

Kingdom of Cambodia
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Ministry of Rural Development
Department of Rural Water Supply

**Annual Report on Progress of the Adoption
and Implementation of the Post-ODF Strategy
-2023**

December 2023

Abbreviation

ADB	Asian Development Bank
ATP	Alternative Twin Pit
BCC	Behaviour Change Communication
CFP	Commune Focal Person
CSDG	Cambodia Sustainable Development Goal
CWG	Commune Working Group
DA	District Administration
DWG	District Working Group
FSM	Fecal Sludge Management
HHs	Households
JMP	Joint Monitoring Program
PWG	Provincial Working Group
ODF	Open Defecation Free
RuSH	Rural Sanitation and Hygiene
RWSSH	Rural Water Supply Sanitation and Hygiene
VFP	Village Focal Person
WASH	Water Sanitation Hygiene

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Preface

Cambodia has made significant strides in recent years towards achieving the ambitious goal of Open Defecation Free (ODF) status for all communities. Through dedicated efforts from Ministry of Rural Development (MRD), development partners, and local communities, countless rural households have gained access to safe and dignified sanitation facilities, transforming lives and improving public health.

However, the journey towards sustainable sanitation goes beyond simply declaring ODF status. It requires a proactive and ongoing commitment to maintain the gains achieved and address emerging challenges. Recognizing this critical need, MRD introduced the **Post-Open Defecation Free Implementing Strategy** in April 2023. This landmark policy framework provides a roadmap for Provincial Department of Rural Developments (PDRDs) and District Administrations (DAs) to build upon their ODF achievements and solidify a future free from open defecation.

This annual report serves as a testament to the collective efforts invested in implementing the Post-ODF Strategy/Action Plan across the 75 target DAs in Cambodia. It presents a comprehensive overview of the progress and activities made in 2023 after the strategy was endorsed and after ODF declaration, highlighting key milestones, innovative approaches, and areas for continued improvement. We delve into the initiatives undertaken by DAs to develop and implement action plans, tailored to the specific needs and contexts of their communities.

While challenges remain, the achievements documented in this report offer a powerful source of encouragement. The unwavering commitment of stakeholders at all levels, coupled with the unwavering spirit of rural communities, fuels our collective optimism for a Cambodia where sanitation is not just a privilege, but a fundamental right enjoyed by all.

As we move forward, the lessons learned and insights gained in 2023 will guide our continued efforts. We will build upon successful models, refine our approaches, and forge even stronger partnerships to ensure that the dream of a truly sustainable sanitation future becomes a reality for every Cambodian village.

I believe that the experiences and successes documented here hold valuable lessons for relevant stakeholders striving towards a free from open defecation. Let us learn from each other, support each other, and collectively rise to the challenge of achieving universal sanitation for all.

Phnom Penh, 08 December /2023

Director of Department of Rural Water Supply *fl*



H.E Srin Poutthy

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I. Introduction

The Cambodia Sustainable Development Goal (CSDG) no 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all covers the following target on sanitation: Target 6.2 “By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situation.”

The sector’s vision states that “everyone in rural communities has sustained access to safe water supply and sanitation services and lives in a hygienic environment by 2025” as presented in the National Strategic Plan for Rural Water Supply Sanitation and Hygiene (RWSSH) 2014-2025.

Open defecation refers to the practice of defecating in fields, forests, bushes, bodies of water, or other open spaces. Defecating in the open is an affront to dignity and risk to children’s nutrition and to community health. The elimination of open defecation is recognized as a top priority for improving health, nutrition, and productivity of developing country populations and is explicitly mentioned in CSDG target 6.2.

This report presents an overview of progress on the adoption and implementation of the Post-ODF Strategy during 2023. The report highlights the key achievements of the implementation as well as the challenges that remain. It also provides suggestions for further enforcement of the strategy.

II. Progress toward ODF

Cambodia has made remarkable progress in eliminating open defecation practices. The 2022 WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) shows 83.9% rural population in Cambodia with no open defecation in 2022. With the 3.8% annual rate of improvement since 2000, Cambodia is on track to achieve no open defecation by 2030. By achieving the huge reduction of open defecation practice from 2000 to 2022, Cambodia has been named the country with the most significant progress in reducing open defecation between 2000-2022 and rated as on track to achieve no open defecation by 2030.

1 of 1 selected countries below 99% coverage are on track to achieve no open defecation by 2030

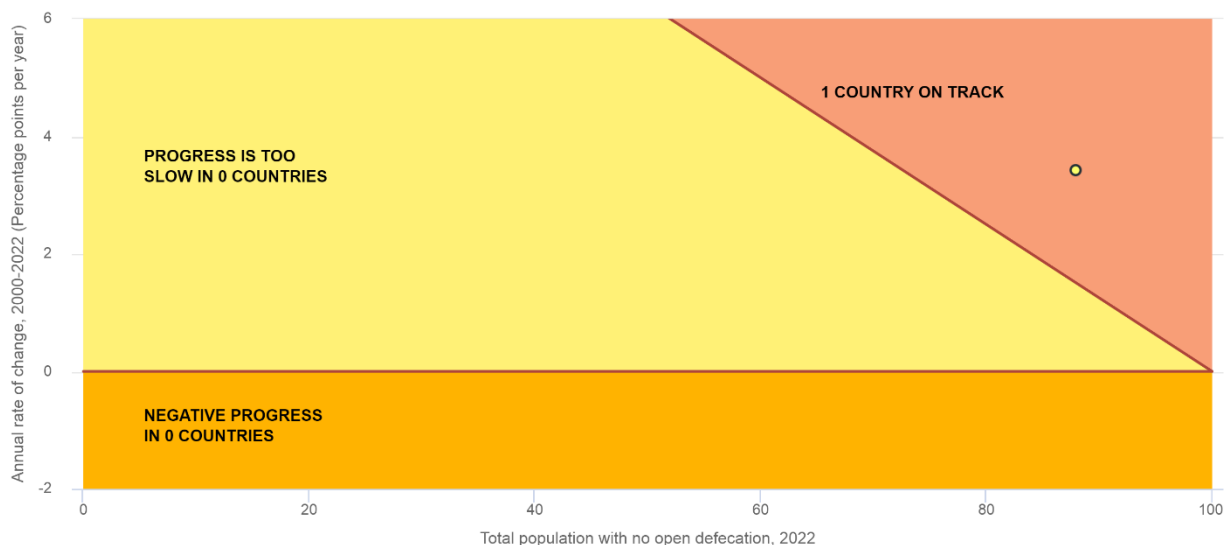


Figure 1: The Progress in achievement of no open defecation by 2030

Open defecation rates have been decreasing steadily. Open defecation rates have been decreasing steadily. Between 2015 and 2022, the number of Cambodian practising open defecation declined from 4.5 million to 2 million, reducing by more than half. In 2022, as percentage, there was only 12.08% of total Cambodia population still practice open defecation.

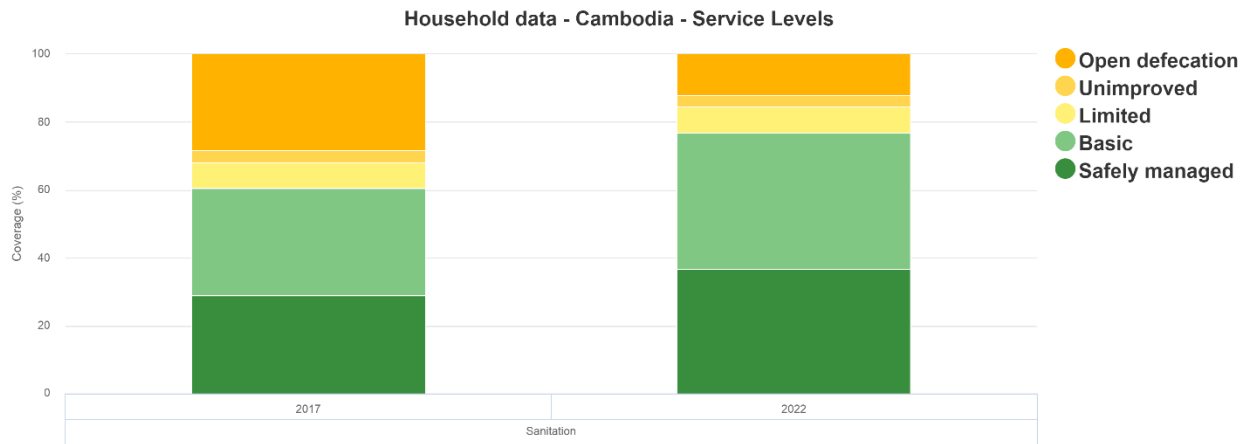


Figure 2: The coverage of sanitation service in Cambodia between 2017 and 2022

According to MIS report by Q2 2023, 6 provinces among 25 have been declared ODF as following:

1. Prey Veng
2. **Svay Rieng**
3. **Kandal**
4. **Kampong Speu**
5. **Kampong Chnang**
6. Kep

Among the 6 provinces, 4 provinces and 21 districts are from program target areas.

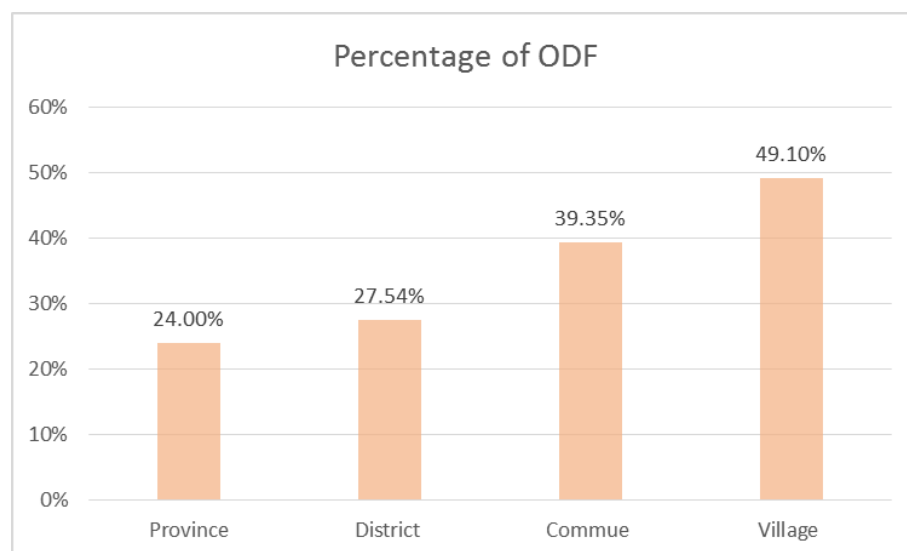


Figure 3: Percentages of ODF at all levels in Cambodia

The figure 3 shows about the percentage of ODF from provincial to village level in Cambodia by Q2 2023 (MIS, 2023). It is indicated that about 50% (equal to 7.143 villages) of total village in Cambodia have been declared as ODF village.

III. Objectives of the Post-ODF Implementing Strategy

The Post-ODF Implementing Strategy has been developed under the coordination of the Department of Rural Water Supply and Department of Rural Health Care involving consultations with relevant sector stakeholders at the national and sub-national level for further inputs and feedback.

The document has been endorsed on the 23rd April 2023 by Minister of Rural Development. This document has both Khmer and English version. It has been shared to all relevant stakeholders such as NGOs, PDRDs and District Administrations.

The overall objectives of this strategy will be pursued through 3 specific objectives:

1. To sustain the sanitation and behaviour change of the communities in the ODF villages/communes/provinces;
2. To sustain access to improved sanitation facilities that has been achieved through the process towards ODF status;
3. To ensure long term commitment and engagement of the Government especially at the sub-national level.

IV. Implementation Activities for ODF/Post-ODF

Reaching ODF achievement in each level, the engagement and effort from all levels is needed. From national level to sub-national level, each level has provided strong commitment and coordination to work closely with relevant stakeholders and beneficiaries.

- a. National level/Ministry of Rural Development
 - Developed the Post-ODF Implementing Strategy
 - Conducted consultation workshop for further discussion, feedback and inputs from relevant stakeholders (development partners including ADB and Rural Sanitation and Hygiene (RuSH) group
 - Endorsed the Post-ODF Implementing Strategy by the Minister
 - Disseminated to all stakeholders through meetings, and workshops.
 - Trainings/Workshops were conducted for 75 DAs and 15 PDRDs (priority districts and provinces).
 - Supported DAs in developing post-ODF action plan (75 districts)
- b. PDRDs

For province that declared ODF already, various activities have been completed to maintain the status of ODF following the Post-ODF implementing strategy such as:

- Regularly prepared and involved in PWG, PWG-S, DWG and CWG meeting
- Raised awareness on consistent use of toilets and encouraged HHs who shared latrine to build own latrine
- Promoted the advantages of ATP latrine at commune level by using the IEC materials provided by program
- Raised awareness on fecal sludge management at commune level by using IEC materials provided by program
- Built latrines for poor HHs and other vulnerable HHs
- Distributed the soaps and handwashing facilities to poor HHs and other vulnerable HHs via commune authorities
- Conducted the dissemination workshop on ODF verification guideline to districts and communes
- Updated quarterly the data and information on sanitation services
- Participated in Post-ODF strategy dissemination workshop conducted by program

For provinces that have not reached ODF yet, numerous tasks have been implemented to reach ODF as following:

- Encouraged rural HHs to build own or shared latrine
- Conducted meetings with commune and village authorities to prepare action plan to reach ODF
- Raised awareness on consistence of using latrine and practices of handwashing
- Cooperated and work closely with Provincial level to arrange action plan to reach ODF province
- Coordinated with provincial level to organize the committee to evaluate ODF at village/commune/district level
- Supervised and monitored on the latrine construction
- Collected and updated quarterly on the data and information of sanitation services
- Established CWG (some provinces only)
- Provided subsidies to poor HHs and other vulnerable HHs for latrine construction
- Supported district level on sanitation data collection
- Trained and supported the commune/district about ODF verification
- Facilitated and participated in ODF verification at village /commune /district level
- Prepared ODF certification for village/commune/district
- Provided trainings on CLTS and ODF verification to village/commune district focal person
- Triggered CLTS in village/commune level

c. District administration

To sustain the status of ODF, some activities have been continuing to implement for districts with ODF declaration such as:

- Participated in dissemination workshop on Post-ODF strategy provided by program
- Prepared Post-ODF action plan (3 years plan)
- Conducted DWG and CWG meetings
- Continued to work on awareness raising on latrine construction for new household
- Cooperated with CFP/VFP to encourage HHs with shared toilet to build separate toilets
- Promoted hygiene facilities in toilets such as handwashing facilities and soap
- Promoted fecal sludge management and solid waste management at household level
- Monitored on progress of latrine in village level (existing and new constructed latrine)
- Promoted ATP latrine for new HHs and encourage HHs to use ATP latrine (if possible) to manage properly on fecal sludge
- Cooperated with private operators or emptiers on fecal sludge removal and discharge
- Worked closely with CFP/VFP on hygiene promotion at HHs level, schools or HCs
- Promoted inclusive WASH at commune level, school, Pagoda, church etc
- Built latrines with inclusion at some communes (for some provinces only)
- Encouraged and built capacity on young adult/teenagers in village/commune to be sanitation focal person
- Updated the progress of sanitation services to PDRD and DWG

To achieve ODF for districts, DAs are working with relevant stakeholders on some activities such as:

- Participated with PWG meeting and included WASH issues as main agenda to discuss
- Raised awareness on advantages of using latrine and hygiene promotion
- Strengthened capacity of the VFP/CFP on CLTS and BCC
- Triggered CLTS and implemented BCC at village/commune level
- Conducted PVA
- Monitored monthly/quarterly on the progress of increase number of latrines
- Encouraged to build latrine at HHs level
- Verified ODF at village and commune level

- Promoted fecal sludge management and waste management at HHs levels
- Provided subsidies to poor HHs and vulnerable HHs
- Collected the data on number of HHs with/without latrine in SCE areas

V. Planned Activities for ODF/Post-ODF Implementation

a. PDRDs

Counting from the early date of ODF declaration, some provinces have not had various activities for the implementation of Post-ODF strategy. Several activities have been planned:

- Continue organize and participate in DWG and PWG meeting;
- Disseminate the Post-ODF strategy to district and commune level;
- Monitor and supervise on the construction of ATP latrine in target communes;
- Cooperate with Provincial Department of Religion to work on awareness raising about behaviour change and toilet upgrade to include inclusive WASH at pagoda in the target areas;
- Raise awareness at target school about toilet upgrade to include inclusive WASH;
- Support LBOs to provide sanitation products and service for inclusion;
- Monitor the sustainability of ODF commune and raise awareness on toilet upgrade with inclusion at public institution;
- Continue to promote own latrine for shared latrine households;
- Promote FSM in all levels to sustain ODF.

For province without ODF declaration, PDRDs have put efforts to reach ODF for targets levels. Some activities have been planned to implement as following:

- Organize PWGs meeting and include WASH in agenda for discussion;
- Continue to raise awareness on hygiene promotion and sanitation;
- Celebrate handwashing day and promote at commune level
- Raise fund and provide subsidy for latrine construction for poor HHs;
- Work with religious places such as pagoda to conduct fund raising for poor and vulnerable HHs;
- Monitor and supervise latrine construction at village/commune levels.

b. District Level

For the district with ODF declaration, various tasks have been planned to work on such as:

- Continue to work on CLTS, Hygiene Promotion and BCCs;
- Raise awareness on advantage of using latrine at village level;
- Monitor on the new constructed HHs on latrine construction;
- Promote FSM at village level as some existing latrines are full;
- Provide training to village/commune sanitation focal person on CLTS;
- Provide subsidy to poor and vulnerable HHs to construct latrines;
- Work with religious places such as pagoda to promote sanitation and hygiene during special ceremonies.

VI. Challenges of Post-ODF Strategy Implementation

The implementation of Post-ODF Strategy needs technical and financial support at all levels ranging from village to provincial. Some of activities regarding Post-ODF have been completed partially. The numerous of activities have not been implemented due to low budget in implementation. The national budget is very limited and most of DPs and donors concentrate on ODF only. The dissemination of post-ODF strategy has reached to program level only (15 provinces and 75 districts). The remaining ODF provinces and districts have not familiar with the strategy.

VII. Conclusion

In conclusion, 75 districts of program target areas have prepared the Post-ODF action plans. The provinces/districts with ODF declaration have implemented some possible activities while the provinces/districts without ODF still focus on the activities at village/commune level to reach ODF target. For effectiveness of Post-ODF strategy implementation, the dissemination of the strategy should be done nationwide in technical and financial support from DPs and NGOs.