



Sustaining and Scaling School Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Plus Community Impact



Meeting Summary: 4 April 2017, Nairobi, Kenya

SWASH+II Supplemental

Background on SWASH+

The first phase of SWASH+ (Sustaining and Scaling School Water, Sanitation and Hygiene plus Community Impact) was an action-research and advocacy project focused on increasing the scale, impact and sustainability of school water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) interventions in Western Kenya. Findings included school WASH reducing diarrhea, girls' absenteeism and ascaris infection. A major influence of SWASH+ included an increase in budget allocations by the Ministry of Education for primary schools.

SWASH+II involves multiple studies to increase learnings for the Government of Kenya (GoK) and consistent advocacy for improved school WASH. The Governance Trial worked closely with the Ministry of Education to give schools non-monetary incentives as an attempt to increase accountability for school WASH. Read more [here](#). The Education Management Information System (EMIS) was converted to phones for faster and more efficient digital capture, with quick feedback to schools and policy makers. The Urban Private Sector Trial (UPST) is a study that has worked with Sanergy to provide 10 schools with Fresh Life Toilets (FLT), for comparison to 10 schools with traditional latrines in schools in Nairobi informal settlements. Read more [here](#).

Purpose of the Meeting

The purpose of the meeting was to work with Government Officials and other stakeholders to develop a shared workplan to achieve project milestones. SWASH+ received a small amount of supplemental funding to continue work and research on Urban Private Sector Sanitation in Kenya.

SWASH+II Supplemental Milestones

Milestone 1: The GoK will have access to data on sustainability and use of dry-sanitation toilets compared to traditional toilets. *Rationale:* Findings from the first phase of the UPST found that the FLT were twice as cost effective, and installed three times as quickly. The supplemental funding will focus on student use, school management of private sector sanitation, and maintenance of the facilities over time.

Proposed activity: Continue to collect data on schools in the UPST—regarding student use and preference, school governance, specifically in terms of sanitation, and sustainability of the sanitation infrastructure in schools.

Milestone 2: The GoK will have access to data on the life cycle costs of school sanitation in Nairobi County.

Rationale: A study of Life Cycle Costs (LCC) for school WASH was conducted in three rural counties of Kenya (the publication can be found [here](#)). The LCC for the 20 schools in the UPST study is required to better understand costs for traditional vs. private sector sanitation, specifically in informal settlements.

Proposed activity: Conduct a LCC sanitation study for 20+ schools in Nairobi County to compare standard and private sector sanitation options and potentially conduct a LCC study for school WASH across multiple urban areas in Kenya.

Milestone 3: The GoK will approve school guidelines for procuring and monitoring private sector sanitation options.

Rationale: Currently there are School Health Guidelines as well as Procurement Guidelines for schools. These guidelines do not currently include

private sector procurement for sanitation-related items.

Proposed activities: SWASH+ proposes to work with 2-3 county governments, the national government and members of the school WASH technical working group at various levels to develop private sector sanitation guidelines for schools that would include everything from procurement of latrine pit exhausting services, to sanitation infrastructure to sanitation maintenance and cleaning services.

Stakeholder discussion

In attendance at the meeting were three national government officials and three government officials from Nairobi City County. CARE, Emory University, and Sanergy were joined by a representative from Catholic Relief Services and another from the Safe Water and Aids Programme (SWAP). A presentation was made on the background of SWASH+I and II. The proposed milestones of the supplemental grant were presented alongside questions directed at the government officials.

For Milestone 1: Are our research questions useful and sufficient? *Sustainability, user preference, use, maintenance, governance.*

Decision: Yes!

- Be sure to include teachers as users.
- Governance needs to include students, teachers and parents—and the ECD program.
- Keep in mind other stakeholders beyond the school (that affect maintenance and sustainability).

For Milestone 2: Do we need costs for other urban settings beyond Nairobi?

Decision: Yes!

- It would be ideal to have LCC data on rural, urban and informal settlements across the country. “We need urban and peri-urban schools, because even those we think are well-off may be over-populated. Our guidelines need to be applicable to all schools” (L.Rotich, Director General).
- All schools have the potential need to procure sanitation-

related items from the private sector. Suggestions for potential Counties where the LCC work should be done: Nakuru, Garissa, Thika, Kisumu.

For Milestone 3: What is the scope of the guidelines? *Urban & rural, primary & secondary, public & private, sanitation vs sanitation & hygiene.* How do we work with counties? Which counties? What are the next steps for developing the guidelines?

Decision: Yes!

- Engage multiple ministries beyond education and health at the County level
- Include water and irrigation, public works, etc.
- Target sanitation AND hygiene.
- Ensure links to the EMIS—potentially updating with more WASH-relevant questions.
- Nairobi is an especially complex environment—make sure these complications (working with school, county, city planning, multiple ministries engaged) are incorporated into the guidelines.

Discussing with “us” was a great idea. Next go to the county to develop and verify, then come back to the National government players for final approval and publication of the guidelines. SWASH+ will need to engage with the school health technical committees at the county-level first. The challenge is that in many places this committee needs to be strengthened before it can be effectively engaged.

Next steps

The Director of Basic Education gave closing remarks. She identified using School Health Policy structures as an effective method and working with the county directors of education and health to get started. Letters introducing SWASH+ can go to the county to open doors. All government officials in attendance approved and endorsed the workplan of SWASH+ and is interested in being updated on progress and findings.

SWASH+II is in operation from November 2012 to March 2019 and is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

