Landscape report on the situation of WASH in schools in the European Region

Andrea Rechenburg, Emanuel Klimschak, Thomas Kistemann

Institute for Hygiene and Public Health
University Bonn

WHO Collaborating Centre for Health
Promoting Water Management & Risk Communication
Background

• Initiatives, actions, interventions appear to be focused on low-income economies*

• However, the aim of a Landscape Report on the situation of WASH in the European Region is the examination of the status of WASH in schools in the entire WHO European Region

• This includes low-income, middle-income and also high-income economies*

*According to World Bank: http://data.worldbank.org/about/country-and-lending-groups
Objectives

• To summarise the results of existing school monitoring initiatives
• To summarise national WASH in school policies
• To highlight key findings / available evidence
• To compile existing advocacy and training tools
• To identify and highlight best practice case studies
WASH in schools monitoring initiatives

- Identified international surveys
  - GLAAS 2012
  - GLAAS 2014
  - ENHIS led policy survey
  - ...

- Identified National Surveys
  - Young People in Scotland Survey 2012
  - Study on the quality of WASH practices in the schools of Moldova
  - Equity of Access to WASH in Schools (Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan)
  - ...

International monitoring initiatives -

**Fig. 1:** Levels of National Policy and Plan Development and implementation for WASH in Schools
Source: WHO 2014; participating countries (N=12): Azerbaijan, Belarus, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Moldova, Tajikistan, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Ukraine
National WASH in school policies

• Review national policies on WASH in schools
  • Targets set under the Protocol on Water and Health
  • Legislation in countries of the WHO Region Europe

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<th>Target</th>
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| TARGET AREA I - Art. 6, 2 (a) - Quality of the drinking water supplied - C. TARGETS AND TARGET DATES | Achieve compliance with all the existing chemical and microbiological drinking water quality standards in schools | 2015: In about 95% of all schools  
2020: In about 100% of all schools | Local authorities, operators of water supply systems, Ministry of Environment |
| D. PROPOSED MEASURES TO ACHIEVE TARGETS AND TARGET DATES | Installation of water filtration systems in 300 schools (Time Frame 2011-2015) | | Local authorities, Ministry of Education, the Apa-Canal operators |
| TARGET AREA III - Art. 6, 2 (c) - Access to drinking water - C. TARGETS AND TARGET DATES | Increase the access of children in schools and pre-school institutions to improved water supply sources | 2015: In 95% of schools and preschool institutions  
2020: In 100% of schools and preschool institutions | Local authorities, operators of water supply systems, ministry of Education |

Fig 1: Levels of National Policy and Plan Development and implementation for WASH in Schools
Source: UNECE 2011
Literature Review

• even if there are policies to regulate hygiene standards in place, this does not ensure provision of adequate water and sanitation.

• More detailed insights are expected to be provided by review of different published sources: peer reviewed journal articles, grey literature from NGO’s and governmental bodies, oral and internet presentations, anecdotic reports.

• Currently we found 49 peer reviewed articles related to WASH in schools in an European context which cover subjects like:
  • Drinking water provision
  • Sanitation
  • Menstrual hygiene
  • Hand washing
  • Perception of sanitation facilities
  • Hygiene education
Literature Review

• National surveys indicate that some high income countries (e.g. Germany, Sweden, UK) provide excellent WASH in schools standards

• BUT: Lundblad & Hellström (2005)* examined 385 Swedish schoolchildren aged 6- to 16-year-old schoolchildren's perceptions of school toilets
  • 72% reported that the toilets were never or only sometimes clean
  • 58% perceived that the toilets always or mostly smelled foul
  • 63% never defecated in the school sanitary facilities
  • 16% never urinated in the school sanitary facilities

• CONSEQUENCES:
  • it seems to be worthwhile to assess the realities of WASH in schools also in high-income economies, despite the fact that convincing standards might be in place
  • WASH-related well-being needs also to be thoroughly considered

Best Practice – Example

• Besides exploring the available evidence the literature review seeks to identify best practice examples and case studies

• **Scotland** – launch of the campaign ‘**Flushed with success**’
  • Improve the sanitary situation by introducing a new guidance on school toilets

• Numerous Scottish schools have been taken part in active inquiries into the quality of their toilets as part of this campaign

• Investigation of
  • Examples of great school toilets
  • Problems some schools are facing with their facilities
  • Plans being made to improve existing standards

• 14 schools finished the active inquiry into their school toilets

• Staff, parents and students joined an expert working group to prioritize the areas of the guidance

• They presented and shared their work to adults who can help to improve the standards and qualities of school toilets and inform further activities
Existing advocacy and training tools

• Review of available guidance documents training materials used for advocacy and capacity building
Expected Benefits

• Benefits of a landscape report
  • Illumine WASH in schools from different angles and scales
  • Help guiding and streamlining efforts in WASH and schools, and
  • inform further activities under the Protocol on Water and Health

• The Report will be completed and submitted in 2015