



SNV, the Netherlands Development Organisation, is an international non-profit development organisation that provides capacity development services in 36 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. We help empower local communities, businesses and organisations to break the cycle of poverty by providing them with the tools, knowledge and connections they need to increase their incomes and gain access to basic services. We do this by providing advisory services, knowledge networking and supporting advocacy in the areas of agriculture; water, sanitation and hygiene; and renewable energy.

Facts about school WASH in Zambia

💧 500,000 pupils in 500 schools in Zambia do not use any toilet facilities at all. (Source: Ministry of Education, Education Management Information Systems, 2008).

💧 54% of Zambian schools use temporal pit latrines. (Source UNICEF, 2008).

💧 Only 29% of schools meet the recommended ratio of 25 male pupils per toilet and only 9% met the ratio of 20 female pupils per toilet (2008).

💧 About 52% of basic schools had hand-washing facilities. (Source: Ministry of Local Government 2011).

Water, sanitation, and hygiene for schools in Zambia



It is widely acknowledged that poor water supply, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) are among the factors contributing to low school enrolment and poor retention and progression for school-age children, especially adolescent girls. In over 1,300 schools in Zambia, about 1 million pupils use water from contaminated sources or walk a long way to fetch water from safe sources.¹

SNV Zambia provides capacity development services to the Ministry of Education, District Education Boards and local authorities to improve planning and budgeting for WASH in schools. SNV aims to reach 168,000 pupils, giving access to safe water and adequate sanitation, and achieving hygiene behaviour change by 2015.

1. Ministry of Education, Education Management Information Systems, 2008.

Challenges affecting WASH in schools

While the link between good hygiene and sanitation practices and school performance is well known, a number of barriers to action remain:

- 💧 Low government funding
- 💧 Poor operation and maintenance of water and sanitation facilities
- 💧 Lack of hygiene education and practice in school settings
- 💧 Inadequate pupil participation in implementing school WASH activities
- 💧 Poor information management systems to inform planning and investments

Our approach

SNV Zambia seeks to empower people to break the cycle of poverty and guide their own development by giving them the tools, knowledge, and connections they need to increase their incomes and gain access to basic services.

Along these lines, we use Local Capacity Builders (LCBs), in addition to our professionals, to provide advisory, knowledge brokering, and evidence-based advocacy services to local communities, businesses and organisations.

SNV has a long history working in Zambia, and we have worked with school WASH issues since 2007. To address low pupil access to clean water and improved sanitation, our capacity development services are designed to engage public sector institutions at national and district levels and improve:

- Planning and budgeting for school WASH resources
- Advocacy among civil society organisations
- Strengthening institutional collaboration on WASH
- Facilitating multi-stakeholder processes
- Integrated services to schools in district plans
- Promoting hygiene behaviour change communication in schools and communities



Who we work with

SNV cooperates with a wide range of stakeholders, with varying responsibilities for ensuring WASH service provision in schools, including; the Ministry of Local Government & Housing (MLGH), the Ministry of Education, district local authorities and district education boards, NGOs implementing WASH projects, and regional and international development agencies providing funding and technical assistance to the water and sanitation sector.

Our achievements to date

- Contributed to raising awareness of WASH issues in schools and to increasing the capacity of public sector institutions to collaborate and take action.
- Supported advocacy among the NGO WASH Forum, which lead to greater government allocations for school WASH initiatives, increasing from less than 2% of the water and sanitation budget in 2008 to 17.5% in 2010.
- Supported construction or rehabilitation of 43 water facilities, benefiting some 17,200 pupils (2011). Similarly, about 275 ventilated pit latrines and 300 hand-washing devices were installed in more than 50 schools in 14 districts.
- Supported Ministry of Education, District Education Boards and local authorities to improve planning and budgeting for WASH in schools, resulting in 1800 (920 girls) from five schools accessing safe water and sanitation facilities.

Where we work

With offices located in Lusaka and Kasama, SNV Zambia works mainly in the Northern, Muchinga, Central and Lusaka regions of the country.



SNV

For more information, please contact:

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