



## What is WASH in Schools?



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) is important for good health. Schools take simple, inexpensive steps to improve WASH facilities at their school, and healthy hygiene habits are taught, practised and integrated into daily school routines.

### CASE STUDY



## WASH in Schools

### Improving health and education of children in Kavieng, Papua New Guinea

Live & Learn ran a successful four-year Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Schools program in three Kavieng schools, benefiting over 950 students. The program was part of a broader program delivered with 18,000 students in Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Fiji and Vanuatu with funding from the the Australian Government through the "Western Pacific Sanitation Marketing & Innovation Program" funded by the Civil Society WASH Fund.

In this project Live & Learn worked with schools on a bottom-up approach that demonstrates the impact of WASH in Schools on improved learning and student well-being.

Live & Learn uses an adapted the UNICEF 3-Star Schools and Bottleneck Analysis approach. Bottleneck analysis assumes that WASH in Schools problems can be conceptualized as a type of service delivery chain. The bottleneck is a point where services are restricted. Schools are provided with tools and skills to critically assess and act to improve their WASH services.

The simplified bottom-up approach to collecting and analysing evidence for WASH at a school level implemented by L&L staff with partner schools lead to school WASH Committees establish plans to improve toilets and hand-washing facilities in schools, improve teacher-led hygiene promotion in classes, improve peer-to-peer advocacy by students, strengthen engagement with local and national Ministries of Education.

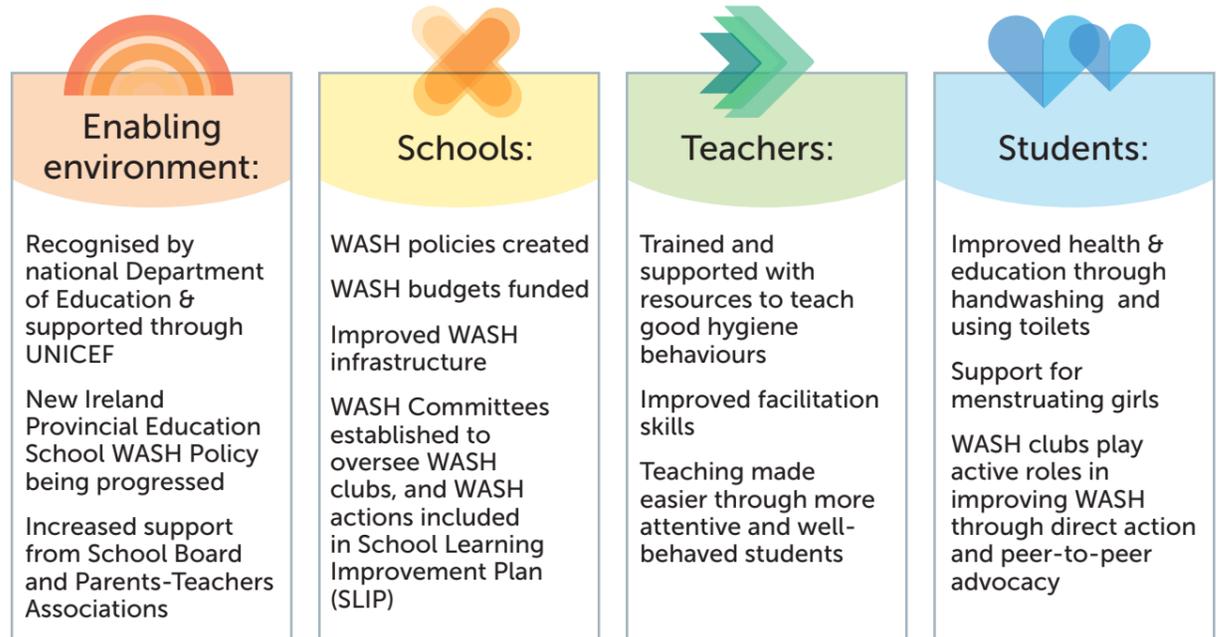
### Achievement snapshot

The Wash in Schools program in Kavieng reached 950 students across three schools. In a short period of time the program achieved many positive outcomes, including:

- Increased number of functional and clean toilets
- Halved the student to toilet ratio from 1 toilet for every 100 students to 1 toilet for every 49 students
- Construction of accessible toilets at Kaselok for people with disabilities
- Increased handwashing stations facilities
- Provision of soap for hand-washing at critical times
- Products and facilities to support menstruating girls now accessible at schools
- WASH supply corners set up in each classroom with basic hygiene supplies (hand washing bowls, soap and toilet paper)
- The Provincial Education Division allocated 10 to 15% of School Learning Improvement Plan (SLIP) budget to WASH
- A New Ireland Provincial Education School WASH Policy is currently being reviewed to sustain WASH in Schools



### WASH in Schools works at different areas to promote bottom-up change



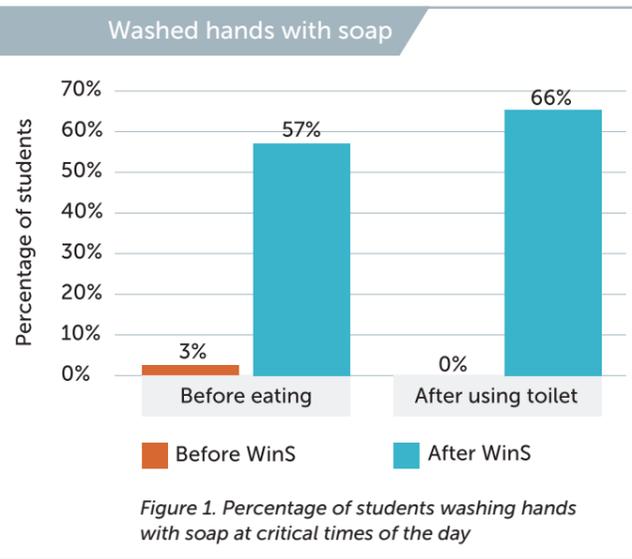
### Further Results in Kavieng

The WASH in Schools program worked with the Education Division to identify schools most in need of improved WASH and Live & Learn met with school principals and staff to explain the program and seek their support. Maoim Primary School was selected as a pilot school before the program was later scaled up to include Kaselock and Webster Primary Schools.

With the help of Live & Learn schools formed

WASH Committees and whole-school student WASH Clubs, which implemented their own 'club action plans'. Teachers were trained to teach hygiene using fun and interactive techniques with the support of WinS resources such as Arts for Advocacy and Hands Up For Hygiene. Annual bottleneck analysis of WASH explored barriers and challenges, and action plans were integrated into school planning and budget processes.

Improved sanitation facilities have also reduced open defecation at school and encouraged more students to use the school toilets.



“OD was a great issue in school because students felt shy going to the toilets. Attitude of students are gradually changing and no longer practising OD.” – Kaselok School teacher

The WinS program has also improved student behaviour, as attested by Mr Noah Benson, a Senior Grade 6 teacher at Maoim Primary School.

“Maoim Primary was a school with discipline problems and was rated the worst school in Kavieng District. Now, Maoim Primary School is really admired and the most talked about school in the whole province, where in 2018, a cheque of K2000 was awarded to Maoim for being the cleanest school.

The influence of WASH Clubs and Art for Advocacy programs where students have been fully engaged, have made the students to be confident and more settled in their general behaviour in attending classes, being interested in lessons, being neatly dressed, showing leadership roles in reporting and caring for things in school.” Mr Noah Benson, Maoim Primary School, New Ireland, PNG.

Chris, a student at Webster SDA Primary School: “Menstruation is a girls and womens issue, but for us boys and men, we have to really understand female menstrual issues so that we begin to respect them when they are in this situation, because it is through menstruation that we were all born of a woman and a mother”.

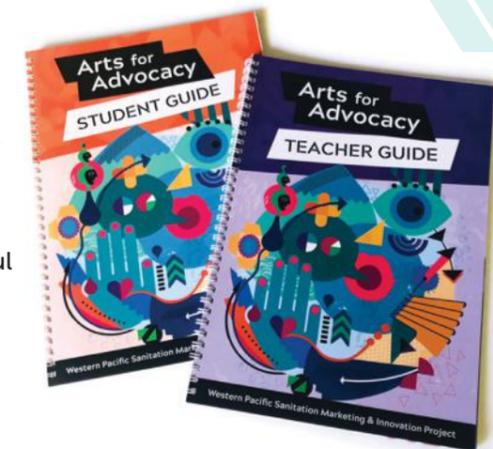
“The emergence of MHM as a legitimate topic of education and discussion rather than something shameful for the girls to hide, has had a transformative impact on girls’ self-confidence and school attendance” Dr Ann-Maree Nobelius, WPSMIP GSI advisor, International Women’s Development Agency.

## WASH in Schools resources

Live & Learn has created a WASH in Schools Toolkit to support the delivery of key program components. Teacher and student resource guides, activities sheets and artwork are integrated into the school curriculum, filling the previous gap in hygiene education.

Hands Up for Hygiene and Germbusters are key resources that can be downloaded from the Live & Learn website. Arts for Advocacy is a key approach as creative activities such as painting, photography, video, drama, music, stories and dance are powerful tools to inspire people to change their thinking and actions. Arts-based activities tell powerful stories, raise visibility and inspire others to build culture and create stronger communities.

Live & Learn Environmental Education has published the Arts for Advocacy guides for students and teachers, which is available to download from: <https://www.artsforadvocacy.org.au>



## Children as change agents

WASH in Schools has empowered students and given them confidence to advocate for improved WASH. WASH Clubs have used global days of celebration such as World Toilet Day, Global Hand Wash Day and World Water Day to conduct hygiene promotion activities and advocate for improved menstrual hygiene management at schools. Private sector partners such as Colgate Palmolive have supported these events through the donation of soap.

The Maoim ‘Germ Wreckers’ club oversees the school sanitation park and ensures that rostered class members keep the toilets clean and

ensure there is soap available for all students. Other WASH clubs encourage positive hygiene behaviour through innovative promotions, keep the schoolyard tidy and advise other schools.

Students are also taking the message of good hygiene home. Felman Benson, a Grade 3 student at Kaselok Primary School, took the WASH messages learnt at school back home and his family built two new toilets, one for his family and the other for his aunt’s family.

## Menstrual hygiene supports girls to attend at school

Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) is another taboo subject that is now out in the open and taught to girls and boys at school with the support of WinS resources.

Thirty-six teachers spread across the three target schools participated in MHM training, including male teachers. Schools are now equipped with towels, spare skirts, underwear and pads, with sanitary bins in toilets and shower facilities available to help girls manage their periods with dignity.

Menstrual Hygiene Day featured Maoim Primary student drama performances that addressed

the issue of boys teasing girls about menstruation.

Before, boys would often tease girls if they had accidents during menstruation. Now after being educated about menstrual hygiene, the boys have stopped their teasing and advocate alongside girls at public events.



## Sustaining the benefits of WASH in Schools

WASH in Schools is broadly supported at the national level, with UNICEF playing a key enabling role. At the sub-national level, Live & Learn has advocated for and provided input into the draft New Ireland Provincial Education School WASH Policy which is currently being progressed by the Provincial Education Board (PEB).

At the school-level, WASH infrastructure improvements made at schools are highly likely to be maintained through the support of school WASH Policies, WASH budgets and SLIP funds. Improved hygiene and sanitation behaviours continue through advocacy and encouragement from both WASH Committees and WASH Clubs.

There are exciting opportunities to advance WASH in Schools in New Ireland. A 2018 WinS planning meeting of key enabling actors including the Kavieng District Education Officer and Kavieng District Health Manager resulted in a shared vision for “WinS to be rolled out to all Kavieng District Schools.”

Live & Learn will continue to work with the Ministry of Education in PNG and other funding partners to further the achievements of the WASH in Schools program.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
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