



Cambodia: Cambodia goes Blue School

Project Duration

01.06.2020 – 30.06.2023

Budget

CHF 1'999'879

Intervention Country and Zone(s)

Cambodia, Banteay Meanchey Province

Main Topics

WASH in School (WinS), Blue Schools, CHAST, Fit for School

Key Partners and Stakeholders

Caritas Switzerland with its implementing partners ensures alignment with the Ministry of Education and other stakeholders engaged in WinS in Cambodia, such as UNICEF and GIZ. BORDA is the main implementing partner for infrastructure. The three implementing partners, Social Environment Agricultural Development Organisation, Rural Water and Sanitation Team and Provincial Department for Education, deliver the software components related to the Blue Schools Approach.

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Context and Problem Analysis

More than 30 years after the end of the Khmer Rouge regime, Cambodia's education system still suffers from its consequences. Although school attendance is still not compulsory, almost all children at the primary school level attend classes. However, schools are often in a desolate condition, especially in rural areas. Nation-wide, more than one third of all schools do not meet minimum standards regarding Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH). For example, some schools do not even have water, toilets or handwashing facilities.

In the particularly disadvantaged province of Banteay Meanchey, only a quarter of all 410 primary schools meet the minimum WASH criteria. 58 schools have no toilets, and 124 schools have no running water. Drinking water is available almost nowhere. Hygiene related diseases, such as diarrhoea, respiratory tract diseases, worm infestation and caries, are the consequences and many children are affected by malnutrition. As a result, children are unable to use their capacities to their full potential.

The lack of hygiene has serious consequences for many children, but also for the environment. The Royal Government of Cambodia wants to change this situation and has set an ambitious goal to equip all 7,228 primary schools in Cambodia with toilet facilities by 2023, making primary schools 100% open defecation free. Caritas Switzerland is committed to support this nationally-set goal and works to improve hygiene conditions in schools with this present project.

Cambodia: 45 Blue Schools for Banteay Meanchey

Project Objectives and Intervention Strategy

The overall goal of the project is to contribute sustainably to the achievement of the Minimum Requirements on WinS (Three Star Approach) in the Banteay Meanchey Province by transforming 45 primary schools ranked 0 or 1 star to Blue Schools ranked at least 2 stars. The project also aims to align the Blue Schools approach with other WASH approaches practiced in Cambodia, such as Fit for School, to create interventions of scale with a long-term view to eventually achieve the WASH in School targets nation-wide. By rolling out the Blue Schools approach in 45 schools at province level, the project aligns with national goals, policies and mechanisms. The rollout can be divided into two components:

Hardware

- WASH infrastructure improvements in 45 schools and technical monitoring.
- Various trainings related to the operation and maintenance of the infrastructure and funds mobilizing for infrastructure.


Software

- Discussions with the School Department about suitable WASH in School (WinS) standards
- In-dept assessment of 60 primary schools based on technical and social criteria, including motivation of principals to transform their school to a Blue School
- Basic and refresher Blue Schools training
- Implementation of all Blue Schools activities in 45 schools (WASH, waste management, gardening, etc.)
- Knowledge Sharing, such as the community of practice among Blue Schools in Cambodia and within the SWSC
- Advocacy and policy influencing in Cambodia
- Coordination, collection of evidence and capitalization of lessons learned



Image 1: In the school gardens, pupils learn how the production of food is closely related to the efficient use of natural resources. In a playful way, they improve their knowledge about healthy nutrition, sustainable farming methods and land and water use.

Target Groups: Beneficiaries & Institutions

45 
Schools

13'900 
Students

Key Outcome Targets:

Basic drinking water service: 7'100 boys and 6'800 girls benefit from drinking water in sufficient quality and quantity.

Basic sanitation service: 45 schools benefit from improved sanitation facilities (toilets and handwashing facilities).

Hygiene promotion: In all 45 schools, the capacity of the teachers has been built to promote good hygiene practices. The school areas are kept clean, handwashing is practiced and facilities are kept clean. The "Blue Schools Kit" in Khmer language makes teaching interactive and child friendly.

Caritas Switzerland in Cambodia

Since its foundation in 1901, Caritas Switzerland has consistently supported the most vulnerable population worldwide. Our goal is to end poverty – everywhere and for all.

Caritas Switzerland has been engaged in Cambodia for 20 years and is active with its own presence and registration since 2014. We work towards a Cambodia in which human development is for everyone. Our core themes are safe migration, increasing the income of vulnerable persons and building the resilience of communities to climate variability and change. Our country programme targets communities that are most affected by disaster, poverty, and migration in the north-western provinces of Cambodia, bordering Thailand.



Contact Caritas Switzerland in Cambodia

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<https://www.caritas.ch/en/what-we-do/worldwide/country-programmes/country-programme-of-cambodia.html>

Swiss Water and Sanitation Consortium (SWSC)

The SWSC is a consortium of eight Swiss NGOs who pool their resources and know-how to increase access to safe drinking water, adequate sanitation and improved hygiene. In its third phase (2020-2023), the SWSC features 16 projects in 12 countries in East and West Africa as well as in Asia.

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