

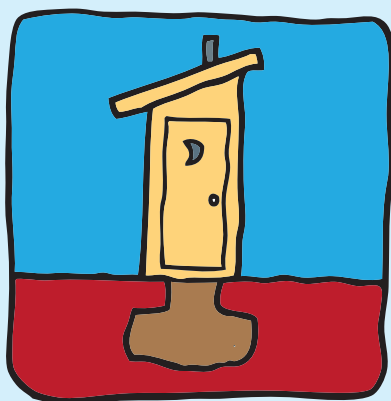
# Investing in Sanitation for Children in East Asia and the Pacific



unite for  
children

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# INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF SANITATION



2008

## 2008 – The International Year of Sanitation

Recognizing the impact of sanitation on health, the environment, poverty reduction and economic and social development, the United Nations has declared 2008 as the International Year of Sanitation. This initiative will spotlight the seriousness of the global sanitation crisis and kick-start efforts to accelerate progress for meeting the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) target of halving, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of the world's population without sustainable access to basic sanitation.

During the International Year of Sanitation, the UN will promote five key messages:

***Sanitation is vital for human health.***

Poor sanitation and hygiene cause death and disease.

***Sanitation generates economic benefits.***

Improved sanitation has positive impacts on economic growth and poverty reduction.

***Sanitation contributes to dignity and social development.***

Sanitation enhances dignity, privacy and safety, especially for women and girls.

***Sanitation helps the environment.***

Improved disposal of human waste protects the quality of drinking-water sources and improves community environments.

***Improving sanitation is achievable.***

Working together, households, communities, governments, support agencies, civil society and the private sector have the resources, technologies and know-how to achieve the sanitation target.

Stakeholders across the East Asia and Pacific region are embracing the International Year of Sanitation agenda as an opportunity to meet and exceed the MDG sanitation target. In this spirit, UNICEF is gearing up to expand its ongoing programmes throughout the region.



*This stream in Nam Bac District, Luang Phrabang Province, Lao PDR is where the villagers collect all their drinking water and do their laundry and bathing. Rural sanitation coverage in Lao PDR is among the lowest in the region.*

## **Hundreds of millions without access to sanitation**

In the East Asia and Pacific region a total of 900 million people do not have access to sanitation, representing more than one third of all people without coverage worldwide.

This is devastating for children and their families. Poor hygiene and limited access to sanitation and water services can result in diarrhoeal disease, which is the leading killer of children under five years of age in the region – causing 187,000 deaths annually. Poor sanitation and hygiene also make children more susceptible to malnutrition, opportunistic infections and other diseases, including schistosomiasis and trachoma, and can impair cognitive development and school performance. School enrolment is also affected as children, especially girls, are less likely to stay in schools without adequate water and safe, private sanitation and washing facilities.

There are also serious economic impacts. A 2007 study sponsored by the Water and Sanitation Program (WSP) estimated the direct economic costs of poor sanitation and hygiene to be US\$2 billion a year for just four countries (Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Viet Nam).

The good news is that the situation is slowly improving. From 1990 to 2004, almost half a billion people in East Asia and the Pacific gained access to sanitation and the regional coverage rate increased from 30 per cent to 51 per cent. But even if the region meets the MDG target by 2015, this will still leave 700 million people in the region without access to basic sanitation.

### **Disparities in access**

Region-wide progress figures mask the enormous disparities that exist between countries. Sanitation-coverage rates range from among the lowest in the world in Cambodia, where only 17 per cent of people have access to sanitary means of excreta disposal, to countries such as Malaysia and Thailand, with coverage rates above 90 per cent.

Within countries, there are also marked disparities between the rural and urban populations, and between the rich and the poor. Twelve countries in the region have rural sanitation coverage of 50 per cent or less, including the high-population countries of China, Indonesia and Viet Nam. Regionally, there is 73 per cent urban coverage and only 36 per cent rural coverage, a ratio of 2:1.





# Universal Sanitation in East Asia

## Mission Possible?



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*This publication, jointly prepared by WSP, UNICEF and WHO for EASAN 2007, is designed for national and local policy makers. It highlights the challenges and impacts of the current urban and rural sanitation situation in East Asia and presents what should be done to make sanitation a 'mission possible'.*

## Scaling up sanitation and hygiene promotion

UNICEF is working at the field level and with governments at the national level to develop improved programming models and to take successful models to scale. UNICEF also is working with partners to use data on the cost and health implications to advocate for policy changes and to increase resources for sanitation and hygiene programmes.

These strategies are showing results throughout the region. In China, UNICEF supports a set of sanitation demonstration projects in low-coverage provinces that have led to increased resources and a new national policy for rural sanitation. In Viet Nam, UNICEF is supporting WSP and the government to develop a new national action plan for sanitation. And in Myanmar, UNICEF backs the National Sanitation Week initiative that results in tens of thousands of new latrines each year.

In Cambodia, UNICEF supports government efforts to scale up the community-led total sanitation (CLTS) approach. CLTS stresses intensive mobilization to reduce open defecation in communities and assists householders in finding local solutions, including unsubsidized, low-cost, locally built latrines. Progress in pilot areas has been excellent, with many examples of communities quickly reaching “open-defecation-free” status.

CLTS or similar approaches are also being developed and implemented with UNICEF support in other countries, including Indonesia (see box) and Papua New Guinea, where the new UNICEF- and EU-supported programme includes specific targets for open-defecation-free communities.

### **Indonesia: Building on the CLTS approach**

UNICEF and provincial governments, along with funding by the Government of the Netherlands are employing a modified CLTS approach for sanitation promotion in a major new programme in six provinces in eastern Indonesia.

Toilets constructed under the programme will comply with a set of basic minimum sanitary requirements to ensure that they do not create health or environmental hazards. Householders will install toilets from a range of technology options and will be assisted by trained, local entrepreneurs.

The programme also will promote positive hygiene behavioural change, emphasizing hand-washing with soap to maximize health benefits.

## Country examples of UNICEF-supported IYS 200

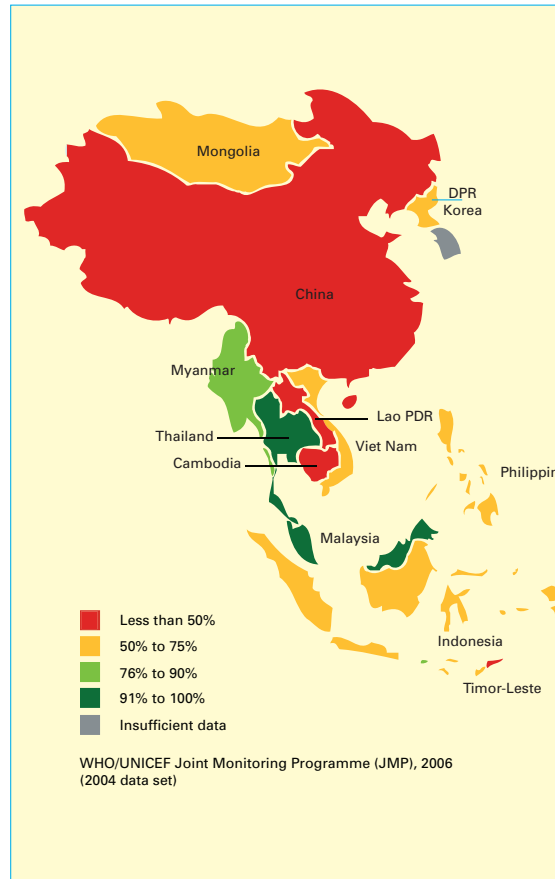
**Mongolia** will develop new standards for sanitation facilities in communities and schools through multi-stakeholder consultation, and support teacher training and curriculum development for school hygiene promotion.

In **China**, sanitation will be part of the “patriotic health practices” programme linked to the 2008 Olympic Games, promoting sanitation for all.

**Myanmar** will renew commitments with key stakeholders and call for new efforts to accelerate progress on sanitation. UNICEF will work with the Myanmar Motion Picture Organization to embed sanitation messages in films and sponsor film star visits to communities.

In **Thailand**, UNICEF, WHO and its partners will support the launch of the National Environment and Health Action Plan, which includes the target of universal access to household toilets by 2012.

In **Indonesia**, UNICEF will assist the government in a national hand-washing campaign and support initiatives to take CLTS to scale, focusing on capacity building, quality improvement and strengthening the sanitation supply chain.

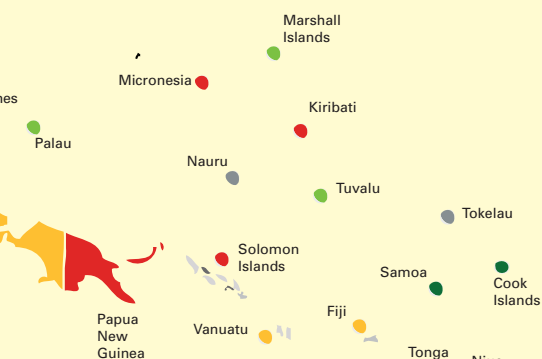


UNICEF and partners will support the **Timor-Leste** government in the development of a National Sanitation Policy and finalize the Manual for Sanitation, Hygiene and Safe Water Use Promotion.



## 08 initiatives in the East Asia and Pacific Region

### Sanitation coverage in East Asia and the Pacific



In **Papua New Guinea**, the new UNICEF- and EU-supported programme has a strong sanitation and hygiene component, and is setting specific targets for open-defecation-free communities.

**DPR Korea** will expand the Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems (DEWATS) programme and launch a national rural sanitation reference manual.

**Lao PDR** will launch an urban sanitation marketing campaign, including a high-profile pop music concert at the National Cultural Hall.

The **Philippines** will launch pilot programmes for School-Led Total Sanitation and Menstrual Hygiene Education, and will hold the Second National Sanitation Summit.

With UNICEF support, the **Viet Nam** Ministry of Health will introduce a new national hygiene and sanitation promotion package, and a Hygiene and Sanitation Day will be launched in schools in September 2008.

In **Cambodia**, UNICEF will provide technical support to the Ministry of Rural Development to expand the CLTS approach beyond pilot project areas.

New technical support programmes in **Kiribati**, **Solomon Islands** and **Vanuatu** will focus on the protection of fragile environments through improved wastewater management and sanitation alternatives, including ecological sanitation (ecosan) approaches.

## Improving sanitation technologies

UNICEF promotes improved sanitation technologies that are low-cost but that satisfy criteria for safety, effectiveness and sustainability for use within community-based programmes. These high-quality, low-cost options are key to improving sanitation coverage in the region.

UNICEF also works on reducing the impact of excreta disposal on the environment. Projects include the development of new designs for sanitation systems in high water table zones, and ecosan, which promotes the safe use of human excreta as fertilizer.

### Wastewater management

As governments construct more piped water systems and water-borne sanitation, wastewater management becomes a significant challenge, especially in poor densely populated towns and peri-urban areas. UNICEF's work in wastewater management involves developing and piloting cost-effective technologies. In DPR Korea, UNICEF is building capacity for designing decentralized wastewater treatment systems. In Banda Aceh, Indonesia, UNICEF is working with Oxfam to promote on-site wastewater treatment systems for new housing in high water table environments. And in China, UNICEF is helping to develop a national strategy for handling wastewater disposal and treatment in rural areas.

### Hygiene and the importance of hand-washing with soap

Access to improved sanitation alone does not lead to improved health. There is much evidence on the importance of hygienic behaviour, in particular hand-washing with soap after defecating and before eating or preparing food. Proper hand-washing also is important for its protective effect in the face of new infectious respiratory diseases, such as avian influenza/H5N1, which is currently causing concern in the region.

National and sub-national hand-washing campaigns are part of UNICEF programmes. Support includes message design, dissemination of messages and the recruitment of politicians and celebrities as spokespersons. UNICEF stresses participatory techniques and works with civil society organizations to encourage peer-to-peer messaging.

Hygiene promotion campaigns are departing from prescriptive top-down approaches. UNICEF and its partners are teaming up with the private sector to tap into new marketing expertise. In Viet Nam, UNICEF is involved in a public-private partnership for washing with soap led by WSP and funded by the Gates Foundation.



## Declaration of the First East Asia Ministerial Conference on Sanitation and Hygiene

**Dated: 1 December 2007**

1. We, the heads of national delegations attending the first East Asia Ministerial Conference on Sanitation and Hygiene (EASAN 2007) held in the city of Beppu on 30th of November and 1st of December in this year 2007 which precedes the UN International Year of Sanitation 2008:
  - i. *Recognizing that* sustainable access to sanitation is one of the targets stated in the Millennium Declaration and that many governments have set their own targets for both sanitation and hygiene
  - ii. *And further recognizing that* sanitation, in combination with the means of practising hygienic behaviours, is fundamental to the achievement of many other Millennium Development Goals which our governments have committed to, defining sanitation as the safe collection, transport, treatment or re-use of human waste along with a healthy living environment including the management of domestic solid waste and sullage, and defining hygiene as clean and healthy behaviours
  - iii. *And further recognizing that* our governments are signatories to the UN General Assembly Resolution number A/RES61/192 which calls for the implementation of the Hashimoto Action Plan including the formation of regional fora to address inter alia the challenges of sanitation and hygiene
  - iv. *And further recognizing that* the governments of Southeast and East Asian countries approved the Charter of the Regional Forum on Environment and Health in August 2007 in Bangkok, Thailand and the work plans of six regional Thematic Working Groups, including the one on water supply, hygiene and sanitation
  - v. *Acknowledging that* access to basic sanitation and safe water supply and the practice of hygienic behaviours are all necessary for the health and well being of the population and are necessary for people to live in dignity and safety
  - vi. *Noting that* the burden of disease and death and associated economic costs in East Asia which arise from the lack of such access is heavy and is not matched by commensurate investment in sanitation, and hygiene promotion which would, in addition to direct health benefits, have significant economic benefits
  - vii. *Understanding that* national and local governments have a crucial role to play in setting policy and steering public investments to promote a rapid up-scaling of progress in access to sanitation and the means of practising



hygienic behaviours while recognising the equally important role of other actors including the private sector and civil society

- viii. *and further understanding that* the role of households and individuals and particularly women and children are crucial in the realization of effective and sustainable programs for sanitation and hygiene improvement
- ix. *and further understanding that* effective programs of sanitation and hygiene promotion require the cooperation and coordination of efforts in many ministries including but not limited to those responsible for health, water resources, education and planning
- x. *and further understanding that* there is a growing scarcity of safe water in the region and a linked and urgent need to protect and conserve sources of clean water from both overuse and pollution
- xi. *Recognizing* the depth and value of our mutual experience and knowledge, the availability of positive examples within our region and our potential to act together to improve access to sanitation and the means of practising hygienic behaviours

## 2. Do hereby commit to

- i. *Take the necessary steps in relevant Ministries of our governments at national and local level to achieve or exceed the MDG target* for sanitation in our respective countries and to encourage the private sector to take similar steps as appropriate
- ii. *Improve the level of investment* in sanitation and hygiene promotion in our respective countries while maintaining commensurate investments in domestic water supply
- iii. *Invest in sanitation and hygiene promotion in ways which specifically benefit the poor and the vulnerable and those with a high incidence of water- and sanitation-related disease* as well as those who currently have the most limited access to sanitation and the means of practising hygienic behaviours
- iv. *Plan investments* in ways which promote incremental improvements in all needy areas including in the rural and urban contexts
- v. *Enable the participation* of women, children, poor families, civil society as well as the public and private sectors in the planning and implementation of sanitation and hygiene programs so that they can be scaled to be effective and sustainable
- vi. *Strive* to ensure that access to sanitation facilities and the means of practising hygienic behaviours are available in all schools and that sanitation



and hygiene are a focus of education in schools and that children communicate those messages into the wider community

- vii. *Provide strong leadership* through Ministries and local governments responsible for finance and planning so that budgetary priorities are linked to workable practical action plans with clear lines of responsibility between and amongst the various concerned Ministries and local governments
- viii. *Strengthen regional cooperation* between and amongst our countries to facilitate sharing of knowledge to expedite change
- ix. *Create a regional platform for cooperation in sanitation and hygiene* which would include an East Asia Ministerial Conference on Sanitation and Hygiene to be held in the region provisionally at two-yearly intervals and would build on existing fora and which would facilitate cooperation among East Asian countries as well as between our region and other regions of the world
- x. *Play an active role* in all the relevant activities and aspects of the International Year of Sanitation.

### 3. We further call on

- i. *Development banks, donors and other governments* to support our efforts and provide financial and technical assistance for sanitation and hygiene promotion in East Asia at a level that is commensurate with the challenges ahead
- ii. *The Asia Pacific Water Forum (APWF)*, to recognize EASAN 2007 and its follow-up as an integral part of the APWF process, to recognize this Declaration and to provide practical support in operationalising these commitments
- iii. *The G8 and other intergovernmental groups* to recognize the importance of sanitation, hygiene and water for global health, for their close interaction with climate change and for the economic and social benefits that they bring
- iv. *Other regional fora* including the Regional Forum on Environment and Health and the South East Asia Water Forum to also recognize and support this Declaration and assist in converting these commitments into actions
- v. *Regional and national actors* to make use of the opportunities provided by the UN International Year of Sanitation 2008 to maintain and improve efforts in sanitation and hygiene
- vi. *Relevant Ministries* to take strong leadership and to create the necessary environment for effective national sanitation and hygiene programs.

And in recognition of this we make this declaration on the 1st of December, 2007.



## EASAN Declaration: Heads of national delegations attending the first East Asia Ministerial Conference

### Haji Brahim Bin Haji Ismail

Permanent Secretary Administration and Finance, Brunei Darussalam

### Lu Lay Sreng

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Rural Development, Cambodia

### Bai Huqun

Vice Director General, Ministry of Health, P.R. China

### Wan Alkadri

Director for Environmental Health, Ministry of Health, Indonesia

### Ponmek Dalaloy

Minister, Ministry of Health, Lao PDR

### Lim Keng Yaik

Minister, Ministry of Energy, Water and Communications, Malaysia

### Shagdar Sonomdagva

Adviser to the Minister, Ministry of Construction and Urban Development, Mongolia

### San Shway Wynn

Deputy Director General, Department of Health, Myanmar

### Belma Cabilao

Member, House of Representatives, Philippines

### Wah Yuen Long

Director, Public Utilities Board, Singapore

### Narongsakdi Aungkasuvapala

Director General, Department of Health, Thailand

### Madalena Soares

Vice Minister, Ministry of Health, Timor-Leste

### Nguyen Bich Dat

Vice Minister, Ministry of Planning and Investment, Viet Nam

### Observers:

- UNICEF
- Water and Sanitation Program, the World Bank
- World Health Organization
- UN Secretary General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation





## **EASAN DECLARATION** **BEPPU CITY, Japan, 1 December 2007**

Ministers and leaders from 15 East Asian countries gathered for two days of talks about SANITATION and HYGIENE in the region.

Almost half the population of East Asia lacks access to adequate sanitation, such as pit latrines with slabs or composting toilets. This harsh reality – affecting almost 800 million people – has spawned disease and deprivation on a massive scale, reinforced a vicious cycle of poverty among the marginalized, and widened disparities between urban and rural, rich and poor households.

The East Asia Ministerial Conference on Sanitation and Hygiene is the highest-level gathering of its kind ever to be held in this region. One hundred and thirty-five delegates attended, including ministers of health and water and senior government officials. The focus was on nine countries: China, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Mongolia, Timor-Leste, the Philippines and Viet Nam. In addition, representatives from Brunei Darussalam, Japan, Malaysia, Republic of Korea, Singapore and Thailand attended.

The EASAN declaration:

- Identifies sanitation and hygiene as primary requirements for poverty reduction and economic growth;
- Recognizes that levels of investment and political attention are not commensurate with the scale of the challenge; and
- Commits the EASAN countries to strive for UNIVERSAL SANITATION going far beyond the MDG targets.

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*Boys use the pit latrines of their school compound in Uvs Aimag, western Mongolia. They are low roofed, suitable only for small children. UNICEF supports rural kindergartens with hygiene promotion training and materials.*

**For every child**  
**Health, Education, Equality, Protection**  
**ADVANCE HUMANITY**

UNICEF EAPRO MGLA00575/Jim Holmes/Mongolia

