

जितेन्द्र शंकर माथुर, आई.ए.एस
संयुक्त सचिव
Jitendra Shankar Mathur, I.A.S
Joint Secretary



भारत सरकार
पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता मंत्रालय
Government of India
Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation
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D.O. No. W- 11042/41/2011/CRSP

March, 2012

Dear

As you are aware the School Sanitation and Hygiene Education (SSHE) is an important component of Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC). There have been significant policy developments in the Water and Sanitation Hygiene (WASH) in Schools sector in India in recent times namely revision in the incentive for toilets in schools, conjoint approach of provision of water and sanitation in school infrastructure, specification of minimum norms and standards of school WASH infrastructure as per Right to Education Act, 2009 which provides the legal framework for quality education.

Keeping in view the evolving scenario of WASH in Schools, Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, along with Department of Education, MHRD, GOI and UNICEF Regional Office, Kathmandu and India Country Office, New Delhi, are organizing a "South Asia Regional WASH in Schools Conference" during **April 23-27, 2012, in New Delhi.**

The overall aim of this workshop is to highlight WASH-in-schools as a convergent priority for the education and WASH sectors. The key objectives of the workshop are to deliberate on key actions to accelerate sustainable WASH-in-Schools programmes, to assess and strengthen monitoring systems in tracking real progress in the field, and to review inclusive and participatory approaches for up-scaling WASH-in-Schools. The workshop will provide a good platform for those involved in scaling up of water and sanitation schools as a part of TSC and Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). The Regional Conference will also offer an opportunity to learn from diverse experience in South Asia and also share our achievements.

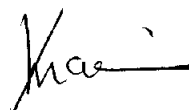
You are requested to kindly **nominate 2-3 key officials** from the Department who are involved with implementation of WASH in Schools under TSC, who can use this valuable experience to accelerate the progress.

You are requested to send the names of officials participating from your State to the Ministry and to Ms. Mamita Thakkar, UNICEF, preferably by March 10th, 2012 for necessary preparatory work.

A background note in this regard is also enclosed for your reference.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,



[J.S.MATHUR]

All the State Secretaries incharge of Sanitation

Cc: TSC Coordinators of all states

Cc: 1. Mr. Aiden Cronin,
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WASH-in-All-Schools - From Dream to Reality

WASH-in-Schools Conference for South Asia (SAARC) countries

April 24-27, 2012

Conference announcement



Venue: Delhi

Department of School Education and Literacy
Ministry of Human Resource development
Government of India

Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation
Government of India

UNICEF India Country Office and UNICEF South Asia Regional Office



Background

School water supply, sanitation and hygiene education have a profound impact on the learning and health of children, especially for girls. It is directly related not only to physical, mental and social health, but ultimately to economic and political development. Despite progress in recent years resulting from the efforts of many stakeholders, including governments, development agencies and communities, too many schools still remain without safe drinking water, appropriate sanitation facilities and the hygiene education. Girls remain particularly vulnerable to dropping out of school partly because many are reluctant to continue their schooling when toilet and washing facilities are either not safe or not available at all.

Lack of action is not because there is insufficient knowledge of the components necessary for effective school water, sanitation and hygiene programmes. Recent and growing evidence from the field points to key components necessary to implement an effective and sustainable WASH in Schools programme. There is also no shortage of mandates to undertake WASH-in-Schools programmes. The need to invest in water supply, sanitation and hygiene services in and around schools is supported by several international agreements, including the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Vision 21, The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), Education for All, the 2005 MDGs Gender Parity Target, and a World Fit for Children Goals.

Great strides have been made in South Asia to safeguard the well-being of children in schools. Millions of school children now can use safe drinking water, appropriate sanitation facilities and practice good hygiene. The experience gained over the past decade can well be applied to sustaining WASH-in-Schools programmes that improve health, foster learning, contribute to dignity and gender equality, and enable children to participate as agents of change for their siblings, their parents and the community at large.

Despite progress reported in the region, key challenges remain in terms of access to quality infrastructure, which follows child friendly standards and norms, lack of capacities to influence sustained behavior change, gaps in monitoring systems that do capture quality, and functionality of water and sanitation systems, effective hygiene education, etc. Comprehensive data, such as the number, quality, and functionality of water and sanitation systems is of critical importance for the design and management, and the ultimate success of WASH-in-Schools programmes.

With the passing of the **Right to Education Act (RTE) Act in 2009** and the recent Supreme Court Order to all states to provide safe drinking water and separate toilet facilities for girls in all schools, , India provides a very relevant context to understand the importance of WASH in Schools. Besides, the Prime Minister speech on Independence day, 2010 stressed the need for hygiene education in schools and called for greater action by PRIs, civil society groups and common citizens. The RTE provides the legal framework for quality education in India, and mandates minimum norms and standards of school WASH infrastructure.

This three-day workshop will bring together WASH-in-Schools practitioners from all countries in South Asia, to discuss issues and create awareness and understanding of key approaches and lessons learnt and review data. Using case studies from the field and ongoing research, participants will discuss how to most efficiently and effectively improve the use of safe and sustainable drinking water, clean sanitation facilities and hygiene in schools, while addressing the specific needs of children from all social and economic groups.

Key Objectives of the Conference

- Consider key actions for acceleration of WASH- in-Schools to promote enrolment and retention especially for girls, and children from disadvantaged groups
- Review and strengthen the monitoring system to create evidence and promote sustainable WASH in schools.
- Review inclusive and participatory practices for WASH- in-Schools programming at scale

Key questions to be focused during the Conference

- ❖ How to work across sectors to increase investments in child-friendly schools, including child- and gender-friendly WASH facilities in all schools?
- ❖ How to engage those who set policies and allocate budgets that determine WASH-in-Schools outcomes?
- ❖ How to monitor WASH-in-Schools programme along quality indicators like functionality, quality of infrastructure, child-and gender-friendliness, etc. What are the examples of simple, sustainable systems of monitoring?
- ❖ How do we contribute to the evidence base nationally and globally, for informed decision-making and effective distribution and use of funds? How do we gather and share comprehensive data, disaggregated by gender, access and quality of services?
- ❖ How do we demonstrate quality WASH in Schools programme so that schools create conditions where children themselves are agents of change in their families and communities?
- ❖ How do we collect data for tracking progress, for determining accountability, for evaluating project effectiveness, for learning and advocacy, and to inform planning?

Outline of the Conference (*details to be shared later*)

Day 1 – April 24, 2012	Departure from New Delhi for the field visits (details will be provided soon) and return the same day.
Day 2 – April 25, 2012	Inauguration of the Conference. Looking back, taking stock, where is South Asia in WASH-in-Schools?
Day 3 – April 26, 2012	Thematic sessions: Best practices, monitoring systems, equity in WASH in schools
Day 4 – April 27, 2012	Way forward; key action points for future follow-up Valedictory session

Venue:

Delhi: To be decided

Participant countries

Participation for the conference is expected from all SAARC countries, namely Afghanistan, Bhutan, Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

How to participate?

In each of the SAARC countries, the UNICEF Country Office and Government will select a multi-sectoral group of participants who can contribute to and benefit from participation in the workshop. Participants will include key staff from Government, civil society, academics, and the UN. Interested organizations should contact the concerned UNICEF Country Office:

Country Offices should send their first tentative list of participants by **February 28, 2012 to . Ms. Jessinda Mathew, E mail id: jmathew@unicef.org, Ph: 24690401, ext. 580**. A travel plan for the participants (please refer to Annexure – II) also needs to be filled up and sent to us by 15 February 2012, to enable us arrange for the pick-up and drop facility from the airport to the venue.

The organisers will bear the cost of lodging and boarding, including transport to and from New Delhi airport, and the cost of workshop materials. Travel costs will have to be borne by individuals/participating organisations.

How to send Registration form?

Please print a copy of the Registration form or download the same from <http://www.unicef.in/>, fill in details and send a scanned copy to the nodal person as mentioned in the contact detail.

Arrangements in India

Participants are expected to arrive in New Delhi by afternoon of **April 23, 2012** at the latest. They should plan to depart on April 27 or April 28. Hotel bookings will be made from **23rd April to 28th April**. If flights are unavailable and a participant has to arrive a day early or leave the day after; organizers must be notified well in advance so that accommodation can be arranged.

All participants must be protected with health and travel insurance, including evacuation in case of an during emergency.

Contact details

Mr. Henk van Norden

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Dr. Aidan Cronin

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Registration form

Name of the participant: <i>(Please prefix Mr./ Ms./ Dr.)</i>		
Sex:		
Nationality:		
Designation:		
Office:		
Contact Address <i>(Please provide full details):</i>	Office:	
	Home:	
Telephone No.(s):	Office:	
	Home:	
	Mobile:	
E-mail:		
Passport details <i>(For participants outside India):</i>	Passport No.:	
	Date of Issue:	
	Place of Issue:	
	Valid till:	
Key functions in the present position:		
Signature:		

Travel Plan

Name of the participant: <i>(Please prefix Mr./ Ms./ Dr.)</i>	
Sex:	
Nationality:	
Travel for attending the conference:	Starting date of travel:
	Mode of travel:
	Flight detail (airline & flight no.):
	Arrival date & ETA:
Return travel after the conference:	Starting date of travel:
	Mode of travel:
	Flight detail (airline & flight no.):
	Flight departure time: