

Collaboration to accelerate national sanitation and hygiene improvements



Region

Global, with a focus on Eastern & Western Africa, South and Southeast Asia

Partner

WSSCC

Background information

WSSCC was created in 1990 by the UN General Assembly.

Project objectives

- To convene partners and foster collaborative behaviours to become 16 million people open defecation free and to accelerate progress toward SDG target 6.2.
- To promote Menstrual Hygiene Management to empower girls to take control of their health, by improving policies and standards for schools, and making knowledge, services and materials available.
- To improve knowledge and skills of individuals and agencies working in sanitation and hygiene.

Beneficiaries

Individuals without access to sanitation and hygiene, marginalized groups, sector professionals.

Costs

CHF 12,000,000

Duration

2018 – 2020

Contact

Global Programme Water
water@eda.admin.ch

The Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) is a multi-stakeholder membership and partnership organization that delivers results by working with national and local governments, civil society networks, communities, schools and local entrepreneurs. As a UN-hosted organization, WSSCC makes a positive difference in the lives of millions of vulnerable and marginalized people through improvements in their access to and use of sanitation and hygiene facilities and services, education and advocacy on issues like Menstrual Hygiene Management, and sector convening which accelerates progress toward Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target 6.2.

Nearly 900 million people still defecate in the open and 4.5 billion lack access to safely managed sanitation – decent toilets and, clean water, when people use water and soap for washing hands – life improves by every measure. When girls have access to gender-separated toilets and facilities for managing their menstruating in privacy and with dignity, school enrolment rates go up and drop-out rates go down. When mothers and children are less exposed to faecal pathogens, their nutritional status improves and stunting rates of young children go down.

WSSCC works at **global, national and sub-national levels** through advocacy, learning and strategic partnerships on increasing national capacity, leveraging domestic resources and mobilizing civil society towards scaling-up and accelerating progress towards SDG target 6.2. WSSCC's work links directly to SDGs on gender equality, health, education, urbanization and climate change.

The Global Sanitation Fund (GSF) delivers since 2010 targeted investments for national sanitation and hygiene programmes in rural communities. The GSF is designed to contribute to universal access to sustainable and equitable sanitation and hygiene, working in line with national strategies and SDG 6.2. It supports country-led initiatives in 11 countries focusing on equality, reaching the most vulnerable and underserved, and addressing the particular needs of women and girls. GSF-supported programmes use collective behaviour change approaches like Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) to achieve large-scale sustainable results in a cost-effective manner. Through the GSF, WSSCC is targeting the last ten to fifteen per cent of the population that often fail to benefit from mainstream development programming and economic growth.



A young girl in Senegal uses WSSCC's MHM wheel to learn about her menstrual cycle, starting a journey which will empower her for life.

Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) – Informing young girls about menstruation, addressing taboos and misconceptions and empowering them enables girls to take charge of their life-long health, including their sexual and reproductive health. WSSCC programming focuses on schools, and on the wider community and networks of girls. Where needed WSSCC addresses stigma and taboos around menstruation at the highest level of government, and is working in strategic partnerships with global business to elevate the importance of hygiene through research, education and innovation. WSSCC also partners with UN Women on policy advocacy and direct technical programming.

Equality and Non-discrimination to Leave No One Behind – WSSCC gives a voice to marginalized groups at national and international levels, to highlight their challenges in public life to have access to disability sensitive toilets. WSSCC works with global partners on introducing adaptations to household and community toilets that facilitate access to differently abled people.

Facilitating national sector discussions and learning events – WSSCC convenes national and sub-national sector discussions on accelerating progress towards SDG 6.2 through its National Coordinators, its partner networks and its nearly 5,000 individual members in 150 countries.

Research and Rapid Action Learning – WSSCC conducts highly creative applied research in areas such as hand washing and hygiene behaviour change, slippage, institutional triggering, and MHM.

Additional information:

www.wsscc.org