. People with disabilities also encounter difficulties. These problems are huge and affect rural people's livelihood.

Lack of water supply, sanitation and hygiene is caused by various factors including limited capacity in management and provision of services, unclear division of roles under a decentralization and deconcentration system, limited private sector involvement, monitoring, technology, financing, and poverty.

The capacity in management of rural water supply, sanitation and hygiene is limited. The progress of the decentralization and deconcentration system and the future organization of a new structure, roles, and responsibilities of this sector are not yet clear.

Furthermore, capacity development to coordinate and provide these services remains a challenge. There needs to be better guidance in implementation of rural water supply, sanitation and hygiene.

Involvement of the private sector is still limited because of a number of factors, such as lack of access to finance, investment risks, lack of business skill development, competitive environment, and weak regulations.

The monitoring system for rural water supply, sanitation and hygiene does not apply a single standard. This results in difficulties in monitoring. There are few technology options for water supply, in particular, in areas where there are limited water sources. There are few toilet models that are affordable for the poor. Currently, there is no sustainable solution for sanitation in flooded areas and in floating communities. It is estimated that the financing gap for achieving the goal of rural water supply, sanitation and hygiene is huge.

Rural water supply, sanitation and hygiene are related directly to the Royal Government's priorities in poverty reduction as outlined in the Rectangular Strategy and the National Strategic Development Plan. Targets for investment are on people and areas that have limited access to rural water supply, sanitation and hygiene, in particular, areas with a high poverty rate.

## **5.2 Strategic Objectives**

The National Strategic Plan is to be implemented from 2014 to 2025 focusing on the following:

- Develop mechanisms to enable sustainable provision of rural water supply, sanitation and hygiene services
- Increase financing for provision of rural water supply, sanitation and hygiene services
- Promote and increase sustainable rural water supply services
- Promote and increase sustainable rural sanitation services
- Promote sustained hygiene behavior change in relation to rural water supply and sanitation

## **5.3 Strategies**

In order to achieve the five objectives, the National Strategic Plan requires active participation from the relevant ministries, development partners, civil society, public, and private

sector in strengthening human resources, management, national and sub-national roles and responsibilities, creating an appropriate environment for the private sector, strengthening monitoring systems, creating appropriate and affordable technology and encouraging participation of poor households by focusing on a number of areas as follows:

#### **5.3.1 Develop a mechanism to enable sustainable provision of rural water supply, sanitation and hygiene services**

- Strengthen the management of rural water supply, sanitation and hygiene;
- Develop human resources and institutional capacity;
- Develop the private sector;
- Develop planning and management information systems;
- Evaluate and learn;
- Research, develop, and innovate;
- Develop and implement a communication strategy;
- Prioritize areas with a high poverty rate, areas with ethnic minorities, and areas with high vulnerabilities;
- Mainstream gender into rural water supply, sanitation and hygiene;
- Study the relationship between rural water supply, sanitation and hygiene and environmental impacts and develop guidelines to resolve the issue;
- Mitigate risks from disasters and climate change.

#### **5.3.2 Increase financing for provision of rural water supply, sanitation and hygiene services**

- Mobilize participation of all stakeholders, namely, the Royal Government, development partners, civil society, private sector, and the general public, focusing mainly on financing;
- Create funds for providing new infrastructure and repairing existing infrastructure;
- Create a sanitation financing mechanism for the poor.

#### **5.3.3 Promote and increase sustainable rural water supply services**

- Provide new infrastructure and maintain and rehabilitate existing services;
- Develop appropriate technologies and services in accordance with water quality standards;
- Strengthen operation and maintenance support system;
- Promote markets for water supply products.

#### **5.3.4 Promote and increase sustainable access to rural sanitation services**

- Increase access to sanitation;



- Strengthen operation and maintenance support systems;
- Establish sanitation standards for schools, health institutions and other rural institutions.

### **5.3.5 Promote sustained hygiene behavior change in relation to rural water supply and sanitation by conducting hygiene promotion, education, and regular training on behavior change**

## **6. Activities**

Implementation of the National Strategic Plan requires active participation of the public and private sector, development partners, civil society, philanthropists, and communities.

### **6.1 Develop mechanisms to enable sustainable provision of rural water supply, sanitation and hygiene services**

Short, medium and long-term activities for implementation include the following:

#### **6.1.1 Management of rural water supply, sanitation and hygiene**

- Monitor the progress of action points and outcomes of the National Strategic Plan on Rural Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene;
- Strengthen mechanisms at District Office and Provincial Department of Rural Development with support from the sub-national administration;
- Promulgate the Prakas defining the roles of relevant institutions in this sector;
- Develop procedures to make local authorities accountable to communities for water supply, sanitation and hygiene promotion services, including the use of community mechanisms to monitor and supervise service provision;
- Develop a system for District Office of Rural Development to seek, receive and address feedback, for example, complaints from communities, households and commune councils, including a comparative performance monitoring system between districts and communities;
- Develop guidelines for local government on how to address multiple upward and downward accountabilities;
- Produce new guidelines and procedures on rural water supply, sanitation and hygiene as required in other parts of the National Strategic Plan;
- Review existing guidelines and procedures on rural water supply, sanitation and hygiene, and revise if necessary;
- Publish and disseminate guidelines to national and local government authorities, service providers, district and commune councils and communities;
- Monitor the use and effectiveness of guidelines and revise if necessary.

### **6.1.2 Development of human resources and capacity**

- Strengthen the capacity of District Office of Rural Development and relevant stakeholders
- Prepare a comprehensive capacity development plan to determine the:
  - experience and skills required for the tasks at provincial and district level;
  - capacity and adequacy of existing staff;
  - additional training that will be required for staff to fulfill the roles;
  - cost of implementing the plan.
- Coordinate capacity development planning with other sectors and the decentralization and deconcentration process to ensure that the capacity development is feasible;
- Implement the capacity development plan;
- Conduct short training courses for sub-national officials and staff from relevant institutions.

### **6.1.3 Development of the private sector**

- Establish three additional procedures to ensure compliance with contracting and procurement procedures:
  - Make the Water and Sanitation User Group (WSUG) party to the contract, so that the contract is between the commissioning authority and the WSUG on one side and the private sector company on the other;
  - Following the tender process, publish and disclose the bids to the WSUGs based on the public procurement procedure;
  - At the end of a construction contract, formally disclose the accounts of the project to the community, detailing how the project funds have been spent including capacity building.
- Prepare and publish guidelines of the principles of responsibility, accountability, predictability and transparency for the private sector;
- Distribute these guidelines to all sub-national government offices involved in the sector and to all commune councils;
- Distribute these guidelines to all small and medium enterprises (SMEs) with an interest in providing water supply, sanitation and hygiene services;
- Identify and secure capital for investment through microfinance institutions;
- Identify appropriate training institutions and develop training programs;
- Provide training for SMEs at local level.

### **6.1.4 Planning and Management Information System**

- Reform the current management information systems (MIS) with their multiple databases to provide one unified management information system;
- Make the MIS accessible to all sector stakeholders by putting it on the internet and by other means for those without internet access;



- Ensure that all data is collected for infrastructure, institutional and social factors, and is disaggregated for women, men, children, people with disabilities and ethnic minorities.

#### **6.1.5 Evaluation and learning**

- Establish a system for sharing results of evaluations under the management of the Technical Working Group on Rural Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene;
- Evaluate and disseminate widely the outcomes and studies of specific aspects and approaches related to provision of rural water supply, sanitation and hygiene services.

#### **6.1.6 Research and development**

- Draw up systematic procedures for applying, testing, approving and disseminating new approaches and technology development;
- Establish a committee for guiding and approving such work.

#### **6.1.7 Communications**

- Develop and implement communication strategies to address:
  - Increasing the political profile of the sector in relation to its influence on political priority areas, such as health and economic development;
  - Increasing the media profile of the sector;
  - Publicizing the strategy both within and outside the sector;
  - Increasing the effectiveness of the Technical Working Group;
  - Identifying key data and needed information.

#### **6.1.8 Poverty, minorities and vulnerability**

- Give priority to the poorest and most underserved people and areas;
- Identify the poorest districts and communes within provinces and the poorest households within villages by referring to the Lists of Poor Households, developed and maintained by the Provincial Planning Departments;
- The development and provision of RWSSH services shall conform to the Law on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
- All projects and programs will consider the needs of persons with disabilities throughout all stages of their project/program cycles;
- Disabled people's organizations will be included or represented in any consultation process, committee or advisory board.

#### **6.1.9 Gender mainstreaming**

- Review and update the Gender Mainstreaming Action Plan;
- Review all existing and future guidelines and sector procedures to ensure they adequately address and advise on gender issues;

- Develop a gender orientation course suitable for government staff, Capital/provincial, municipal, district/Khan, commune/Sangkat councils and service providers in the rural water supply, sanitation and hygiene;
- Run the gender orientation course for different stakeholders.

#### **6.1.10 Environment**

- Commission a study on the level of understanding and links between water, sanitation and environmental impacts including Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) and risks to health;
- Develop guidelines and procedures for addressing environmental impacts in provision of rural water supply, sanitation and hygiene services.

#### **6.1.11 Climate change and disaster risk reduction and management**

- Coordinate with the National Committee for Disaster Management on actions for disaster preparedness and disaster management;
- Adapt technical designs for flood-prone areas;
- Prepare vulnerability maps showing flood and drought prone areas and develop mitigation measures.

### **6.2 Increase financing for provision of rural water supply, sanitation and hygiene services**

Short, medium, and long-term activities are as follows:

#### **6.2.1 Financing capital costs**

- Prepare investment plans in rural water supply, sanitation and hygiene;
- Increase supporting funds, showing both economic and social benefits from investment in rural water supply, sanitation and hygiene;
- Review the proportion of contributions by communities in each province and district by establishing procedures and criteria for determining the level of contributions by communities based on established procedures;
- Establish a steering group to lead and guide the establishment of alternative mechanisms for sanitation financing;
- Pilot financing mechanisms;
- Monitor the effectiveness of those mechanisms, evaluate and compare different financing mechanisms after a trial period of implementation;
- Develop guidance on mechanisms appropriate for different target groups;
- Estimate the costs of the Capacity Development Plan and the costs of private sector development;
- Seek development partners for participation and funding of private sector training in rural water supply, sanitation and hygiene.



### **6.2.2 Financing recurrent costs**

- Pay the full operating costs of the water supply service, including staff or contractors, repairs and maintenance, replacement of wearing parts and contributions to the maintenance support system;
- Establish and maintain a maintenance fund with regular contributions from user households;
- Households to pay the operating and maintenance costs of their own latrines, including managing septage and emptying pits;
- Budget, allocate and provide funding for recurrent costs, in accordance with existing and future financial management cycles.

## **6.3 Promote and increase sustainable access to rural water supply services**

Short, medium, and long-term activities are as follows:

### **6.3.1 Increased access to water supply**

- Prepare district inventories of water supply services and gaps, compiling these at provincial and national level;
- Coordinate water resources for domestic use according to IWRM principles;
- Identify support offered by government, development partners and NGOs
- Promote the application process for new water supply infrastructure;
- Provide new infrastructure;
- Promote the application process for rehabilitating infrastructure;
- Rehabilitate existing infrastructure;
- Prepare the community to manage the construction, operation and maintenance of water supply services;
- Quality control of new construction;
- Commission a study to determine the scale and reasons for failure of water supplies in the past and the comparative cost efficiency of rehabilitation or new construction;
- Develop procedures and guidelines to rehabilitate infrastructure that address the causes of past failures;
- Quality control of rehabilitation;
- Fund the capital cost of rehabilitating the infrastructure;
- Commission study and monitor water supply technologies for water scarce and arsenic-affected areas. This study includes reviewing the appropriateness of technology for women and technologies used in other countries;
- Commission study and monitor water supply technologies for people with special social needs, including people with disabilities, women and children;

- Carry out the research, development and piloting;
- Develop a clear system for delineating the additional costs of working in remote areas and sharing the cost of risk so that it is not a disincentive for the private sector to work in such areas. This system allocates risks to those parties best able to manage them; rewards to investors would balance with risks assumed by them.

### **6.3.2 Applications of water quality standards**

- Adapt the concept of Water Safety Plans for use in Cambodia and develop guidelines on Water Safety Plans for commune/Sangkat councils based on the Water Safety Plan manual produced by WHO;
- Each commune council/Sangkat will produce a Water Safety Plan for its area as part of the water quality monitoring systems;
- Develop a procedure for decision-making and actions in response to water points that fail to meet quality standards, including checking alternative sources.

### **6.3.3 Operation and Maintenance**

- Establish a maintenance support system including monitoring of groundwater levels;
- Establish a maintenance support system in each district and organize training for appointed staff.

## **6.4 Promote and increase sustainable rural sanitation services**

Short, medium, and long-term activities are as follows:

### **6.4.1 Increased access to sanitation**

- Disseminate and evaluate different approaches, such as Community-Led Total Sanitation, to change people's hygiene behavior;
- Implement approaches to encourage each community and household to change behavior towards using a toilet;
- Promote sanitation products at local markets through the use of social marketing;
- Make available sanitation products in districts, communes and communities through building capacity of masons and local markets;
- Commission research to identify a range of cheaper technical options for latrines and publicize the designs that are suitable for use at community level;
- Commission research to identify and pilot latrine designs appropriate for flood-prone areas and floating villages.

### **6.4.2 Operation and Maintenance**

- Develop operating procedures for managing septage and emptying pits;
- Develop systems for treating and disposing of, or re-using, septage sludge and the contents of pit latrines;



- Develop services for emptying pits and septic tanks, with training in how to dispose of the contents safely and appropriately.

#### **6.4.3 Sanitation at schools, health facilities and other rural institutions**

- Develop a national standard for the number of school students and staff per latrine, defined separately for girls and boys, and staff and children with disabilities;
- Prepare and maintain an inventory of existing toilets, water and sanitation facilities, including functionality, in all schools;
- Build appropriate toilet blocks and hand basins in all rural schools using a demand-responsive approach;
- Teach life skills as part of the core curriculum to accompany the infrastructure;
- Develop a national standard for the number of latrines per inpatient and outpatient, defined separately for males and females and people with disabilities;
- Prepare and maintain an inventory of existing toilets, water and sanitation facilities, including functionality, in all health centers and other institutions;
- Build latrines in all health centers and other rural institutions using a demand-responsive approach;
- Commission a study on wastewater drainage to assess the extent and scale of the problems and propose strategic solutions;
- Commission a study on solid waste to assess the extent and scale of the problems and propose strategic solutions;
- Develop and implement a plan to address ways to drain wastewater and remove and dispose of solid waste.

### **6.5 Promote sustained hygiene behavior change in relation to water supply and sanitation**

Short, medium, and long-term activities are as follows:

- Disseminate the Hygiene Promotion Guidelines, monitor their use and evaluate their effectiveness in achieving change;
- Review and revise Hygiene Promotion Guidelines after evaluating their effectiveness;
- Carry out baseline and follow-up surveys of hygiene practices and report results to the District Office of Rural Development;
- Conduct hygiene behavior change campaigns in communities and households;
- Conduct regular refresher courses to encourage hygiene behavior change.

## 7. Financial Resources

Funding sources for supporting the implementation of the National Strategic Plan come from the national budget, the private sector, development partners, civil society and philanthropists.

## 8. Monitoring and Evaluation

The implementation of the National Strategic Plan is divided into two phases:

- 1) Phase 1, from 2014 to 2018; and
- 2) Phase 2, from 2019 to 2025.

During the implementation process, there will be a mid-term review in 2018 and a final evaluation in 2025.

The National Strategic Plan covers the period between 2014 and 2025, which is the schedule set in the National Water Supply and Sanitation Policy in order to achieve the vision of the sector whereby all rural people will have access to services. The period between 2014 and 2018 is the period where significant changes need to happen in terms of institutional arrangement and capacity building. The purpose is to have the changes completed in time to respond to the need for a huge increase in services between 2014 and 2025.

Action	Date
Development of guidelines and implementation plans	2014
Phase 1 implementation	2014-2018
First monitoring and evaluation	2018
Phase 2 implementation	2019-2025
Final monitoring and evaluation	2025

The Ministry of Rural Development needs to review regularly the progress of the implementation of the National Strategic Plan. If necessary, the Ministry is to make corrections focusing on changes in needs and circumstances, in particular, in response to the socio-economic development of Cambodia.

## 9. Conclusion

The Ministry of Rural Development has developed the National Strategic Plan to increase access to rural water supply, sanitation and hygiene, to improve the enabling environment and to mobilize adequate resources. The National Strategic Plan identifies various measures including strengthening of institutions, research, training, promotion of community participation, strengthening of service quality, investment and private sector participation. Successful implementation of the National Strategic Plan shall create economic and social benefits and shall contribute to achieving the Millennium Development Goals such as people's improved well-being, reduced diarrhea, decreased malnutrition rate, and reduced child and maternal mortality. It also contributes to increase access to education and hygiene behavior change, which lead



to enhancement of rural people’s livelihood and equitable and sustainable poverty reduction. In order to implement this Strategic Plan successfully, there is a need for support and participation of all national and sub-national institutions, development partners, civil society, private sector and communities.

**8. Monitoring and evaluation**

The implementation of the National Strategic Plan is a long-term process. It requires a strong monitoring and evaluation system to track progress, identify challenges, and ensure accountability. The Ministry of Rural Development has developed a monitoring and evaluation framework for the National Strategic Plan, which is based on the following principles:

- **Transparency:** The monitoring and evaluation system should be transparent and accessible to all stakeholders.
- **Participation:** The monitoring and evaluation system should involve all stakeholders, including the government, development partners, civil society, and communities.
- **Timeliness:** The monitoring and evaluation system should provide timely information to inform decision-making.
- **Accountability:** The monitoring and evaluation system should hold all stakeholders accountable for their commitments.

The National Strategic Plan covers the period between 2014 and 2022, which is the schedule set in the National Water Supply and Sanitation Policy. In order to achieve the vision of the sector, the Ministry of Rural Development will have to focus on several key areas. The period between 2014 and 2018 is the period of initial implementation, and the period between 2018 and 2022 is the period of consolidation and sustainability. The purpose of the monitoring and evaluation system is to have the changes completed in time to respond to demand for a huge increase in services between 2014 and 2022.

Action	2014	2018	2022
Development of policies and implementation plans	✓	✓	✓
Phase I implementation	✓	✓	✓
Phase II implementation	✓	✓	✓
Phase III implementation	✓	✓	✓
First monitoring and evaluation	✓	✓	✓

**9. Conclusion**

The Ministry of Rural Development has developed the National Strategic Plan to address the challenges of rural development in Ethiopia. The plan is based on the principles of transparency, participation, timeliness, and accountability. The plan covers the period between 2014 and 2022, which is the schedule set in the National Water Supply and Sanitation Policy. In order to achieve the vision of the sector, the Ministry of Rural Development will have to focus on several key areas. The period between 2014 and 2018 is the period of initial implementation, and the period between 2018 and 2022 is the period of consolidation and sustainability. The purpose of the monitoring and evaluation system is to have the changes completed in time to respond to demand for a huge increase in services between 2014 and 2022.

## Glossary

**Access to water supply services:** The availability of an improved water source within 150 meters of a house. An "improved" water source is one that is more likely to provide "safe" water, such as a household connection or borehole.

**Access to adequate sanitation:** One of the improved sanitation options is available at the user's home.

**Water supply:** Water used for domestic consumption – drinking, washing, bathing and home-based economic activities.

**Improved water supply:** Water from a source that is more likely to provide "safe" water, such as a household connection or borehole.

**Evaluation:** Checking, collecting and analyzing information about past project development to help make decisions about the continuation of the project and/or to improve the performance of similar projects and the sector as a whole.

**Water and Sanitation User Group:** A group of five people established by a community to be responsible for an improved water source, such as all types of wells, small-scale water distribution systems and community ponds. This group is responsible for maintenance and repairs when a well does not work and represents water users of each well.

**A rural area:** An administrative geographical location with a maximum population density of 200 people per square kilometer, or with 50% or more men working in agriculture, or with a maximum total people of 2,000 in a commune.

**An urban area:** A commune that meets the following criteria:

1. Population density is over 200 people per square kilometer;
2. Less than 50% of men working in agriculture;
3. The total population in the commune is over 2,000.

**Contribution:** Government's fund and benefiting communities that have to contribute to the capital for construction of water supply and sanitation facilities, and for covering recurrent costs on operation and maintenance of water supply and sanitation facilities.

**Hygienic environment:** An environment that is clean and not likely to cause water- and excreta-related disease.

**Water source:** The point at which water can be abstracted, such as a spring or well. The source can also be a river or lake, depending on the context.

**Clean water:** Drinking water obtained from improved water sources, such as protected deep pump well, protected shallow pump well, protected well and protected rain water, which is of a quality in compliance with the National Guidelines on Rural Water Quality.

**Drinking water:** Water that meets water quality standards and is safe to drink.



**Rural communities:** Settlements located outside gazetted municipal areas.

**Sustainable services:** Services that have all the financial and human resources required for operation, maintenance and replacement, and take into account the technical, social, institutional and environmental aspects, so that they are continuously providing the accepted basic level of service.

**Infrastructure of rural water supply and sanitation:** All kinds of water supply and toilet structures provided locally, including deep pump wells, shallow pump wells, wells, integrated wells, community ponds, small-scale water distribution systems and household toilets.

**Hygiene:** A set of behaviors associated with domestic water storage and use, and sanitation practices. Good hygiene is the practice of keeping oneself and one's living and working areas clean in order to help prevent illness and disease.

**Improved sanitation:** A flush or pour-flush latrine connected to sewerage, a septic tank or a covered pit, a pit latrine with a slab or a Ventilated Improved Pit (VIP) latrine.

**Sanitation:** Management and disposal of human urine, excreta and domestic waste water.

**Arsenic:** A chemical which can be natural or induced by human activities, entering underground and surface water sources. Arsenic is tasteless, odorless, colorless, and can enter human bodies only through drinking and through water used for cooking. If we consume water with arsenic higher than the allowable level it will have health effects. The quality of rural water in relations to Arsenic that can be consumed and that does not affect health refers to water with arsenic not over 50 micrograms per liter (50 ppb).