

Advancing water, sanitation and hygiene in schools (Programme area 2.4)

Progress report



PA 2.4 in the PoW

- (a) Support review, adaption and dissemination of available education and awareness-raising materials and implementation of pilot projects on water, sanitation and hygiene in schools, jointly with the work under programme area 3 on small-scale water supplies and sanitation;
- (b) Mainstream the work under the Protocol, in particular in implementation of the Parma Declaration on Environment and Health Regional Priority Goal 1 on access to safe water and sanitation, including provision of assistance in applying school surveys through the ENHIS platform.

Lead countries: Georgia and Hungary



Previous meeting

- Preparatory meeting
 - Bonn, March 31, 2014,
- Workshop on Advancing WASH in schools
 - Bonn, September 18-19, 2014
- First Expert Group Meeting on WASH in Schools
 - Budapest, April 16-17, 2015
- Second Expert Group Meeting on WASH in Schools
 - Bonn, October 8-9, 2015



Progress by the last WGWH

- Landscape document was drafted by Ubonn
- Advocacy document – UNICEF consultant
- Plans to develop practical tools
 - Surveillance checklist (pupils' perspective) – HU and EEHYC
 - WASH safety plans in schools – UNICEF and Skat Foundation
- Support of Youth Coalition activities

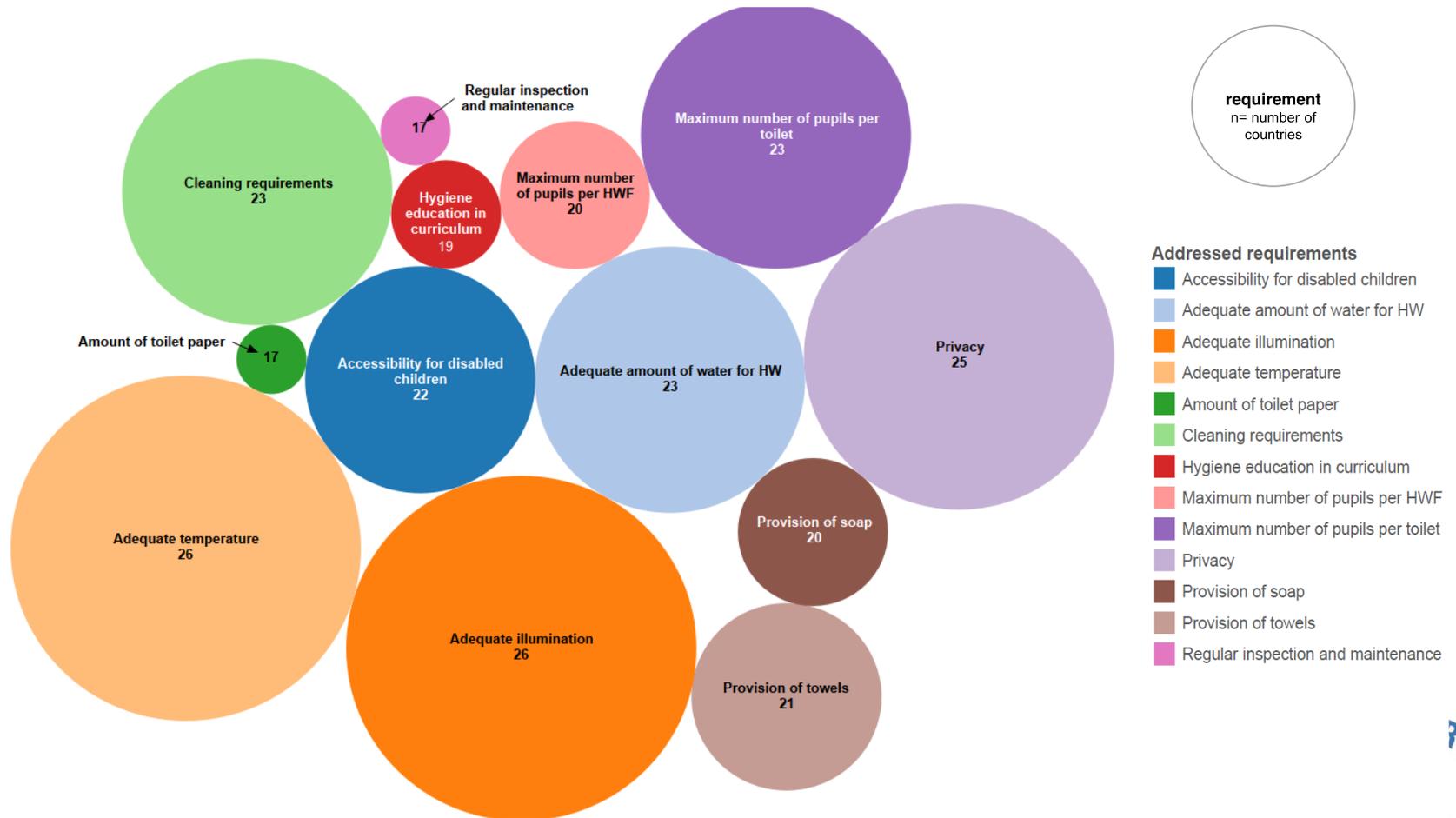


Progress since the last WGWH

- Informal planning meeting on WASH in Schools
 - Bonn, February 9, 2016
- Participants
 - Lead parties
 - WHO Secretariat
 - University of Bonn
 - Consultant from UNICEF
- Main task: to revise and finalize the two documents



Scope of regulation



Surveillance challenges

Challenges:

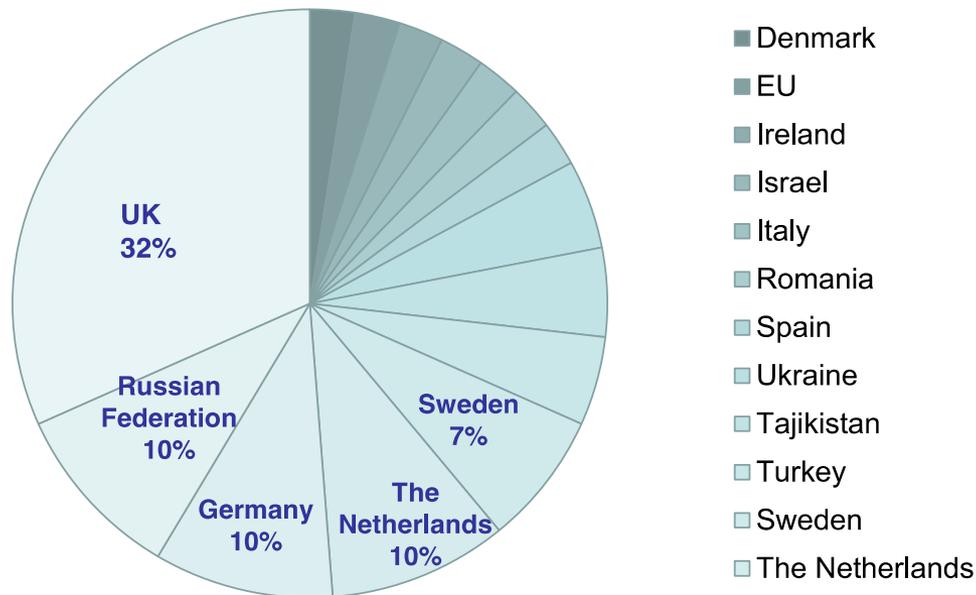
- Inefficient surveillance/monitoring
 - Lack of requirements for routine surveillance of water and sanitation in schools
 - Lack of an efficient enforcement mechanism (set of efficient sanctions/follow-up action plan)
 - Inefficient indicators → inaccurate coverage
 - Compliance only → lack of reporting system

An insufficient monitoring system affects the ability of decision-makers to track progress



Literature review

- Low-middle income: problems associated with the lack of infrastructure
- High income: uses and perception of existing infrastructure



Advocacy document for decision makers

Raise profile on WASH in schools in the Region

Position the Protocol as a key policy instrument for target setting and implementing improvement action

Compile **reasons and means to take up WASH** in schools in Protocol-related activities



Structure

- 1 Summary
- 2 The problem with WASH in Schools in the European Region
- 3 Rights
- 4 Benefits
- 5 Underlying issues
- 6 Target setting under the Protocol on Water and Health
- 7 References



Benefits

Unhygienic hands affect health, dignity and learning



Availability of handwashing stations
Routine handwashing programmes

Dehydration affects health, dignity and learning



Free access to safe drinking water
Good hydration practice promotion

Toilet avoidance affects health, dignity and learning



Cleanliness, security, privacy
should be guaranteed

Inadequate menstrual hygiene management impairs right to education



Adequate facilities for MHM should be a priority

Underlying issues

High standards, low compliance



Financing functionality and privacy

Educating engineers



Steps until the MoP

Finalization and publication of the landscape report and the advocacy document



Future work

- Agenda is by no means finished
- In addition to RPG1, now SDG 4a is also calling for action
- Other institutional settings were also recognized as a priority



Proposed work for the next PoW

- (a) Conduct **regional and subregional workshops** to disseminate available evidence on WASH in schools, promote leadership and cooperation between the education and health sectors, facilitate the sharing of good practices and support target setting and policy uptake of WASH in schools;
- (b) Develop a **practical tool for public health authorities** to improve surveillance and adequate monitoring of WASH in schools, specifically taking into account children's needs and perceptions to assess baseline situations and track incremental improvement;
- (c) Develop a **“WASH toolkit” for school administrations** to promote good practices and improve operation and maintenance of WASH facilities in schools.



Extend work to other institutional setting

- (a) Support **baseline analysis of the situation** in relation to **WASH in health-care facilities** in two countries to inform national target setting and action planning. The analysis will include, inter alia, review of national regulations and standards, assessment of WASH conditions in different types and levels of health-care facilities and identification of bottlenecks and priority needs, including consideration of environmental hazards deriving from wastewater disposal practices in health-care facilities;
- (b) Organize a **regional workshop** on WASH in health-care facilities to raise health sector leadership and to call for national action to address WASH in health-care facilities and support uptake in target setting and policies;
- (c) Support **pilot projects** in selected health-care facilities with a focus on application of a **WHO risk-based tool for improving and maintaining WASH services** and the development of improvement plans for further scale-up across the pan-European region.

