



## What is WASH in Schools?



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) is important for good health. Schools take simple, inexpensive steps to improve WASH facilities at their school, and healthy hygiene habits are taught, practised and integrated into daily school routines.



## WASH in Schools

### Improving health and education of children in Honiara, Solomon Islands

Live & Learn ran a successful four-year Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Schools program in seven schools, benefiting over 4600 students. The program was part of a broader program delivered with 18,000 students in Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Fiji and Vanuatu with funding from the the Australian Government through the "Western Pacific Sanitation Marketing & Innovation Program" funded by the Civil Society WASH Fund.

In a short period of time the program achieved many positive outcomes, including:

- Upgraded and improved school toilet blocks
- Increased handwashing station facilities
- Provision of soap for hand-washing at critical times
- Products and facilities to support menstruating girls now accessible at schools

### Improving access to water

Before the WASH in Schools program, only four of the seven target schools had access to water.

WASH in Schools helped mobilise the schools to establish WASH Committees that paid off old water bills and reconnected water supply.

Access to water is a prerequisite for good WASH. The seven schools have now joined forces to petition the Solomon Islands Water Authority for lower water tariffs for schools.

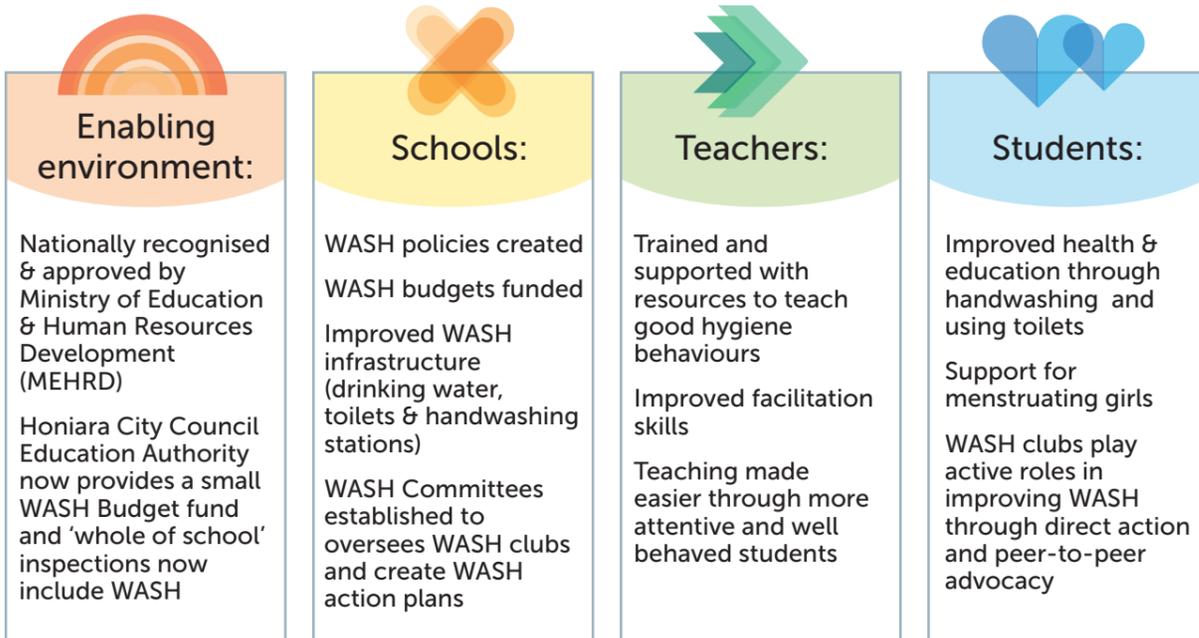


In this project Live & Learn worked with schools on a bottom-up approach that demonstrates the impact of WASH in Schools on improved learning and student well-being.

Live & Learn uses an adapted the UNICEF 3-Star Schools and Bottleneck Analysis approach. Bottleneck analysis assumes that WASH in Schools problems can be conceptualized as a type of service delivery chain. The bottleneck is a point where services are restricted. Schools are provided with tools and skills to critically assess and act to improve their WASH services.

The simplified bottom-up approach to collecting and analysing evidence for WASH at a school level implemented by L&L staff with partner schools lead to school WASH Committees establish plans to improve toilets and hand-washing facilities in schools, improve teacher-led hygiene promotion in classes, improve peer-to-peer advocacy by students, strengthen engagement with local and national Ministries of Education.

### WASH in Schools works at different levels to promote bottom-up change



The WASH in Schools program worked with the Honiara City Council Education Authority to identify schools most in need of improved WASH and Live & Learn met with school principals and staff to explain the program and seek their support. Schools formed WASH Committees and student WASH Clubs. Teachers were trained to teach hygiene using fun and interactive techniques with the support of WinS resources. Schools conducted bottleneck analyses of WASH, and created action plans and school WASH budgets.

Participating schools included:

- Koloale Community High School
- Mbokonavera School
- Vura School
- Mbokona Primary School
- Illia Primary School
- Naha School
- Honiara Integrated Primary School

## WinS is welcomed at HIPS

Honiara Integrated Primary School (HIPS) caters for approximately 630 students in a very confined location. With support from Live & Lean, HIPS has made improvements to school WASH facilities:

- Upgraded ablution block (tiles, toilets, septic tank & artwork)
- New mobile handwashing stations established
- Soap and toilet paper available
- Menstrual hygiene products and girls kits available

A school WASH Club involving approximately 20 students is responsible for setting up and filling plastic drums with water to support handwashing. Club members also clean the toilets on a daily basis and keep the schoolyard tidy.

Students now come to school early to see if their names are written up on the WASH Club roster to carry out extra duties. This enthusiasm has improved the punctuality of students.

Students know about the importance of good hygiene, including washing hands with soap 'before kai kai, and after using the toilet to stop germs and pikinini getting sick'.

The WASH Club uses global days of celebration such as Global Handwashing Day to mobilise students and promote hygiene awareness across the entire school community, including parents.

## Market Mamas supporting WASH at HIPS

Market Mamas who sell food to children asked the HIPS WASH Committee for water containers to support children in washing their hands before eating.

Some Market Mamas even enforced a 'No wash hands, no kai kai' rule. A portion of the small stall rental fees paid by Market Mamas supports the school WASH budget.



"No wash hands, no kai kai"

## Menstrual hygiene supports girls to attend at school

Before WinS, many girls would leave school during the day when they started menstruating and they would often be absent from school for several days.

Several schools have built separate, safe and private convenience rooms for girls to wash and change their clothes when menstruating and have 'girls kits' available that contain soap and a towel, a change of clothes and sanitary products so girls can remain at school and manage their period with dignity.

Mrs Webster from HIPS acknowledged that "there are now fewer girls absent at school". She also indicated that instead of teasing girls, boys are now notifying a teacher if they see a girl who needs assistance.



## WinS is welcomed at Mbokonavera School

In a short period of time, WinS at Mbokonavera School Primary Division has resulted in many positive changes for the 784 students and 24 staff:

- Water supply reconnected
- New water pipes and water meter to fix leaks.
- New 10-tap handwashing station
- Upgraded ablution block (toilets, septic, doors with locks, 4 new wash basins)
- Plans for a new ablution block pending approval
- New rainwater collection tanks to reduce water bills
- Menstrual hygiene products available for girls

"Live & Learn WASH in School activities cause very good change to take place at this school. You only have to look around at the ablution block, handwashing station, water tank and new water pipes to see the difference the program has made. Now with accessible handwashing stations, pikinini are washing hands without instructions. Students now come forward to tell us if there is a problem with WASH at the school. This is new. Before, teachers just ignore the WASH problem, now they, along with the WASH clubs are taking action. The WinS project has taken the educational environment positively to a new height in the profession of teaching and learning." Mr Edison Adiomea, Mbokonavera School

## WASH in Schools resources

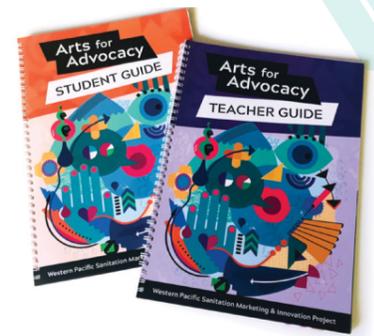
Live & Learn has created a WASH in Schools Toolkit to support the delivery of key program components. Teacher and student resource guides, activities sheets and artwork are integrated into the school curriculum, filling the previous gap in hygiene education.

Hands Up for Hygiene and Germbusters are key resources that can be downloaded from the Live & Learn website.

Arts for Advocacy is a key approach as creative activities such as painting, photography, video, drama, music, stories and dance are powerful tools to inspire people to change their thinking

and actions. Arts-based activities tell powerful stories, raise visibility and inspire others to build culture and create stronger communities.

Live & Learn Environmental Education has published the Arts for Advocacy guides for students and teachers, which is available to download from: <https://www.artsforadvocacy.org.au>



## Sustaining the benefits of WASH in Schools

WinS is a nationally endorsed approach supported by MEHRD and a national WASH in Schools office provides support to schools. UNICEF has a key enabling role. At the school-level, WASH infrastructure improvements made at schools are highly likely to be maintained through the support of school WASH Policies, WASH budgets and SDP funds. Improved hygiene and sanitation behaviours continue through advocacy and encouragement from both WASH Committees and WASH Clubs.

There are exciting opportunities to advance WASH in Schools in Solomon Islands. The national government is providing ongoing support for WASH in Schools activities in Solomon Islands. Live & Learn provided input into national WASH in Schools standards that

were approved in June 2018. These standards provide the foundation for broader implementation and scale-up.

Live & Learn's experienced local team will continue their WASH in Schools work through a project funded by Australian Aid's Water for Women program. The project is implemented with Plan International Australia, and aims to improve WASH in 22 rural schools, and support UNICEF and MEHRD to implement the Solomon Islands Better Learning Environment project, which will improve WASH in up to 50 schools.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

[www.livelearn.org](http://www.livelearn.org) • [enquiries@livelearn.org](mailto:enquiries@livelearn.org)

**Australian Aid**