

BANGKOK

Climate Resilience Pathways:

Water Security and WASH in Asia Pacific

Transforming inequality through WASH, WRM and climate-resilience in the Mekong and South Asia region: Building GEDSI collective action

THURSDAY 1 MAY 11AM



Strengthening disability inclusive water solutions in Cambodia



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3 Questions we asked

1. What are people with a disability's experiences in accessing piped water supply and inclusion in water governance?
2. What impact is climate change having on people with a disability's access to water supply and participation in water governance?
3. What actions can water, disability and climate actors take to improve equal participation of people with a disability in water supply access, governance and climate resilience?



Findings highlight – 5 foundational factors

Enablers *or* barriers :

- 1. Access to government ID Poor and disability poor cards**
- 2. Access to information.**
- 3. Social norms: experiencing and overcoming stigma and discrimination.**
- 4. The essential role of caregivers.**
- 5. Compound disadvantage.**

*Prompting question for the panel -
How can the climate and WASH sector address foundational factors impacting inequalities ?*

Findings highlight – the role of social networks



Theme	Enablers	Barriers
Access to piped water supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family support. Social networks Subsidised connection costs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to information about services. Availability of data about disability for service providers. Connection costs. Compound disadvantage: living beyond the pipe network.
Participation in water governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion of Organisation of Persons with Disability (OPDs) in regular district meetings. Social networks (especially of caregiver). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to information about meetings. Norms about head of household exclusion from decision-making.
Resilience to climate change impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to early warning information. Social networks. Household water use adaptation. Risk management by water service providers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compound disadvantage affecting adaptive capacity Inaccessible climate-related information. Psychological stress.

Panel discussion prompt – How can we embed social network building into our disability inclusive climate resilient WASH efforts?

Learn more



<https://waterpartnership.org.au/publications/cambodia-a-policy-brief/>



Strengthening disability inclusive water solutions in a changing climate in Cambodia

Learning Brief

Key findings

There is growing evidence that people with disabilities are a vulnerable group disproportionately affected by climate change in accessing water (Stein et al., 2022; Gutnik et al., 2018; UN, 2018). In Cambodia, one in five people or 21% of household members aged 5 or above have a disability (NIS, 2022). Evidence shows that people with disabilities are often excluded from water governance at all levels (Wilbur et al., 2022; Huggett et al., 2021).

WaterAid, the Australian Water Partnership and Cambodian Disabled Peoples Organisation (CDPO) have partnered in a scoping activity that examines how access to piped water for people with disabilities is impacted by climate change and the compounding environmental, social, attitudinal, and governance barriers.

This activity supported the leadership of people with disabilities in water governance by creating spaces for women and men with disabilities to utilise evidence and co-create solutions. People with disabilities co-designed the approach, co-developed data collection tools, collected data, and facilitated sense-making and validation workshops.

The study found that the impacts of having a disability on piped water connection were not always direct, but often related to compound disadvantages such as low income, low literacy, geographical disadvantage, and social pressures. Key findings are summarised in Table 1 and are discussed in more detail below.

Table 1. Summary of the key enablers and barriers to people with disabilities' access to piped water supply, participation in water governance, and climate resilience of their water supply service

Theme	Enablers	Barriers
Access to piped water supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family support. Social networks. Subsidised connection costs (especially community managed services). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to information about services. Availability of data about disability for service providers. Connection costs. Compound disadvantage: living beyond the pipe network.
Resilience to climate change impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to early warning information. Social networks. Household water use adaptation. Risk management by water service providers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compound disadvantages affecting adaptive capacity such as low income, greater poverty, and caregiver responsibilities. Inaccessible climate related information. Psychological stress.
Participation in water governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion of Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) in regular district meetings. Social networks (especially of caregiver). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to information about meetings. Norms around head of household: exclusion from decision-making.