



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.



Wash in Schools

Improving health and education of children in Vanuatu

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 WinS program in Port Vila benefited 6,000 children and 200 staff across eight schools. In a short period of time, the program achieved many positive outcomes:

- All target schools have improved gender segregated sanitation facilities
- Schools have active WASH Committees, WASH Clubs and student-led processes to keep ablution blocks clean
- Children wash hands with soap at critical times of the day such as before eating and after using the toilet
- Schools have 'girls space' with a dedicated bathroom facility to support menstruating girls
- Half the schools integrated 'girls talk' sessions into school schedules for menstrual hygiene management
- Improved student behaviour is linked to WinS activities
- Hygiene promotion is incorporated into the teacher training syllabus and the national curriculum
- All primary and secondary trainee teachers learn about hygiene promotion

"We are the first to encourage children to wash hands, use the rubbish bin, clean toilets so that everyone can use a school that is clean every day. Every teacher can support to keep Vila North safe, clean so that every student can come to school and not get sick."
Alice Aissav, Vila North Primary School Hygiene WASH club coordinator.



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

Enabling environment:	Schools:	Teachers:	Students:
<p>Nationally recognised & approved by Ministry of Education and Training (MoET)</p> <p>Hygiene education and menstrual hygiene management included in the national education curriculum</p> <p>National teacher training curriculum amended to include hygiene education</p>	<p>WASH policies created</p> <p>WASH budgets funded</p> <p>Improved WASH infrastructure (drinking water, toilets with lockable doors, showers & handwashing stations)</p> <p>WASH Committees established to oversee WASH clubs and create WASH action plans</p>	<p>Trained and supported with resources to teach good hygiene behaviours</p> <p>Improved facilitation skills</p> <p>Teaching made easier through more attentive and well behaved students</p>	<p>Improved health & education through handwashing and using toilets</p> <p>Support for menstruating girls</p> <p>WASH clubs play active roles in improving WASH through direct action and peer-to-peer advocacy</p>

Further Results in Port Vila

The Live & Learn WASH in Schools program worked with the Ministry of Education and Training (MoET) to identify schools most in need of improved WASH. Live & Learn met with school principals and staff to explain the program and seek their support. Schools formed WASH Committees and teachers were trained to teach

hygiene using fun and interactive techniques with the support of WinS resources. Bottleneck analysis was conducted, action plans implemented and WASH budgets created. WASH Committees supported the creation and running of student WASH Clubs that promote WASH duties to keep school WASH facilities clean.

Children as change agents

WASH in Schools hygiene promotion and WASH Clubs have empowered students for peer-to-peer education on WASH.

WASH Club monitors are rostered on every week and students are eager to see if their names are on the list. The monitors wear bibs and badges to highlight their position and remind children to wash their hands after using the toilet. They also help monitor and clean the toilets.

Global days of celebration, such as World Toilet Day and Global Hand Washing Day, are now included in school calendars.

Students are also taking the message of good hygiene home and influencing their parents in providing hand washing facilities and improving sanitation awareness.



Alice Aissav, Vila North Primary School Hygiene WASH Club coordinator, and members from the school WASH Club showing their hand washing station with soap dispensers.



Hygiene Carnival Parade

A colourful School Hygiene Carnival involving 500 students from five schools was facilitated through the WinS Arts for Advocacy program to promote Global Hand Washing Day and World Toilet Day.

Creative banners, costumes, songs and drama performances brought attention to the theme of "Clean Hands, Our Future".

Big wins for WASH in Schools in the national curriculum

Live & Learn worked with the CDU to incorporate hygiene promotion into the national primary school curriculum. WASH is promoted across subject areas and the value of Live & Learn WinS resources such as Hands Up for Hygiene and Arts for Advocacy has resulted in their endorsement as teacher resources.

using the UNICEF 3-star Approach to WinS using a WinS checklist tool created by Live & Learn.



Live & Learn worked with the Vanuatu Teachers Training Institute (VITE) to incorporate hygiene promotion into the teachers' training syllabus. All trainee teachers (primary and secondary) now receive mandatory hygiene promotion training, and are also offered a WASH elective run by Live & Learn. Sixty student teachers have already benefited from the hygiene training.

"This elective has helped me develop more skills and knowledge in developing strategies to help students adopt healthier habits to live and grow healthy." Julius Eldads, Trainee teacher, Vanuatu.

Standards for a WASH program have also been created for national Early Childhood Care Education (ECCE).

"The curriculum unit have been producing a lot of materials but we lack resources on WASH, therefore we are thankful to Live & Learn for assisting with the resources that we have been distributing to schools. The resources are already helping teachers promote good WASH practices not only in the schools but also in homes where children take their knowledges home and teach parents." George, National Curriculum Coordinator, National Curriculum Development Unit, Vanuatu.

Through advocacy from Live & Learn, WASH is now one of the fifteen quality school standards. School Improvement Officers (SIOs) now monitor WASH on school visits. The SIOs rate schools

Culturally sensitive approaches to taboo topics

Before WinS, many girls would leave school during the day when they started menstruating. Girls would often be absent from school for several days. Boys would often tease girls if they had accidents during menstruation.

WinS resources and guidelines are now assisting girls to understand and manage their menstrual cycle. School WASH Committees and teachers were trained in menstrual hygiene management and provided with reusable sanitary pads from local micro enterprise Mamma's Leaf. Schools have built safe and private bathrooms.



Elina Jaywelson Gilu shows a class captain's report that includes reporting on WASH duties.

"I now understand how to help girls maximize their attendance in schools through safer and healthier measures to minimize segregation of menstruating female students – measures such as creating girls' space, emergency kits, drying areas and counselling for girls that are menstruating for the first time." Samuel Taranaki, trainee teacher, Vanuatu.

Several schools now have 'girls kits' available that contain soap and a towel, a change of clothes and sanitary products, so girls can remain at school and manage their period with dignity.

"If girls had an accident, they had to go home. Now they have a 'girls space' where they can clean-up and go back to class." Elina Jaywelson Gilu, Principal, Vila North Primary School.



Sustaining the benefits of WASH in Schools

The WinS program promotes existing national and international standards which helps the program integrate into the existing education system, and WinS is included in the National Health Plan 2011-2020. Live & Learn has formed effective relationships with many enabling actors, such as the Provincial Sanitation Working Group (SWG), the Ministry of Health and the MoET, including their Curriculum Development Unit (CDU). Other stakeholders engaged include the Local Education Group (LEG), Child Protection Working Group and Education Cluster Group.

With strong national support for WinS through the MoET and the inclusion of hygiene promotion in the national curriculum and teacher training syllabus, the future is bright for WinS in Vanuatu. Live & Learn continues to work with partner donors to build on the achievements of the WASH in Schools work in Vanuatu.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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