



AFD and the Water in Cambodia

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€**160** million
committed
since 2015

850,000
people with improved access
to drinking water

8 projects
implemented
since 2006

In Phnom Penh, the drinking water system is of good quality. But in the provinces, the sanitation services are still largely undeveloped. AFD has been engaged in this sector in Cambodia since 2004. Therefore, it is positioned as a privileged partner of the public authorities, private operators and the government. The goal is to reach total water network coverage in urban areas by 2025.

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1

Widen access to drinking water

AFD has been able to support the Phnom Penh Water Supply Authority's successful strategy through three completed projects. These projects have improved the drinking water capacity in a city where 10% of the Cambodian population live, as well as developing capacity to deal with much of the rural exodus and industrial activities in the country. The challenge now is to anticipate the future increase in demand and extend the drinking water network to the city's underprivileged neighbourhoods. AFD has set the objectives within the framework of Phnom Penh's Water Supply Authority's 2016–2030 master plan. The Agency granted two loans of €30 million and €77.3 million respectively for the renovation and construction of two drinking water stations and expanding the distribution network. These two factories, with a total capacity of 442,000 m³ per day, will eventually connect more than 500,000 people to the network and thus reduce their water bills and their healthcare costs because of the better quality of the water network.

Having gained this experience in the capital, AFD is now assisting the Ministry of Industry and Handicrafts and the Siem Reap Water Supply Authority in the development of water treatment stations and extension of the distribution network in the provincial cities. Apart from Siem Reap, which is the main focus, the towns of Battambang and Kampong Cham are also included.

These projects will:

- Increase the number of users connected to the drinking water network;
- Improve water quality and consequently the population's health;
- Develop these cities as attractive economic and tourist destinations and consequently contribute to the country's decentralisation.

In addition, AFD supports the development of private water operators through a credit line project in partnership with the Foreign Trade Bank (FTB). The project aims to improve financial access for entrepreneurs in this sector.

2

Develop sewerage services in provincial cities

Generally, only a few initiatives have been carried out in the water sanitation sector, including in Phnom Penh. Despite some achievements in Sihanoukville or Siem Reap, coverage by sewerage networks in Cambodia is very low. They are often associated with urban drainage systems and undergo little or no treatment, while discharges increase with improved access to water. AFD sees this as a serious concern and is financing the development of wastewater treatment services in the four provincial cities: Siem Reap, Battambang, Sihanoukville and Kampong Cham.

AFD co-finance many of these projects with partners such as the European Union, JICA, Asian Development Bank and European Investment Bank.