

# Water and Sanitation

In areas of crisis, lack of sufficient water, sanitation and hygiene facilities typically lead to more deaths than any other cause. With this in mind, all schools and educational facilities should have adequate water, sanitation and hygiene facilities to ensure the health of their students and staff.

## Strategies

- **Ensure adequate water and storage for school needs**

Clean water should be sufficient for schools needs including drinking, hand washing, cooking and cleaning. In schools with feeding programs, WFP has established a minimum of 5 liters of water per day per student in times in difficult times and for only a limited amount of time. Water storage containers should be regularly cleaned and if possible checked to ensure that the water is safe for drinking. In some cases, non-educational organizations may need to be contacted to clean the existing well or providing a new well or rain catchment system.

- **Ensure properly placed and sufficient toilets for students and teachers**

Toilets should be at least 50 meter away from the school and 30 meters way from any ground source of water. Ideally toilets should be VIP toilets and/or have wood ash available to limit the breeding of flies. Adequate toilets should be available for male and female students and teachers, as well as accessible for young children and the children with disabilities. Hand washing stands with soapy water (one bar of soap grated into a bucket or container of water with a tap or spigot at the bottom) should be placed by the toilets. WFP suggested standards one toilet cubicle for 25 girls and boys one toilet cubicle for every 100 boys and one urinal every 40-60 boys.

### Note on VIP Toilets:

More expensive VIP toilets are preferred over basic pit latrines because they prevent flies from spreading germs. A VIP toilet consists of a pit covered with a slab with a squat hole, a semi-dark building, and a vent pipe through the slab and going through the roof about .5 meters. As long as the latrine is dark inside the flies will follow the light up the vent pipe. The end of the vent pipe is screened to prevent flies from escaping and spreading germs within the community.

- **Ensure clean and hygienic school and learning area**

The inside and outside of schools and educational areas should be clean and well kept to limit vector borne diseases. This is important not only for health reasons but also the morale of the school. Classrooms, halls, corridors and toilets should be cleaned on a daily basis. Trash should be taken off the school

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compound, or collected, placed in a rubbish pit and burned. Kitchen, eating areas and toilets should have hand-washing facilities to prevent the further spread of disease. Hygiene and sanitation activities should be complemented by health education campaigns that target not only behavior but also the monitoring of the school by students, school administration, teachers and parents. Adequate brooms, shovels, buckets, grass slashers and machetes should be available to fulfill these expectations.

## Checklist

### General:

- What are the health problems in the community? Are these present in the school?
- Have linkages been made with the non-education sector to address water, sanitation and health education issues within the school?

### Water

- Where does the water come from?
  - Ground water (dug well, borehole spring)? Is the well clean?
  - Rainwater collection? Is the storage container clean? Is the water treated?
  - Surface water (rivers, lakes)? Without treatment this is a major health hazard.
- What is the water quality? Who tests it? How often? Is treatment necessary? Is it being implemented? How often?
- Is the water sufficient? Is water available all of the time at the school?
- What is level of the groundwater? Does the amount of water available change through out the school year? i.e. dry season/rainy season

### Sanitation

- What the present practices of defecation? Are the toilets sufficient for the number of teachers and students? See WFP standards above.
- Are people familiar with the construction and use of toilets?
- What types of toilets are available? (Open defecation is not acceptable)
  - Pit latrine? Is there a cover for the latrine? Is wood ash or dirt provided to prevent flies?
  - VIP (Ventilated Improved Pit) toilet?
  - Flush?
- Are the toilets at least 30 meters way from any drinking water source?
- Are toilets suitable for both younger and older students?
- Are there separate toilet facilities for male and female students and teachers?
- Are the toilets accessible to persons with disability?
- Are hand-washing facilities with soap available?
- Are toilets clean? Are they cleaned regularly? By whom?

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- What do students or teachers use for cleaning themselves? Is this readily available?
- Is health education included in the school curriculum? Are there signs in the latrines encouraging good hygiene?

### **Solid Waste Disposal**

- Where does the rubbish or trash go? Is it burned and buried on the school compound or taken off the school site? If it is buried on the school site, what is the relation of the rubbish pit to the water source? Is the rubbish pit at least 100 meters away from the school?

### **Vector-borne diseases**

- What vector borne diseases are present in the community? Mosquito-borne disease? Rodent (Mice/Rat)-borne diseases? Fly-borne?
- What steps have been taken to prevent vector borne diseases from spreading? Is the school compound clean? Is the grass slashed to keep down insects and mosquitoes, as well as risk of fire? Are there any areas where stagnant water can act as a breeding ground for mosquitoes? Can these be filled?
- What cleaning materials are available? Brooms? Water buckets? Shovels? Grass slashers? Machetes?

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