



Issue 215 | Dec. 7, 2015 | Focus on WASH in Schools

The application of WASH in Schools is multifaceted. This issue of the weekly includes recently published reports looking at the partnership dynamics involved; how best to engage the private sector; the cost of providing water, sanitation, and hygiene to schools; gender priorities; and the effectiveness of handwashing interventions, among others. Tools and guidance prepared for WASHplus's WASH in Schools activity in Zambia, known as SPLASH, are also included.

JUST PUBLISHED – PARTNERSHIPS IN PRACTICE

The two reports below grew out of a two-pronged, self-funded research project on WASH in Schools led by BPD Water and Sanitation and Partnerships in Practice with masters students from Paris School of International Affairs SciencesPo. It is hoped that both papers trigger useful reflections and influence how WASH in Schools partnerships are formed and managed and how private sector actors are engaged in this endeavor.

Part 1 - WASH in Schools: Understanding Multi-Sector Partnership Approaches: An Exploratory Review, 2015. JE Tiberghien, Partnerships in Practice. [Link](#)

This paper attempts to develop a typology of WASH in Schools (WinS) partnerships to help practitioners step back from program implementation to assess key characteristics of their partnerships, improve their design, and enhance the sustainability of their interventions. This first exploratory review provides a description and analysis of the WinS partnerships involving NGO partners and directly implementing activities on the ground. It provides insights into the institutional and programmatic trends characterizing the historical evolutions of these partnerships, assesses their common strengths, and reviews the challenges they face during implementation, notably in terms of partnership dynamics.

Part 2 - Engaging Private Sector Actors in WASH in Schools Work, 2015. JE Tiberghien, Partnerships in Practice. [Link](#)

This paper represents the first formal attempt to analyze the engagement of private sector actors in WinS multisector partnerships. The study focuses on international and domestic private companies and their foundations. It examines these partners, reveals their incentives to join WinS multisector partnerships, uncovers trends and patterns in their contributions, and the benefits they derive from such partnerships. The paper underlines the need to diversify the contributions made by private partners to foster more sustainable programs.

A Novel Approach to Enhance the Sustainability of WinS interventions: Interschool-Competition 2.0, 2015. [Video](#)

Efforts to integrate WASH-Health-Nutrition-Education raise new hopes. Yet how to make it happen successfully in school-based programs remains unclear. The novel approach presented here suggests a practical way to achieve this objective. It builds upon existing practices and addresses the most fundamental challenges experienced by practitioners on the ground: a lack of effective incentive and monitoring mechanisms to boost stakeholders' accountability. The approach, presented here in a relatively generic fashion and with greater emphasis put on WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene), can be tailored to different contexts and objectives.

WASHplus RESOURCES

A Teacher's Guide to Integrating WASH in School, 2015. [Link](#).

This guide supports the teaching and learning about WASH in Zambian primary schools and provides technical content for the teacher to familiarize himself/herself with the subject of WASH, including suggestions on how WASH content can be integrated into the classroom.

School WASH Facilities: Operations and Maintenance Guidelines, 2015. [Link](#)

This manual addresses the key operations and maintenance (O&M) tasks necessary to ensure the smooth functioning of school WASH education services and the longevity of related hardware. It covers key aspects of O&M and includes related tools.

Exploring the Potential of Schoolchildren as Change Agents in the Context of School WASH in Rural Zambia: Final Report, 2014. [Link](#)

In this study, researchers explored the potential for children to be change agents for behavior change and technology adoption in their households.

Menstrual Hygiene Management Toolkit, 2015. [Link](#)

This toolkit was designed to help teachers, school health and nutrition coordinators, and other school personnel in Zambian primary schools to carry out menstrual hygiene management (MHM) programs or activities in their school. It is organized into three sections: basic information about puberty, menstruation, and MHM; a checklist for schools to use to ensure that they have all the elements needed for a good MHM program; and interactive games and activities that will engage students.

OTHER RESOURCES

The Costs of Water and Sanitation in Schools: Bangladesh, 2015. C Fonseca. [Link](#)

According to a recent article in the IRC Newsletter, it costs at least US \$10 per student to construct water and sanitation facilities in schools and another US \$1.40 per student per year for all recurrent costs including continuous support to hygiene promotion.

What Are Child-Friendly Facilities for Handwashing, Sanitation and Water in Schools? 2015. SWASH+. [Link](#)

The child-friendly approach to school hygiene, sanitation, and water aims to design, construct, and maintain facilities that are part of the learning environment, are hygienic and safe to use, and can be sustained and maintained by the school community itself. Still, too often, if any facilities are available those facilities have adult sizes, features, and concepts rather than being appropriate for the age group involved.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene in Schools in Low Socio-Economic Regions in Nicaragua: A Cross-Sectional Survey. *Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health*, May 2015. T. Jordanova. [Link](#)

In 2012, UNICEF Nicaragua and partners conducted a cross-sectional survey of WASH in 526 schools in 12 low socio-economic status municipalities in Nicaragua. The survey gathered information on: school characteristics; teacher and community participation; water and sanitation infrastructure; and hygiene education and habits.

Gendered Priorities for 'Improved' Sanitation: Insights from Kisumu Kenya, 2015. S Jewitt. [Link](#)

This paper explores how official concepts of "improved" sanitation often fail to reflect the priorities of female users. As the health benefits associated with improved sanitation cannot be fully realized until all potential user groups habitually use it, specific user preferences/constraints need to be better understood and catered to. Drawing on empirical work in nine schools in Kisumu, Kenya, attention is focused on gendered sanitation priorities, including MHM; gender-based violence; and broader safety, privacy, and dignity issues associated with accessing and using sanitation facilities.

Impact of the Provision of Safe Drinking Water on School Absence Rates in Cambodia: A Quasi-Experimental Study. *Ann Nutr Metab*, June 2015. P Hunter. [Link](#)

There appears to be a strong association between providing free and safe drinking water and reduced absenteeism, although only in the dry season. The mechanism for this association is not clear but may be in part due to improved hydration leading to improved school experience for the children.

Effectiveness of Hand Hygiene Interventions in Reducing Illness Absence among Children in Educational Settings: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis. *Arch Dis Child*, Oct 2015. M Willmott. [Link](#)

This study undertakes a systematic review and meta-analysis to establish the effectiveness of handwashing in reducing absence and/or the spread of respiratory tract (RT) and/or gastrointestinal infection among school-aged children and/or staff in educational settings. Studies are generally not well executed or reported. Despite updating existing systematic reviews and identifying new studies, evidence of the effect of hand hygiene interventions on infection incidence in educational settings is mostly equivocal, but they may decrease RT infection among children. These results update and add to knowledge about this crucial public health issue in key settings with a vulnerable population.

WASHplus Weeklies highlight topics such as Urban WASH, Household Air Pollution, Innovation, Household Water Treatment and Storage, Handwashing, Integration, and more. If you would like to feature your organization's materials in upcoming issues, please send them to Antonia Wolff, WASHplus Knowledge Management Advisor, at awolff@fhi360.org.



About WASHplus - WASHplus, a multi-year project funded through USAID's Bureau for Global Health, supports healthy households and communities by creating and delivering interventions that lead to improvements in access, practice and health outcomes related to water, sanitation, hygiene (WASH) and household air pollution (HAP). WASHplus uses at-scale, targeted as well as integrated approaches to reduce

diarrheal diseases and acute respiratory infections, the two top killers of children under five years of age globally. For information, visit www.washplus.org or email: contact@washplus.org.