

OUTCOME

2ND AFRICAN WASH IN SCHOOLS INTERNATIONAL LEARNING EXCHANGE 7-10 MAY 2024 ZANZIBAR, TANZANIA



EXCHANGE HIGHLIGHTS AND INNOVATIONS

The 2nd African Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene in Schools (WinS) International Learning Exchange (ILE) was convened from May 7 to 10, 2024, in Zanzibar, Tanzania. Co-organized by GIZ and UNICEF, and hosted by the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training of Zanzibar, this event brought together government representatives from 18 African nations, their key WASH in Schools partners—including NGOs and development organizations—and international topic experts.

THE EVENT AIMED TO

- › enhance knowledge exchange,
- › accelerate WinS actions and,
- › strengthen partnerships.



This document and its recommendations encapsulate the collective resolve among attendees to drive forward the agenda for comprehensive WinS coverage, with the aim of achieving basic WinS services coverage in all schools by 2030 as endorsed by all UN member states through the SDGs.

The 2nd WinS African ILE built on the foundations laid during the 1st WinS African ILE in Côte d'Ivoire in 2023, and focused on critical updates and strategic advancements in the WinS sector. Key features included:

DATA AND DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

Insights from the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme detailed the current global and regional WinS landscape and recent advances, fuelling discussions on strategic enhancements in WinS practices to accelerate progress.

THEMATIC SESSIONS

Interactive sessions fostered a rich exchange of ideas, inspired by and aligned with the UNICEF WASH in Schools Acceleration Framework (2023–2030) and the framework's five acceleration areas, namely governance and policy, financing, data and monitoring, capacity development, and innovation. Updates and examples on menstrual health and hygiene, climate resilience and capacity development complemented the programme, as well as the introduction of the Toilet Loss concept, quantifying for the first time the negative economic, social and health impacts resulting from unusable toilet facilities in schools and providing pathways for smarter, more impactful investments in WinS by prioritizing operation and maintenance (O&M).

SCHOOL VISITS

Delegates visited a range of schools in Zanzibar and engaged with school communities and their WinS realities.

COUNTRY DIALOGUES

Highly interactive peer-to-peer mentoring sessions allowed country delegations and partners to dive deep into specific WinS challenges and discuss realistic solutions.

COMMITMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Delegates noted a shift towards a more integrated and holistic perspective of WinS, highlighting how elements like Menstrual Health and Hygiene (MHH), climate resilience, and economic factors such as Toilet Loss are embedded in WinS programming, also addressing comprehensive capacity development of institutions and actors to strengthen the entire WinS sector. Embracing a systemic approach acknowledges that while each component – from engineering to policy, and from management to financing – plays a crucial role in achieving universal WASH in Schools, no single aspect can tackle the challenges independently.



2 POLICY AND IMPLEMENTATION

Set clear national WinS policies aligned with WHO/UNICEF JMP service level definitions, and craft contextual implementation guidelines including clear targets, costing frames, and measures for capacity development. These should facilitate stepwise enhancements in WinS services, focusing on sustainability, inclusivity, and resilience, and should actively engage school communities in the process.

3 MONITORING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Monitoring data is the basis for goal setting, data-driven decision making, and transparent resource allocation that will foster a culture of accountability and strengthen sector governance at all levels. Develop or strengthen comprehensive national WinS monitoring frameworks within the education sector's data collection systems, employing SDG-aligned indicators to enable detailed analysis and reporting at all relevant levels. Data on usable toilets will also allow for Toilet Loss analysis. Consider integrating MHH data in WinS monitoring and align indicators with the "Global List of Priority Indicators for Monitoring Girls' MHH".

1 LEADERSHIP AND INTEGRATION

Empower the education sector to lead, initiate, plan, manage, and evaluate WinS programmes, in collaboration with the health, water and other relevant sectors. This approach should focus on enhancing policy support, increasing accountability, clarifying inter-ministerial roles, and strengthening intersectoral coordination, and institutional arrangements for effective collaboration, thereby involving all levels of administrations from national to school level.

4 SUSTAINABLE FUNDING

Formulate cross-sectoral WinS funding strategies underpinned by predictable and continued governmental financial commitments based on realistic costing, thereby steadily increasing the governmental share of WinS investments, and reducing donor dependency and parent payments. Leverage the power of data to advocate for adequate budget allocations to address toilet loss within national WinS policies, emphasizing a smart mix of investments in infrastructure and O&M, as well as capacity development, while prioritizing efforts to ensure availability of usable and clean toilets. No toilet should be built without a clear plan and funding for sustained O&M.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: All participants extended their deepest appreciation to the Government of Tanzania, the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training of Zanzibar, and to the schools visited for their exceptional hospitality and for providing an enriching platform for knowledge exchange and collaboration.

ENGAGEMENT AND DISSEMINATION: Participants are encouraged to continue the dialogue, also using social media with some of the suggested hashtags:

#DataDrivesChange

#ToiletsForAll

#WinsNetwork

#SustainableWASHforAll

#WASHinSchoolsForAll

#BoysAndMenForMHH

#CombatToiletLoss

... AND MORE