

PROJECT WISE: WASH IN SCHOOLS FOR EVERYONE

Location: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and Kolkata, India

Timeline: 2019-2023

Project Cost: \$45 million

Beneficiaries: One million underserved youth across 1,600 kindergarten, primary, and secondary urban schools

Objectives: Improved water, sanitation, and hygiene infrastructure at urban schools; behavior change programs for kids and school staff; and strengthened menstrual health services for girls



Splash is a nonprofit organization that designs child-focused water, sanitation, hygiene (WASH), and menstrual health solutions in some of the world's largest, low-resource cities. Over the next five years, we are focused on reaching 100% of government schools in two major growth cities: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and Kolkata, India. This exciting initiative is called Project WISE (WASH in Schools for Everyone). By the end of the project, for the first time, all government schools in Addis Ababa and Kolkata will have clean drinking water, handwashing stations, and child-friendly toilets. Will you join us?

THE CHALLENGE

Schools are everywhere, even in the poorest communities. Yet, a survey of 60 developing countries found that less than half of primary schools have access to safe water and just over a third have adequate sanitation. Unsafe drinking water and a lack of water or soap for handwashing are responsible for 2.2 million deaths each year, 90% of whom are children. Given rapid population growth and urbanization, governments struggle to provide equitable WASH services. As a result, school WASH conditions suffer. The challenges in Kolkata and Addis Ababa are complex – including contaminated drinking water, lack of water access, limited handwashing with soap, and toilets so dirty that kids don't want to use them.



WASH Indicators from Splash Citywide Surveys

INDICATOR	ADDIS ABABA	KOLKATA
Schools with water that tested positive for total coliform	19%	70%
Schools with reliable water access	6%	95%
Schools with soap for handwashing	10%	6%
School toilets with water for flushing	7%	67%
School toilets with facilities for menstrual hygiene management	15%	8%



WATER

- Leverage commercial-grade water filtration systems and water storage
- Ensure water is safe and reliably flowing at all times
- Provide durable, child-friendly drinking and handwashing stations

SANITATION

- Innovative sanitation design that promotes better hygiene behaviors
- Make facilities easier to clean, accessible for children with special needs, and safe and secure for use
- Upgrade facilities and construct additional toilets so all kids so all can go when they need to

HYGIENE

- Create an enabling environment that promotes handwashing
- Leverage students as the primary educators and actors
- Use environmental nudges to promote soap use and good hygiene

BEHAVIOR CHANGE

- Promote behavior change in both kids and school staff
- Merge knowledge, norms, emotions, and habits to create lasting change

MENSTRUAL HEALTH

- Strengthen school-based menstrual health services
- Create girl-friendly sanitation facilities
- Hold education and awareness events for boys and girls
- Train teachers and parents to provide support

WASH IN SCHOOLS IMPACT

WASH interventions in schools have been associated with reductions in school absenteeism, as well as diarrhea and other illness. At the same time, improving sanitation facilities by ensuring privacy, adequate water access, and disposal options for menstrual hygiene products particularly benefits adolescent girls, helping girls feel empowered and ensuring more equitable services. This project will demonstrate the feasibility of a citywide approach; prove a sustainable, cost-effective model for WASH in Schools; and encourage investment and replication across other major cities.

As part of Project WISE, the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine will conduct a multi-year evaluation to assess the impact of Splash's intervention at schools with a primary focus on better health and increased school attendance. Results are expected for publication in 2024.

JOIN US!

With a focus on improving children's health and increasing school attendance, Project WISE has the potential to be truly groundbreaking in the fields of international development, global health, WASH, and education. We invite you to share our vision of a world where every child has the water, sanitation, hygiene, and menstrual health support they need to thrive and reach their full potential.

