



WASH & Learn

A partnership beyond boundaries

The WASH & Learn Programme is an ongoing three year WASH in Schools program being implemented by Simavi and six local partners in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. The key objectives of the programme are: providing access to WASH service in schools and communities; ensuring sustainability of the WASH service (the risk assessments/ CRP / training on the procurement); facilitate learning and innovation with the local partners (capacity strengthening, knowledge exchange, introduction of innovative ways to improve sustainability). The programme is funded by the by Walking for Water 2016-2018, Rotary district 1570, Aqua for All and Waterloo Foundation. The programme has an integrated approach in which both schools and communities are both targeted, to drive a sustainable change in terms of health within the community.

Introduction of the Programme

The WASH & Learn Programme is implemented by six partner's organisations. Three in Uganda (JESE, HEWASA and EMESCO), two in Tanzania (UFUNDIKO and TDFT) and one in Kenya (CABDA).

- JESE is implementing its activities in Kisomoro Sub-County of Bunyangabu District. In total, six schools and 12 surrounding communities have been selected for the WASH & Learn Programme.
- HEWASA is implementing the WASH & Learn Programme in Rwimi Sub-County, located in Bunyangabu District in six schools and 12 surrounding communities earmarked by local government for the program.
- EMESCO is implementing the WASH & Learn Programme in ten schools and 20 neighbouring communities, together with relevant stakeholders in Birembo, Bwansa and Kasambya sub-counties of Kakumiro District.
- In Tanzania TDFT is implementing the WASH & Learn Programme in 11 schools and communities in Nzega, Uyui, Sikonge and Tabora districts within Tabora Region.
- UFUNDIKO is implementing the WASH & Learn Programme in seven schools and communities located in two Districts in the Dodoma Region: Kongwa and Mpwapwa.
- In Kenya CABDA is implementing the WASH & Learn Programme in 3 schools and communities in Teso South and Nambale Sub-Counties of Busia County.



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The Programme Approach

The WASH & Learn Programme is using an integrated WASH approach so work on water supply, sanitation and hygiene behaviour improvements. The programme is working on the demand site with communities, on creating a positive enabling environment with all stakeholders and ensure that people use the WASH services properly. The programme is working at schools and in the surrounding communities. We take the local context and the current capacities and experiences of our local partners as starting point from which specific country and partner approaches are developed. Approaches and activities can therefore vary between countries.

Knowledge sharing and learning

At the heart of the WASH & Learn Programme is learning and knowledge sharing which acts a yardstick of monitoring what partners are doing, improving the application of the sustainability tools such as the Cost Recovery Planning tool and approaches as well as identifying novel ways of program implementation that will yield sustainability. Learning and knowledge sharing in the WASH & Learn programme is undertaken both a planning, knowledge sharing and evaluation level by partners as well as at an interpersonal level among the partner organization as well as with the Knowledge and Sharing Officer. Furthermore cross-partner learning is encouraged by the organisation of learning meetings, where every time

The targets of the programme are:

Direct improved access to water, sanitation and hygiene facilities		
Country	Pupils + teachers	Community members
Kenya	1,800	6,600
Uganda	11,580	8,870
Tanzania	6,000	11,000
Total	19,380	26,470

- Cost Recovery Planning:** Cost Recovery Planning is one of the tools the WASH & Learn Programme partners apply bringing WASH investment stakeholders (Community, Government, Technicians, NGOs, Private partners among others) into an agreement based on the FIETS sustainability principles which includes joint forecasting and preparation for the implementation and management of the WASH facilities, especially after the programme has ended. When applied by the stakeholders the tool helps them to clearly identify the cost and revenue streams as well as maintaining and sustaining of WASH investments within the school, and the gap between these costs and revenue streams. The application of the tools has been customized to the areas of operation.
- Risk Assessment:** Risks assessment and mitigation has been prioritized by WASH & Learn Programme partners for pre-project execution, mid-project operation and post project management upholding the FIETS sustainability components in potential possibilities for risk identification, planning and management/mitigation in order to have a sustainable result from the project activities, especially WASH facilities that will be functional over a period of 10 years after the programme.
- Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM):** Menstrual hygiene management is utilized by all WASH & Learn programme partners to ensure girls well-being (performance, health, acceptability) in schools, proper menstrual waste management, menstrual hygiene and better facility usage during menstrual periods. This is being conducted through trainings on how to manage menstrual period including menstrual cramps, making reusable menstrual pads, cleaning and storing the reusable pads, personal hygiene, and gender respectability of menstruation. Furthermore, the partners are constructing gender sensitive WASH facilities, with for example washing rooms for girls.

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- **School Health Clubs:** School Health clubs are clubs of students that encouraging other students and teachers within the school to apply appropriate WASH behaviour. These clubs can play an important role in the sustainability of the programme, as they are the link between the schools and the communities and are ambassadors on healthy behaviour within the school.
- **Water as a business:** This learning trajectory focuses on new ways of managing water supply systems by the local partners, besides the traditional community management model. The trajectory is focused on learnings from different partners, as they are piloting new approaches and innovations, with as main aim to ensure that WASH services are sustainably managed, so people have continuous access to safe drinking water.

Innovations

The WASH & Learn Programme is also looking towards innovations in the field of WASH in Schools that can help make the programme more effective and the services provided within the programme more sustainable.

Prepaid Water Meters

In the WASH & Learn Programme the application of the prepaid meter at a water point managed by a local entrepreneur (JESE & HEWASA) or the community water management committees (CABDA) or a private entity (Maji Milele, Practica Foundation) gives the benefit of sustainable operation and maintenance of the water facilities: more funds are collected at water point level to cover the operation and maintenance costs.

The Water Vending Machine

The Water Vending Machine offers a public private option for water resource management takes the water fund collection, water supply and facility supervision to a level that eliminates water source breakdown and creates a transparent platform for commercializing water supply at an affordable rate beneficial to the community and profitable to the private partners in the long run. The infrastructure includes sensors that monitor the water supply and provide real-time insight via an online dashboard. The Water Vending machine has been developed in cooperation with STICLab.

Reusable Pads/ Menstrual Hygiene Management Trainings

The WASH & Learn Programme recognizes reusable menstrual pads as one of the most affordable and sustainable options for managing the menstrual flow among school going girls and women in the communities. Through the trainings conducted on menstrual hygiene partner organisations have not only been able to increase the number of girls/women with access to menstrual pads but also demystify the gender barriers that rendered menstruation a taboo and given insight into menstrual cramp management, menstrual waste handling as well as raising personal hygiene awareness.



We are working towards basic health for all

Health is the first step out of poverty



photo: Geert Snoeijer

About Simavi

The Simavi is an international non-profit organisation working towards a world in which basic health is accessible to all. Our goal is to structurally improve the basic health of 10 million people in marginalised communities in Africa and Asia by 2020. By doing so, we enable them to build a better existence and break the cycle of poverty.

Our experience over the past ninety years has shown us that investing in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and in sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) is vital for people to be able to lead a healthy life. Therefore we concentrate our efforts in these two areas.

Theory of Change

All our programmes are based on three integrated pillars:

- 1 Empower communities to demand quality services and to practice healthy behaviour;
- 2 Create a supportive, enabling environment in which all stakeholders are aware of their roles and responsibilities, work together and can be held accountable;
- 3 Ensure that people use affordable, suitable and sustainable WASH and SRHR services. This is the core of our Theory of Change – it's designed to ensure that everyone involved, from community to governmental level, works together towards realising sustainable improvement of basic health.

In the many years Simavi has been active, we've built up an extensive network of reliable and capable local partners and gathered a deep understanding of the religious, ethical and cultural sensitivities within every community we work with. This is crucial to realise sustainable change.

We know how to build the capacity of local partners to make sure that the community's demands are voiced to regional, national and international influential stakeholders, according the law, legislation and regulation of the countries we work in.

We've established extensive local and international networks in WASH, SHRH and beyond.

We believe that the interaction between these different stakeholders is crucial to learn from each other and to make sure that expertise and experience of our local partners are shared at international WASH and SRHR conferences, as this enables the southern voice in the international debate. In this way we create new synergies and partnerships within our networks, bringing together partners whose expertise complements each other with one goal: to facilitate more people enjoying basic health.