



7TH WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE IN SCHOOLS INTERNATIONAL LEARNING EXCHANGE

11–15 NOVEMBER 2019, MANILA, PHILIPPINES

OUTCOME

THE MANILA ACTION AGENDA FOR WASH IN SCHOOLS

WASH in Schools (WinS) is a key element of universal access to both Education for All and WASH for All, as defined in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Schools are important settings to provide environments where children learn and acquire essential hygiene skills for life; and where their health, growth and overall development thrive in dignity.

In continuation of WinS International Learning Exchanges (ILE), initiated by GIZ and UNICEF in 2012, the 7th ILE is hosted by the Philippine Department of Education (DepEd) and brings together 191 participants from 16 countries of the South/East Asian and Pacific regions. They come from government ministries, international organizations, research institutions and development partner agencies. This document represents consensus among all participants on key areas to accelerate action on WinS in order to achieve universal WinS coverage with at least basic WinS services by 2030 as agreed by all UN member states in the SDGs. Full and detailed reporting of all sessions and discussions will be available in a formal conference report.

All participants thank the Government of the Philippines and the Department of Education for hosting the event and for providing the opportunity to exchange and learn. All participants recognize and reaffirm that access to basic WinS is an integral element of the right of every child; and that WinS services must be based on the principles of equality, child-friendliness and inclusiveness, supported by active learning through skills-based hygiene education and practice in schools.

Participants recognize the important guidance through the Joint Call to Action for WASH in Schools (2012) and agree on four equally important and synergistic priority action areas to accelerate implementation, guided by SDGs 4 and 6:

7th WinS ILE convened, organized and supported by:



PRIORITY ACTION AREAS

1 EDUCATION SECTOR OWNERSHIP AND LEADERSHIP

The education sector should own and provide leadership for strategic WinS direction, in partnership with other related sectors and stakeholders depending on national context. The supportive policy environment should be strengthened, accountability fostered, and coordination improved to enable effective collaboration across all levels.

2 NATIONAL WinS STANDARDS ALIGNED WITH SDGs

National WinS Standards should be available and aligned with the WHO/UNICEF JMP service level definitions. Implementation guidelines should be developed with input of all stakeholders, promoting stepwise upgrading of WinS services, scaling-up coverage in a realistic and sustainable manner, as well as recognition of progress through national accreditation or benchmarking systems.

3 MONITORING & EVALUATION

National WinS monitoring systems as part of regular education sector monitoring should be developed or strengthened, using indicators that are aligned with the SDGs¹. Data on WinS should be analysed and reported to global, national, regional, and school levels. Promoting a culture of self-assessment will motivate all schools and trigger action for improvements of WinS services, as well as provide the required information for appropriate budgeting.

4 INCREASED BUDGET ALLOCATION

A national WinS investment strategy with clear long-term government budget commitments based on evidence for life-cycle cost, is key to ensure gradual progress towards universal coverage of all schools.

All participants commit to focusing on these four priority areas by advocating for increased resource allocation; better involvement of all relevant stakeholders, parents, communities and indigenous populations; promoting and communicating science-based interventions; and by strengthening accountability towards accelerated action.

¹ WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water, Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP). Core questions and indicators for monitoring WASH in Schools in the Sustainable Development Goals. New York/Geneva: UNICEF & WHO; 2018. <https://bit.ly/2KmlRrh>