



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



## Monitoring and Evaluating School Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion Programs: Key Monitoring Questions to Ask and Why

### Key Monitoring Questions

Is water available for handwashing?  
Is soap available for handwashing?  
Are handwashing stations located between latrines and classrooms?

#### Why are soap and hygiene promotion so important?

- The regular use of soap can cut the incidence of diarrhea in half for children under 15 years old (Luby et al 2005)
- Studies show that children attending schools that rigorously promote handwashing with soap are absent for fewer days. (Bowen et al 2007, SWASH+)

Is water available for drinking?  
Has water been treated?  
Do drinking water containers have a lid or narrow mouth?

#### How can drinking water be kept safe?

- Studies show that even water collected from a safe source is often likely to have much higher fecal contamination by the time it reaches the point of use due to dirty containers or hands entering the container (Wright et al 2004)
- Proper water storage and handling, and correct treatment with products like WaterGuard or PUR can eliminate contamination and prevent diarrhea

Do boys and girls have separate latrines?

#### Why is latrine privacy important?

- Separate latrines are particularly important for girls' sense of privacy and safety. In addition, female teachers are more likely to be recruited and retained if facilities are available to them (Pearson et al 2008).

Are feces on the latrine floor?  
Urine? Mud?

#### Why is latrine cleanliness important?

- A SWASH+ qualitative study revealed that both girls and boys will avoid using the latrines if they are dirty and may opt for open defecation as an alternative.

Are anal cleansing materials available for pupils?  
Are handwashing stations with soap located close to latrines?

#### Why should anal cleansing materials be provided?

- Another SWASH+ qualitative study found that pupils use schoolbooks, trash from the rubbish pile, corncobs, leaves, stones, and even their hands to clean themselves if materials are not available. Some of these practices wasteful (schoolbooks), unhygienic (trash, hands) and potentially harmful to the latrine pits (stones), and pupils may be more likely to spread disease if cleansing materials and soap and water are not available for handwashing after defecation.

Are sanitary towels available for girls pupils?  
Are washrooms available?

#### Why should menstrual management materials be provided?

- Girls face particular challenges at school if menstrual hygiene management supplies and clean facilities are not available for washing. A teacher in one SWASH+ study noted that menstruating girls are often distracted, will stop participating and may leave class or not come to school at all.

SWASH+ is a five-year applied research project to identify, develop, and test innovative approaches to school-based water, sanitation and hygiene in Nyanza Province, Kenya. The partners that form the SWASH+ consortium are CARE, Emory University, the Great Lakes University of Kisumu, the Government of Kenya, and formerly the Kenya Water for Health Organisation (KWAHO), and Water.org. SWASH+ is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Global Water Challenge. For more information, visit [www.swashplus.org](http://www.swashplus.org).

