Drinking water, sanitation and solid waste management in Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and Myanmar

Drinking water, sanitation and solid waste management are pillars of a sustainable development. Nevertheless, in Asia and Pacific, 1.7 billion people have no access to modern sanitation, 780 million people still practice open defecation, 500 million people drink contaminated water, and one billion miss out on solid waste collection and treatment services. For 20 years, GRET has been involved in improving access to these services for the most vulnerable people in South-East Asia, attaching special importance to innovation and the sustainability of systems and mechanisms.
Wide ranging expertise

With more than 20 years of experience in the design and implementation of projects and consultancies in South-east Asia, Gret benefits from a strong expertise in the fields of water, sanitation and solid waste management:

**Water Supply Utilities**

- Public policy analysis: legal framework analysis, regulation, support to public authorities, from the local to the central levels, pro-poor and social inclusive approach.
- Technical assistance to large public water supply utilities.
- Feasibility studies, detailed designs and implementation (construction, work supervision, monitoring) of water supply projects.
- Economic & financial analysis of the services; development of innovative mixed-financing solutions (loans, subsidies, local public funding).
- Private sector participation: bidding and contracting process, management schemes, business development services, capacity building programs.

**Sanitation, Hygiene and Solid waste management**

- Large scale socio-economic surveys, supply analysis, market surveys, utility economic & financial analysis.
- Design and implementation of innovative and adapted technical solutions: low-cost latrines, desludging devices, small-scale wastewater treatment plant, fecal sludge treatment plants, landfills.
- Definition of management schemes, technical assistance to public authorities.
- Support to small and medium enterprises (SMEs): toilets manufacturers, wastewater treatment plant operators.
- Marketing strategies to promote the products and services.
- Awareness raising on hygiene and sanitation, user groups support.

**Some key figures**

- Over 20 multiyear projects.
- Over 20 consultancies in WASH and solid waste sector.
- More than 60 water operators trained and coached in Cambodia.
- 50 piped water networks built and operated by private enterprises in Laos and Cambodia.
Key principles of interventions

- Give rise to innovations from existing local dynamics
- Build inclusive management and regulation schemes
- Accompany the professionalization of stakeholders

The interventions are built on the following methodological basis:

- undertake in-depth diagnosis,
- formalize intervention methodologies to encourage appropriation by local stakeholders and to enable a knock-on effect,
- rely on monitoring and evaluation processes to produce decision-making information

... in small towns

Gret has long experience and has developed expertise in small towns working in 3 provinces of Laos and nationwide in Cambodia. Their specific challenges are linked to their scale: small markets, unaffordable technologies, distance, poverty, lack of skills and commitment from authorities in delivering public services...

Example of projects: MIREP, PACEPAC, SAMAKI, BDS, A2F, WASHOBA, ISEA.

Example of consultancies: Global Study on the Expansion of Domestic Private Sector Participation in the Water and Sanitation Market in Cambodia, Best practices in Sanitation, study cases from 4 countries in South-East Asia (SAWAP), Developing Technical Standards for small towns water supply projects (MIH/WHO).

... in medium and large cities

In medium and large cities (such as Vientiane, Phnom Penh, Kampot, Kampong Speu), GRET develops innovative management and financial schemes taking into consideration governance issues, multi-stakeholders constraints and opportunities as well as the need to improve the delivery to the poor households.

Example of projects: MADEVIE, MADEAU,

Example of consultancies: Evaluation of the Lao Center for Training on water skills (CFME), Feasibility study for a fecal sludge treatment plant in Vientiane Capital, Evaluation of City of Paris project to support PPWSA in its Pro-poor strategy, Landscape analysis and business model assessment in Fecal Sludge Management: Extraction and Transportation Models in Cambodia, etc.
Contribute to Research Papers and Knowledge Sharing


Naulet F., 2012, “Promoting the institutional transition of drinking water SSWPs. Lessons learned from the Mirep Programme in Cambodia” in Water services and the private sector in developing countries, AFD, p. 395.

Mahé J.-P., 2011, Building water utilities with local private entrepreneurs, the example of Mirep experience, WSP-GRET, 80 p. (English).


Frenoux C., Barrau E., 2010, “Promoting and supporting institutional innovation of water utilities in developing countries, the example of Mirep and Camep experiences”, Coopérer Aujourd’hui, GRET (French).


Who are we?

GRET is an international development NGO that has been actively fighting poverty and inequalities for almost 40 years on all levels and on a broad range of subjects.

Its 700 professionals, currently working in more than 30 countries, provide lasting and innovative solutions for fair development in the field and work to positively influence policy.

For more information

www.gret.org

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