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## Upgrading latrines to be climate-resilient and safely managed in Cambodia

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**WATER AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE**

**Upgrading latrines to be climate-resilient and safely managed in Cambodia**

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*Cambodia*

**REFERENCE NO. 1234**

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**Safely managed systems**

Containment of fecal sludge has surpassed 80% across Cambodia in recent years, and safely managed sanitation systems are now being installed in the tens of thousands across the country, particularly as so-called “upgrade products”. Building upon existing single-pit latrines, these upgrade products typically add a pit to make a twin-pit-in-series system, but few have been made climate-resilient (e.g., raised above seasonal flood levels, retain functionality during heavy rainfall). Thus, existing sanitation infrastructure in Cambodia remains vulnerable to climate hazards, particularly flooding and heavy rainfall.

Continuing the sector’s investigation of the nexus of climate and sanitation, Thrive Networks has been studying a new upgrade product that makes single-pit latrines both safely managed and more climate-resilient. This presentation will provide a comprehensive examination of the need for climate-resilient sanitation facilities in the context of climate change impacts, such as floods and droughts, and identify key challenges and vulnerabilities of current latrine systems in the face of climate-related risks. We then provide detailed technical guidelines for upgrading existing latrines to ensure safety and resilience against climate-induced events, including consideration for appropriate construction materials, designs, and placement to withstand climate challenges. We also explore various financial mechanisms and options available for households and communities to fund latrine upgrading, including a cost-benefit analysis to determine the most cost-effective approaches. Lastly, we recommend strategies to advocate for government policies that support climate-resilient sanitation upgrading and describe engagement techniques to influence and work with the Ministry of Rural Development, alongside methods for engaging communities, raising awareness, and encouraging active participation in the upgrading process.

**Recommendations**

Our recommendations include approaches to involve local suppliers, masons, and community leaders in facilitating the upgrades. This comprehensive look at climate-resilient sanitation in Cambodia will add to the sector’s knowledge base and continue our push towards climate-resilient safely managed sanitation.

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