The need for water and toilets at schools, health centres, the workplace and prisons

Water, sanitation and hygiene in schools, health care facilities, workplace and prisons need to be put part of the post-2015 development agenda.

Sustainability of WASH services

The Millennium Development Goals will end this year and will be succeeded by the Sustainable Development Goals. The SDGs are agreed upon, but the indicators for monitoring its implementation are currently being discussed by the Inter-Agency Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs). WASH at the household level is clearly addressed under targets 6.1 and 6.2. An indicator for WASH in schools has been proposed under target 4a. and therefore not as prominently included in this overview. However, WASH in health centres, prisons and at the workplace is currently not taken into account in the discussion about SDG indicators.

Why is institutional WASH so important?

Access to WASH facilities at home is simply not enough to achieve complete behavioural change and sustainable impact. The availability of WASH facilities at schools for both students and teachers is of critical importance, especially for girls at menstruating age. As important is the availability of WASH facilities at hospitals, health centres and clinics, as this is key to preventing infections and other diseases. In addition, the availability of WASH facilities ranging from the workplace to prisons is fundamental so that people are able to survive in a healthy and safe environment; a requisite for sustainable economic development.

What are our key messages?

- Need for stronger advocacy for WASH in extra household settings which include schools, health care facilities but also other settings as workplace, prisons, etc at international and national level. This will be done through collaborating with like-minded organisations to strengthen our message. A group of SuSanA workshops on extra household settings will be set up by IRC to further engage other organizations for this topic.

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Further strengthening our ties with Sanitation Water for All and End Water Poverty to ensure institutional WASH including hygiene are included in the post-2015 SDGs and corresponding indicators. Simavi is engaged in the SDG task team of End Water Poverty and is looking for other opportunities to actively campaign for inclusion of a global indicator on hygiene and an indicator for WASH in health centres.

Where can I find more info?
Through the following link http://www.ircwash.org/resources/case-studies-institutional-wash you can find more information about the importance of WASH in schools, health care facilities, WASH at the workplace and WASH in prisons including relevant facts and figures.

If you have further specific questions, please contact Marielle Snel from IRC at snel@ircwash.org or Roel Blesgraaf from Simavi at roel.blesgraaf@simavi.nl.

IRC
IRC is a think-and-do tank. Our approach is different, and it is transformational. It involves everyone, in every part of the process, thinking and acting in new ways to find long-term solutions to the global crisis in water, sanitation and hygiene services.

www.ircwash.org

Simavi
Simavi realises structural improvement to the health conditions of people in marginalised communities in Africa and Asia since 1925. Simavi invests in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) because these basic services are vital for people to be able to lead a healthy life, build a better existence and find a way out of poverty. Therefore Simavi strives for a world in which basic health is accessible for all.

Simavi aims to structurally improve the basic health of ten million people by 2020. Simavi works on this mission by collaborating closely with civil society organisations to build capacity and create structural, lasting change.

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What proposed target indicators can be implemented?
As a means of bringing these settings into the SDGs, the following are some of the suggested target indicators:

Overall indicator
6.1 by 2030, achieve the realisation of the human right to water through universal and equal equitable access to available, safe and affordable drinking water for all - in homes, schools, workplaces, health centers and refugee camps, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations.
6.2 by 2030, achieve the realisation of the human right to sanitation through universal and equal access to adequate, affordable and acceptable and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all - in homes, schools, health centres and refugee camps, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations - and end open defecation.

Given that there are now WASH in schools indicators included in the SDGs these are not included in this overview below.

Proposed health care facility indicators
- Basic drinking water service (5 liters per day per patient and staff. In addition, availability of safe water for other functional purposes on facility premises.
- Gender disaggregated toilets with bins with lids in women and girls’ washrooms.
- Handwashing facility with soap and water in or near the sanitation facility and delivery room/operation room.

Proposed WASH at the workplace indicators
- Companies provide and maintain access to safe drinking water, appropriate sanitation facilities and supplies to allow for proper hygiene at the workplace, together with education and awareness building.

Proposed WASH in prison indicators
- In places of detention, where the latrines may be used by large numbers of people, the figure expressed in cubic metres – e.g. 3 m³ for 10 detainees over one year (equivalent to 300 l/person/year) is used to calculate the volume of excreta produced by the detainees.

What is happening next?
The following are some of the key events organized by IRC and Simavi, as partners in the WASH IT! programme funded by DGIS (2015-2020), for the remainder of this year.
- Side event at the Water and Health conference n Chapel Hill on 27 October 2015 linked with SuSanA.
- Partnership meeting of SWA on 3-4 November 2015 in the Netherlands with an informal evening event.
- New items of the IRC website.

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4 This was advocated in the informal SWA evening event in the Netherlands 4 December 2014. See http://www.ircwash.org/resources/case-studies-institutional-wash.