

1ST AFRICAN WASH IN SCHOOLS INTERNATIONAL LEARNING EXCHANGE 13 – 17 MARCH 2023 GRAND-BASSAM, CÔTE D'IVOIRE

OUTCOME

In continuation of the WinS International Learning Exchange (ILE) series, initiated by GIZ and UNICEF in 2012, the 1st African WinS ILE was hosted by the Ministry of National Education and Literacy of Côte d'Ivoire and brought together Government representatives from 20 African countries and their key WASH in Schools partners (Development partners, NGOs and INGOs) from a total of 26 African countries – East and Southern Africa and West and Central Africa – with invited global partners from Asia, Europe, North America and the Pacific. Global data on WinS from the JMP was presented as well as UNICEF's new strategic directions for WinS. Participants had the opportunity to learn from experiences in Asia (South-South learning exchange), visit schools and experience WinS in action in Côte d'Ivoire. In small groups of 3 countries, government representatives were able to present current WinS challenges and seek advice from their peers in other countries. The last day of the event was dedicated for country representatives to plan the way forward towards reaching the SDGs for WinS (under SDG 4 and 6) and to discuss recommendations on the way forward for WinS in Africa.

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.

All participants thank the Government and the Ministry of National Education and Literacy of Côte d'Ivoire for hosting the event and for providing the opportunity to exchange and learn.

REACH
THE SDGs
FOR WinS



OBJECTIVES

- > FACILITATE LEARNING AND EXCHANGE ON WinS AMONG COUNTRIES IN AFRICA
- > GENERATE MOMENTUM TO ACCELERATE PROGRESS ON WinS
- > HARMONIZE AND ALIGN STRATEGIES AND EFFORTS ON WinS
- > STRENGTHEN REGIONAL NETWORK OF MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION, HEALTH AND WATER AND PARTNERS IN THE WinS LANDSCAPE

AGENDA

DAY 1 WELCOME AND SETTING THE SCENE

- > Welcome of participants and opening remarks
- > Keynote message: Sanitation and Water for All
- > Setting the scene – JMP data on WinS and UNICEF WinS strategy
- > Videos from countries on WinS implementation

DAY 2 THEMATIC ASPECTS OF WinS

- > Thematic sessions:
 1. WinS Monitoring
 2. WinS O&M, Budgeting and Financing
 3. WinS Capacity Development
 4. Menstrual Health and Hygiene
- > Sharing of best-practices and the experiences in Asia

DAY 3 FIELD TRIP

- > School visits – 4 groups, each group visited 2 schools
- > Meeting with education officials

DAY 4 CONSULTING EACH OTHER ON SPECIFIC WinS TOPICS

- > Debriefing of school visits
- > Emerging topics: climate resilient WinS interventions + group work
- > Country consultation sessions (3 countries): peer to peer learning on WinS challenges

DAY 5 PLANNING, WAY FORWARD AND CLOSING

- > Country planning and way forward
- > Way forward for WinS in Africa
- > Closing



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RECOMMENDATIONS

1 EDUCATION SECTOR LEADERSHIP AND INTERSECTORAL COLLABORATION

The education sector should own and provide leadership for strategic WinS direction and WASH in Schools (WinS) program implementation, in partnership with other relevant sectors (especially Water and Health) and stakeholders depending on national context. The supportive policy environment should be strengthened, accountability fostered, roles and responsibilities between Ministries clarified and intersectoral coordination improved to enable effective collaboration across all levels. WinS should be included in planning mechanisms of the Ministry of Education and other relevant Ministries, depending on the country context.

2 NATIONAL WinS POLICIES & IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES

National WinS Standards should be available and aligned with the WHO/UNICEF JMP service level definitions. In order to support the operationalization of WinS policies and standards, context specific implementation guidelines and capacity development concepts should be developed with input of all stakeholders, promoting stepwise upgrading of WinS services and activities (including O&M and hygiene), scaling-up coverage in a realistic and sustainable manner. Policies, implementation guidelines and capacity development concepts should include aspects of disability and gender sensitivity, climate resilience and foster participatory methods for social and behavioral change involving relevant stakeholders and school communities.

3 NATIONAL WinS MONITORING

National WinS monitoring systems as part of regular education sector monitoring should be developed or strengthened (e.g using the Three Star Approach for WinS), using indicators that are aligned with the SDGs. 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. Available data and evidence should be used for national WinS planning and decision making on all levels.

4 ADVOCACY AND INCREASED BUDGET ALLOCATION FOR WinS

A national multisectoral WinS investment strategy with clear long-term government budget commitments based on evidence for life cycle cost (including O&M), is key to ensure gradual progress towards universal coverage of all schools. Existing national WinS Data should be analyzed and used to advocate for WinS budgeting (including WinS infrastructure, O&M costs and other program implementation costs like supplies or required capacity development etc).