

Water and Sanitation: A Checklist for the Environment and Supplies in Schools

Description of the tool:

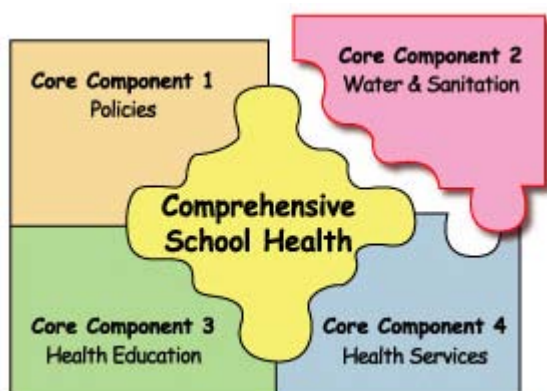
A series of Good Practice Guides has been prepared to provide members of the Interagency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE) with access to focused information related to education in emergency situations. This tool sets out a number of strategies that will help ensure that schools and educational facilities have adequate water, sanitation and hygiene facilities to guarantee the health of their students and staff. A checklist of general questions, as well as some that are specific to availability of water, sanitation, solid waste disposal and the occurrence of vector-borne diseases in the community is also included.

The information in this tool was adapted by UNESCO from the website of the Interagency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE):

<http://www.ineesite.org/school/water.asp>

Description of the website:

The website of the Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE) contains a wide-range of Good Practice Guides for Education in Emergencies and other current research and information.



This information supports Core Component #2 of the FRESH framework for effective school health: **water, sanitation & the environment**. It will have a greater impact if it is reinforced by activities in the other three components of the framework.

Water and Sanitation: A Checklist for the Environment and Supplies in Schools¹

Water and Sanitation

In areas of crisis, lack of sufficient water, sanitation and hygiene facilities typically lead to more deaths than any other cause. With this in mind, all schools and educational facilities should have adequate water, sanitation and hygiene facilities to ensure the health of their students and staff.

Strategies

➤ Ensure adequate water and storage for school needs

Clean water should be sufficient for schools needs, including drinking, hand washing, cooking and cleaning. In schools with feeding programs, the World Food Programme (WFP) has established a minimum of 5 litres of water per day per student in difficult times and for only a limited amount of time. Water storage containers should be regularly cleaned and checked to ensure that the water is safe for drinking. In some cases, non-educational organizations may need to be contacted to clean the existing well or provide a new well or rain catchment system.

➤ Ensure properly placed and sufficient toilets for students and teachers

Toilets should be at least 50 metres away from the school and 30 metres away from any ground source of water. Ideally, toilets should be VIP (Ventilated Improved Pit) toilets and/or have wood ash available to limit the breeding of flies. Adequate toilets should be available for male and female students and teachers, as well as accessible for young children and children with disabilities. Hand washing stands with soapy water (e.g. one bar of soap grated into a bucket or container of water with a tap or spigot at the bottom) should be placed by the toilets. WFP suggested standards are one toilet cubicle for every 25 girls, one toilet cubicle for every 100 boys and one urinal for every 40-60 boys.

Note on VIP Toilets:

More expensive VIP toilets are preferred over basic pit latrines because they prevent flies from spreading germs. A VIP toilet consists of a pit covered with a slab with a squat hole, a semi-dark building, and a vent pipe coming up from the pit through the slab and extending .5 metres above the roof. As long as the latrine is dark inside the flies will follow the light up the vent pipe. The end of the vent pipe is screened to prevent flies from escaping and spreading germs within the community.

➤ Ensure clean and hygienic school and learning area

The inside and outside of schools and educational areas should be clean and well kept to limit vector-borne diseases. This is important not only for health reasons but also for the psychosocial environment of the school. Classrooms, halls, corridors and toilets should be cleaned on a daily basis. Trash should be taken off the school compound, or collected, placed in a rubbish pit and burned. Kitchen, eating areas and toilets should have hand-washing facilities to prevent the further spread of disease. Hygiene and sanitation activities should be complemented by health education campaigns that target not only behaviour but also the monitoring of the school by students, school administration, teachers and parents. Adequate brooms, shovels, buckets, cleaning agents, grass slashers/machetes, etc. should be available to fulfil these expectations.

Checklist

1. General:

1.1 What are the main health problems in the community? _____

1.2 Which of these are most prevalent among students/staff in the school? _____

1.3 Have linkages been made with non-education sector experts to address water, sanitation and health education issues within the school?

___ Yes With whom? _____

___ No Who could be contacted? _____

2. Water:

2.1 Where does the school's supply of water come from?

Ground water (dug well, borehole, spring)

2.1.a Is the well clean? ___ Yes ___ No

Rainwater collection

2.1.b Is the storage container clean? ___ Yes ___ No

2.1.c Is the water treated? ___ Yes ___ No

Surface water (rivers, lakes) **Without treatment this is a major health hazard**

2.2 What is the water quality? _____

2.3 Who tests it? _____

2.4 How often? _____

2.5 Is treatment necessary? ___ Yes ___ No

2.5.a Is it being implemented? ___ Yes ___ No

2.5.b How often? _____

2.6 Is the water sufficient? ___ Yes ___ No

2.7 Is water available all of the time at the school? ___ Yes ___ No

2.8 What is the level of the groundwater? _____

2.9 Does the amount of water available change throughout the school year? i.e. dry season/rainy season? ___ Yes ___ No

3. Sanitation

3.1 What are the present practices of defecation?

3.2 Are the toilets sufficient for the number of teachers and students?
(See WFP standards above) ___Yes ___No

3.3 Are people familiar with the construction and use of toilets? ___Yes ___No

3.4 What types of toilets are available? **Open defecation is not acceptable**

Pit latrine

3.4.a Is there a cover for the latrine? ___Yes ___No

3.4.b Is wood ash or dirt provided to prevent flies? ___Yes ___No

VIP (Ventilated Improved Pit) toilet

Flush Toilet

3.5 Are toilets at least 30 metres from any drinking water source? ___Yes ___No

3.6 Are toilets suitable for both younger and older students? ___Yes ___No

3.7 Are there separate toilet facilities for male and female students
and teachers? ___Yes ___No

3.8 Are the toilets accessible to persons with disability? ___Yes ___No

3.9 Are hand-washing facilities with soap available? ___Yes ___No

3.10 Are toilets clean? ___Yes ___No

3.11 Are they cleaned regularly? ___Yes ___No

3.12 By whom? _____

3.13 What do students or teachers use for cleaning themselves? _____

3.14 Is this readily available? ___Yes ___No

3.15 Are there signs in the latrines encouraging good hygiene? ___Yes ___No

3.16 Is health education included in the school curriculum? ___Yes ___No

3.16.a Is health a separate class? ___Yes ___No

3.16.b Is health taught in one or more carrier subjects? ___Yes ___No

3.16.c Which subjects? _____

3.17 Are students' hygiene behaviours monitored or evaluated? ___Yes ___No

3.17.a How and by whom? _____

4. Solid Waste Disposal

4.1 Where does the rubbish or trash go?

Burned and buried on the school compound

4.1.a What is the relation of the rubbish pit to the water source? _____

4.1.b Is the rubbish pit at least 100 metres from the school? ___Yes ___No

Taken off the school site

5. Vector-borne diseases

5.1 What vector-borne diseases are present in the community?

Mosquito-borne diseases

Which ones? _____

Rodent (mice/rat)-borne diseases?

Which ones? _____

Fly-borne diseases?

Which ones? _____

5.2 What steps have been taken to prevent vector-borne diseases from spreading? _____

5.3 Is the school compound clean? ___Yes ___No

5.4 Is the grass slashed to keep down insects and mosquitoes,
and reduce the risk of fire? ___Yes ___No

5.5 Are there any areas where stagnant water can act as a breeding
ground for mosquitoes? ___Yes ___No

Can these be filled? ___Yes ___No

5.6 What cleaning materials are available?

Brooms

Water buckets

Shovels

Grass slashers/Machetes

Other _____

5.7 What materials are needed? _____

¹ Adapted from Interagency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE) website at:
<http://www.ineesite.org/school/water.asp>