Snapshot of WASH in Schools in Eastern & Southern Africa: A review of data, evidence and inequities in the region


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Description:
It is estimated that 272 million school days globally can be gained if the Millenium Development Goal (MDG) for sanitation is achieved. That is, children who are burdened by diarrheal illness caused by poor water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) are more susceptible to malnutrition resulting in diminished concentration, attendance, focus and physical development. Apart from impacts on educational performance, health and social development, access to WASH in schools is about dignity and respect for the child in enabling a safe and healthy learning environment. Since the global Joint Call to Action for WASH in Schools, “Raising Clean Hands,” was published in 2010, the focus on school-based water, sanitation and hygiene has increased, but still lags behind targets for global and regional coverage, which is improving, but much too slowly. Through the work of UNICEF and partner organizations, we have seen the impact that improved WASH in schools can have on children’s lives. Bringing these positive experiences to scale will require a concerted and multi-sectoral effort, partnering with governmental and civil agencies. The report outlines the current coverage of WASH in Schools for each country in the region, as well as provides a baseline for tracking national policy environments to encourage working at scale.

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