Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Institutions and Public Spaces

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Lead parties: Georgia, Hungary, Lithuania, North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova

Working Group on Water and Health
Geneva, 16-17 April 2024

#ProtocolWaterHealth
Progress since 2022 – WASH in schools

Third sub-regional workshop on WASH in schools
11-13 December 2023 in Astana, Kazakhstan

Representatives of health and educational authorities from:
- Kazakhstan
- Kyrgyzstan
- Tajikistan
- Turkmenistan
- Uzbekistan
- UNICEF country offices
- WHO country offices

Contributing experts from:
- Lithuania
- Serbia
- Health Promoting Schools
- Schools for health in Europe (SHE) Network
- Media outlet on education and upbringing in Kazakhstan
Third sub-regional workshop on WASH in schools

- Offered an up-to-date overview of health and education considerations for ensuring adequate WASH in schools
- Aimed to promote leadership and cooperation between the education and health sectors
- Served as a platform for discussing and exchanging regional priorities for action
- Strategized effective implementation of improvements at national and local levels
- Outlined concrete steps for strengthening national target setting and progressive action planning, including by using the mechanisms offered by the Protocol on Water and Health
- Interactive sessions and group work for sharing country-specific examples of initiatives and efforts to ensure adequate provisions

- Active participation of pupils
- Insights into first-hand experiences and challenges associated with using WASH facilities in schools
Third sub-regional workshop on WASH in schools

**KEY TAKEAWAYS**

Central Asian region's vulnerability to climate change necessitates prioritizing inclusive, climate-resilient, and environmentally sustainable WASH infrastructure in schools.

Identified priorities for action include:

- Step-wise improvements towards compliance with national WASH standards.
- Engaging multiple stakeholders and strengthening access to WASH using systems approach such as Health Promoting Schools.
- Ensuring access to adequate WASH services in schools for promoting healthy nutrition and eating habits.
- Sustaining momentum on hand hygiene.

Positive feedback from workshop participants who found it highly useful and insightful, and valued the exchange of experiences among countries.

Report with case studies and practical examples
Progress since 2022 – WASH in schools

Development of booklets on menstrual hygiene and hand hygiene

THE AIM

• To inspire action to accelerate progress on ensuring quality education through improved hand hygiene and menstrual health
• End product: a booklet of case studies from across the Region

Lead by:
Lithuania, National Public Health Center under the Ministry of Health

• in cooperation with Ministry of Health of the Republic of Lithuania and with the Lithuanian Sports University
• together with the WHO/Europe and Institute of Public Health of the Republic of North Macedonia is collecting information on best practices on hand hygiene and menstrual health in educational institutions.
Development of booklets on menstrual hygiene and hand hygiene

THE PROCESS

5 – 7 July 2023
Poster for the 7th Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health, in Budapest, Hungary.

13 July 2023
The Project outline was approved by WHO Regional Office for Europe, European Centre for Environment and Health.

Rapid desk review.

12 December 2023
Participation in a sub-regional remote workshop in Astana, Kazakhstan, where introduced the Project.

1st February 2024
An electronic survey was launched.

Drafting guiding questions for the follow-up interviews.

The booklet structure.
Structure of booklets on menstrual hygiene and hand hygiene

Ensuring hand hygiene
- National level
- Municipal level
- School level

Ensuring menstrual health
- Legal framework
- Policy enforcement & accountability
- Cross-sectoral Action
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Financing

Provisions

Education

All-of-society approach

Operation and Maintenance

Good practices
Booklets on menstrual hygiene and hand hygiene

FUTURE PLANS

1. Follow-up interviews.
2. Qualitative and quantitative data analysis of the information gathered on good practices.
3. Summarise the information on good practices collected.
4. Prepare booklet for publication
5. August 2024: Organise event remotely to present the review.
Booklets on menstrual hygiene and hand hygiene

Do you have a story to share on good practices in your country for hand hygiene and/or menstrual health in schools?

Contact us!

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United Nations General Assembly Resolution
Sustainable, safe and universal water, sanitation, hygiene, waste and electricity services in health-care facilities

From Resolution to Revolution: Global Meeting in Zambia

2017 Geneva

2019 Livingstone

2023 Jun Amman

2023 Dec Astana

UNGA Resolution

Global Summit on WASH, waste and electricity in HCF

WHA Resolution 72.7 on WASH in healthcare facilities
United Nations General Assembly Resolution

Sustainable, safe and universal water, sanitation, hygiene, waste and electricity services in health-care facilities

- Adopted on 18th December 2023
- Initiated by the UN Group of Friends on WASH in healthcare facilities, lead by Hungary and the Philippines
- Supporting core group: Colombia, Egypt, Nepal and Poland

Main objectives

- Integrate WASH, waste and electricity services into health planning, programming, financing and monitoring at all levels
- Regularly monitor and review progress, and strengthen accountability
- Develop and empower the health workforce to deliver and maintain WASH, waste and electricity services, and practice good hygiene
Progress since 2022 – WASH in health care facilities

Country work

• Assessment tool developed under the Protocol and released at MOP-6

• Progressive uptake in undertaking comprehensive baseline assessments:
  • Serbia
  • Montenegro
  • Hungary
  • Tajikistan
  • Georgia
  • Turkmenistan
Progress since 2022 – WASH in health care facilities

Country work

Assessments form a baseline to inform national spin off interventions: infrastructural, behavioral, regulatory, standards, including uptake of the WASH FIT tool
Global guidelines on hand hygiene in community settings
Hand Hygiene for All global initiative

Flagship WHO commitments

Stronger monitoring of hand hygiene coverage and enabling environment - GLAAS

Informed planning for stronger systems - HHAFT

Costing and tracking of hygiene expenditure

Global guidelines on hand hygiene in community settings
Do we need Guidelines?

Scoping review of global recommendations on hand hygiene in community settings found some consistency but significant discordance and gaps

And all lacking in evidence

<10% recommendations evidence-based

Overview of content for the Guidelines

**Settings**

**Community settings**
Non-healthcare
Household, public spaces, institutional

**Target audience**

**Lead/apex ministry**
Strong ministerial lead required to sustain progress

Which ministry? Context-specific. In absence of existing lead, health sector has the mandate.

**Content**

‘What?’
Effective hand hygiene
Minimum requirements for practice of effective hand hygiene
Effective behaviour change approaches for sustained practice

‘How?’
A system-strengthening approach to implementing global standards

**Roadmap**
Step-by-step guide, targeted at apex ministry, for adapting and implementing recommendations nationally.
Overview of guideline development process

- **Feb 2022**: WHO and UNICEF scope out outcomes of interest, setting focus, priority topics and key questions
- **Mar 2024**: Systematic review team retrieve, review, synthesize and assess evidence
- **May 2024**: GDG members consider the evidence & agree on direction & strength of recommendations
- **Mar 2025**: WHO and UNICEF publish the recommendations in new global GL on Hand Hygiene in Community Settings
- **April 2025**: WHO and UNICEF publish the recommendations in new global GL on Hand Hygiene in Community Settings
- **Ongoing**: WHO and UNICEF publish the recommendations in new global GL on Hand Hygiene in Community Settings
Agenda item 19
Plans for future work

Improving WASH in health-care facilities

• Facilitate policy dialogue and capacity building through regional or subregional workshops to disseminate evidence-based guidance and recommendations and regional evidence on WASH in health care facilities

• Foster national baselines and informed action planning: Support to two countries – upon request – in undertaking a national assessment of WASH in health-care facilities

• Strengthening governance: Assist up to two countries – upon request – in strengthening surveillance of WASH services in health-care facilities and in the development of national definitions for an advanced WASH service level

• Foster facility-based improvement through the application of the WHO Water and Sanitation for Health Facility Improvement Tool (WASH FIT)

Regional meeting is planned for 2025 in Budapest

Continued support of country work
Regional meeting on WASH in healthcare facilities (Budapest, 2025)

AIM
To create a platform for sharing knowledge, foster leadership, and consolidate a compendium of action for improving quality of care and environmental sustainability of health systems through improved WASH services in health care facilities

OBJECTIVES
• Present on the global and regional progress (new regional data on WASH in HCF, UNGA Resolution, Budapest Declaration, Regional report on WASH in HCF)
• Discuss translation of the global action plan to regional and national level, including defining advanced level indicators
• Exchange on country experience, including best practices on integrating climate, environment and equity considerations
• Highlight the linkages to quality health care, child and maternal health, IPC and AMR
• Share the outcomes of the regional situation assessment and discuss available tools and approaches for advancing WASH in HCF at the national and sub-national level.

OUTCOMES
Regional vision statement  Regional Policy brief  Meeting report
Plans for future work

Improving water, sanitation and hygiene in schools

- Facilitate policy dialogue and capacity building by organizing subregional workshops on available evidence, recommendations and tools for WASH in schools - completed
- Facilitate partnerships and expertise exchange by collate best practices related to hand hygiene, menstrual hygiene and on-site sanitation in schools – finalisation of the booklets
- Organize an expert group meeting to share country experiences - upcoming

Scaling up action for hand hygiene in institutions, public and workplaces

- Support regional roll out of the WHO/UNICEF Hand Hygiene for All Global Initiative by supporting countries in the development and implementation of a national roadmap/strategy on hand hygiene - upcoming
- Foster learning exchange and best practices by collating case studies on national efforts for promoting and sustaining hand hygiene practices in public places – on-going
Thank you for your attention!