

STATE OF WATER SUPPLY, SANITATION AND HYGIENE IN SCHOOLS IN ASEAN MEMBER STATES

The Philippines showed slow progress in providing water supply, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) in schools compared to its ASEAN neighbors. It consistently performed poorly in all three services; even landing at the lowest spot in the provision of drinking water. This is based on the WASH estimates in schools released in June 2022 by the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP).

The JMP compared country estimates on WASH following a three-level service ladder. These are for *No Service*, *Limited Service*, and *Basic Service*, the last being a global SDG indicator. The definitions for each ladder are provided in Table 1.

**TABLE 1
JMP SERVICE LADDERS FOR WASH IN SCHOOLS**

| Service Level | Drinking Water | Sanitation | Hygiene |
|-----------------|--|--|---|
| Basic Service | From an improved source, available at the school | Improved sanitation facilities at the school, single-sex, and usable | School-based handwashing facilities with water and soap |
| Limited Service | Improved source, not available at the school | Improved facilities at the school, but either not single-sex or not usable | School-based handwashing facilities with water but with no soap |
| No Service | Unimproved source or no water source at the school | Unimproved facilities or no sanitation facilities at the school | No handwashing facilities or no water available at the school |

Note: Improved drinking water sources include piped water, boreholes or tubewells, protected dug wells, protected springs, and packaged or delivered water. Unimproved sources include unprotected wells, unprotected springs and surface water. Improved sanitation facilities include flush/pour-flush toilets, ventilated improved pit latrines, composting toilets and pit latrines with a slab or platform. Unimproved facilities include pit latrines without a slab or platform, hanging latrines and bucket latrines. Facilities are considered usable if they are available to students (doors are unlocked or a key is available at all times), functional (the toilet is not broken, the toilet hole is not blocked and water is available for flush/pour-flush toilets) and private (there are closable doors that lock from the inside and no large gaps in the structure). Handwashing facilities may be fixed or mobile, and include sinks with tap water, buckets with taps, tippy-taps, and jugs or basins designated for handwashing. Soap includes bar soap, liquid soap, powder detergent and soapy water but does not include ash, soil, sand or other handwashing agents.

Source: p.6 of UNICEF/WHO JMP 2022 Report (2000-2021 Data Update)

School age population. In 2021, the school-age population among ASEAN member states (AMS) as presented in Table 2, ranged widely from 106,000 (Brunei Darussalam) to 65,792,000 (Indonesia). This depicts the disparate challenge of providing basic WASH services.

Among the ten AMS, Indonesia, the Philippines and Cambodia registered overall increases from 2009

Facts in Figures

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to 2021 while in Thailand, Myanmar, and Vietnam, there was a general decline. Minor fluctuations were noticeable for the remaining four AMS, with their school-age populations remaining relatively stable across the years.

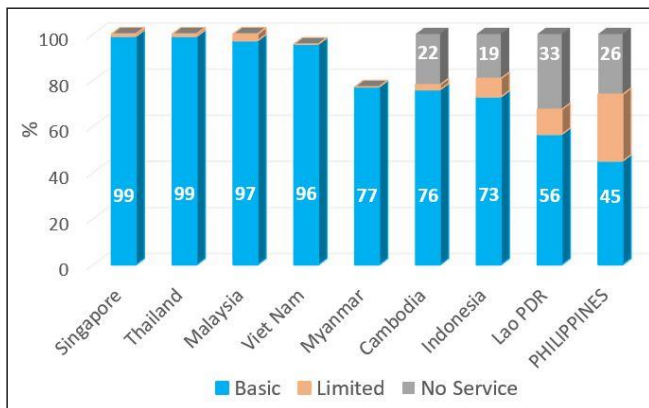
**TABLE 2
SCHOOL-AGE POPULATION
IN THOUSANDS, 2009-2021**

| Country | 2009 | 2012 | 2015 | 2018 | 2021 |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Brunei Dar. | 110 | 108 | 106 | 107 | 106 |
| Singapore | 505 | 505 | 505 | 503 | 505 |
| Lao PDR | 2 128 | 2 238 | 2 226 | 2 242 | 2 269 |
| Cambodia | 4 824 | 4 721 | 4 743 | 4 838 | 4 962 |
| Malaysia | 7 640 | 7 524 | 7 255 | 7 094 | 7 510 |
| Thailand | 13 812 | 13 303 | 13 057 | 12 543 | 11 956 |
| Myanmar | 13 182 | 13 265 | 13 068 | 12 643 | 12 181 |
| Viet Nam | 22 507 | 21 131 | 20 642 | 21 068 | 21 444 |
| Philippines | 22 925 | 23 045 | 23 418 | 28 014 | 26 981 |
| Indonesia | 62 942 | 64 200 | 64 818 | 65 130 | 65 792 |

Note: School-age population refers to children ranging from ages 3 to 5 years (pre-primary), 6 to 11 (primary education), and 12 to 17 (secondary education). Source: UNICEF/WHO JMP 2022 Report (2000-2021 Data Update)

Access to Drinking Water. The Philippines lagged behind all AMS in terms of drinking water service level in schools for the year 2021 (Figure 1). Only 45% of schools in the Philippines were provided with basic water supply service, with more than a fourth (26%) relying on unimproved water sources like unprotected wells, unprotected springs, and surface water, if at all available. The proportion of schools with no water service was however higher in Lao PDR (33%), though they have a much better proportion of schools with basic water supply service (56%).

**FIGURE 1
PERCENTAGE OF SCHOOLS BY
DRINKING WATER SERVICE LEVELS, 2021**

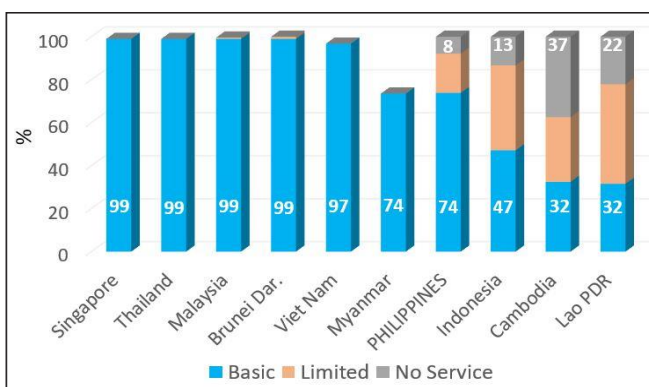


Note: No available data for Brunei Darussalam. No data in Vietnam and Myanmar for limited and no service. Totals may not add up to 100% due to data unavailability or rounding off.
Source: UNICEF/WHO JMP 2022 Report Dataset

Access to Sanitation Services. The Philippines fared better for sanitation services, with 74% having school-based single-sex and usable toilet facilities (Figure 2). Still, eight percent of schools in the Philippines either lacked toilet facilities or have pit latrines without a slab or platform, hanging latrines, and bucket latrines. Access to sanitation services in Indonesia, Cambodia, and Lao PDR, were the lowest.

On the other hand, school children in five other AMS enjoyed good, basic sanitation facilities. These are in Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam, and Viet Nam, with basic sanitation facility provision reaching between 97% to 99%.

**FIGURE 2
PERCENTAGE OF SCHOOLS BY
SANITATION SERVICE LEVELS, 2021**



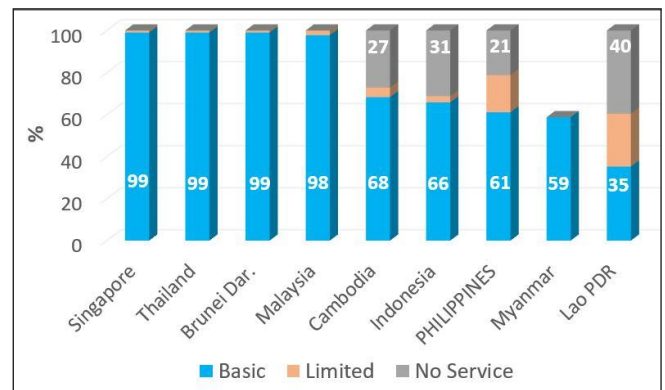
Note: No data in Viet Nam and Myanmar for limited and no service. Totals may not add up to 100% due to data unavailability or rounding off.

Access to Hygiene Services. The situation on handwashing facility provision is understandably not

different. Basic service level required the presence in school of fixed or mobile facility with water and soap. Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, and Brunei Darussalam achieved almost 100% basic service level (Figure 3).

In the Philippines, 61% of schools have handwashing facilities with water and soap, outperformed by Cambodia (68%) and Indonesia (66%). About one in five schools in the Philippines (21%) does not have handwashing stations, or even access to water.

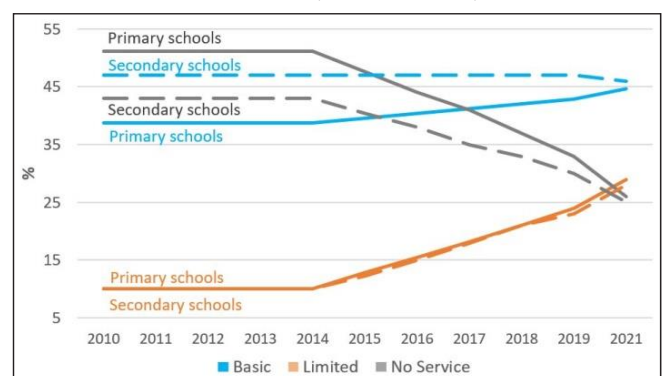
**FIGURE 3
PERCENTAGE OF SCHOOLS BY
HYGIENE SERVICE LEVELS, 2021**



Note: No available data in Viet Nam at all, and in Myanmar for limited and no service.

Water Supply Provision in Primary and Secondary Schools (Philippines). The proportion of secondary schools with basic service levels has not budged from 47% since 2010 (Figure 4). It went down a percentage point in 2021 (46%). Meanwhile, there was a gradual uptrend for primary schools. Also, there was a sharp increase in both primary and secondary schools for limited service levels and corresponding dramatic decline for those with no drinking water beginning 2014.

**FIGURE 4
PERCENTAGE OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS
WITH DRINKING WATER, PHILIPPINES, 2010 - 2021**



Note: No data for 2020. Source: UNICEF/WHO JMP 2022 Report Dataset