

KISUMU and NYANDO DISTRICTS: Access to Safe Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for Schools and Children

The Great Lakes University of Kisumu and Emory University collected on safe water, sanitation, and hygiene practice in divisions in four districts in Nyanza Province as part of the SWASH+ project. The information was gathered from January to March 2008 on over 10,000 children in almost 5,000 households as baseline research, in order to measure the effectiveness of the program. It also sheds light on huge gaps in provision of safe water, sanitation, and hygiene, all of which are essential for child health and educational performance.

Access to Safe Water

- Only 2% of schools report treating water to make it safe for drinking.
- While 85% of schools have a rainwater storage tank, only 63% of schools have a rainwater storage tank in working condition and only 42% have a tank that is in good condition and with working gutters.
- In the rainy season, the average distance from schools to the primary water source is 71m while in the dry season it is 425m.
- In the rainy season, 90% of schools have access to an improved water source (mainly rainwater tank), while in the dry season, this number shrinks to 41% with 40% using surface water.

Access to Sanitation

- 95% of schools surveyed exceeded the government recommended ratio of girl pupils per latrine of 25:1. The average ratio in schools surveyed was 86.3:1 or more than triple the recommended.
- 100% of schools exceeded the government ratio of boy pupils per latrine of 30:1. The average ratio in schools surveyed was 99.7:1 or more than two and a half times the recommended ratio.
- There are significant problems with latrine cleanliness and maintenance. 52% of schools had a latrine bank with odor problems, 68% had at least one bank with a general lack of cleanliness or visible feces and 45% of schools had latrines with fly control problems.

Promotion of Hygiene

- Only 21% of schools reported *ever* providing water for hand washing and only 13% of schools provided water for hand washing on the day surveyed.
- 49.3% of households have a location for hand washing with soap and water.