

Water and Sanitation Programme – Project Urgent, Mongolia

FY17 Update

Project Profile

Project Goal	To provide school children with increased access to drinking water, sanitation facilities and best practices in hygiene
Project Outcomes	<p>#1 Provide improved drinking water and sanitation facilities at target rural schools</p> <p>#2 Provide improved hygiene behaviour in students and teachers in targeted schools through community education campaigns</p> <p>#3 Ensure proper management and maintenance of facilities in collaboration with partners</p>
Beneficiaries	5,313 school children, teachers and staff from 3 schools in Uvurkhangai province

Backgrounder

Most latrines in schools and kindergartens were built in the 70s and 80s, and have been left in a state of neglect and disrepair due to the lack of regular monitoring and maintenance. The pit latrines that children have had to use at school become quickly full with waste as a result of the inadequate number of toilet facilities. Most of them have no ventilation, doors, locks, or handwashing facilities.

The lack of toilet facilities in schools meant that students had to practice open defecation; girls queued up for use of a single pit toilet in the wilderness outside school and were at risk of urinary tract infection and sexual harassment. Waiting for a chance to use the toilet in the bitter cold is a daily reality for Mongolian children.

The lack of good hygiene practices among students and teachers, as a consequence of the absence of community education campaigns, also aggravated health problems in an impoverished rural community already grappling with high rates of child and maternal mortality.



Pit latrine in the wilderness

Access to Toilets

Indoor sanitation facilities in 3 target schools were completed. Children are now accessing modern and national standard compliant flush toilets for defecation. In FY14, only 19.7% youth had access to improved sanitation facilities at school. Now the access is 85.5%. They are able to wash their hands after using the toilet and drinking sufficient, safe water in school. The school administration and teachers are very grateful for these facilities knowing that it will be beneficial to the future students' health, well-being and development.

School #1 in Arvaikheer

Previously

The school building was built in 1974. Since then sanitation facility was not renovated. School sanitation facilities were aged and the pipeline system was frequently breaking down with lack of functioning toilets.

Now

The project has constructed indoor toilet facilities attached to school building:

- 16 hand washing sinks
- 18 seated toilets
- 2 urinals newly installed

Beneficiaries

2,412 children aged 6-18 benefitted from separate female and male toilet rooms

School #4 in Arvaikheer

Previously

School building was built in 2009 with a water distribution pipeline system but there were no indoor toilet facilities. The children used outdoor latrines for defecation. The project constructed the extension building with separate indoor toilet cubicles for females and males.

Now

Installed:

- 15 hand washing sinks
- 15 squat toilet cabins
- 6 urinals in separate female and male cubicles

Beneficiaries

1,636 children in total

School #1 in Kharkhorin

Previously

It was not connected to the centralised water distribution and waste disposal system and children were using outdoor latrines for their defecation.

Now

Installed 350 metre long water distribution pipeline system from nearest centralised water resource and constructed indoor toilet facilities attached to school building:

- 16 hand washing sinks,
- 13 seated toilets
- 3 urinals in separate female and male toilet cubicles
- Teacher's restroom
- One restroom for the disabled

Beneficiaries

1,018 students

Less Vulnerability to Water Borne Diseases

There has not been any hygiene-related infectious disease incidence since the construction of these facilities and the year round community hygiene education campaign.

Enhanced Knowledge of Students regarding Sanitation and Hygiene

94.7% responded that they are provided with necessary information regarding water supply, sanitation and hygiene by their schools. A comparison by target schools showed that 94.9% of students from School #1 in Arvaikheer, 96.8% of students from School #4 in Arvaikheer, and 92.5% of students from School #1 in Kharkhorin responded that they received sufficient information on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) at their schools.

Global Hand Washing Day, World Toilet Day and World Water Day were appropriate events to deliver WASH knowledge and to promote hygiene behaviour development among school communities. Overall, 5,066 children and 247 teachers benefitted.

Sustainable Sanitation Solutions and Maintenance

280 teachers from 3 schools participated in WASH training. Also, 15 janitors and plumbers attended maintenance staff training and strengthened their knowledge on cleanliness, hygiene and disinfection standards.

Real Help, Real Hope



Before the project implementation, Saraa, a 9th grade student said, *“Our school latrine is very dirty, risky and makes me nauseous. It has a very big hole and in winter time, primary school pupils are at risk of falling into the frozen urine. Also there weren’t any doors and locks. We had to drink less to avoid defecation in the school as it was very difficult. In winter, it was hard to defecate in the cold.”*

But now, school children can benefit from the separated female and male toilets. As a result of the new toilets, students have opportunities to use improved latrines, improved water sources and can carry out good hygiene practices (including hand washing with soap). Also, open defecation around of the school stopped completely. 4th grade boy Hulegee says, *“Now I am very glad to use the very clean and new indoor toilet. I never have used such a nice toilet. Also I can wash my hands with warm water at the school when my hands are dirty. Thank you World Vision.”*