



washplus

Zambia

What We Did

WASHplus implemented the Schools Promoting Learning Achievement through Sanitation and Hygiene (SPLASH) project, which reached 616 schools in four districts of Zambia's Eastern Province: Chadiza, Chipata, Lundazi, and Mambwe. Seeking to improve learning outcomes among students, SPLASH reached 246,000 children and their teachers and parents with a comprehensive WASH facility improvement and hygiene education program. SPLASH's overarching strategy was to work within and strengthen the existing system at scale to increase reach and impact. The system included national, provincial, and district government structures; the private-sector; and school/community-level systems. The project trained Ministry of General Education officials at the provincial and district level in project planning and budgeting, financial management, and WASH in Schools operations and maintenance (O&M) for sustainability. It trained teachers in active learning hygiene education to include menstrual hygiene management (MHM) and education. SPLASH successfully lobbied for WASH themes to be included in the national curriculum.

Why It Matters



346,539 people in target areas gained access to improved drinking water supply; 155,321 gained improved access to sanitation.



SPLASH's Outcome Study showed a threefold difference in absenteeism rates between schools with and without a WASH program, demonstrating that WASH is an undisputed key element of quality education.



Providing attractive school WASH facilities and access to water can have an uplifting effect on entire communities. WASHplus estimates that over 9,000 SPLASH-inspired household toilets were constructed in school catchment areas. PTAs made bricks with available water and built classrooms, teachers' houses, washrooms for girls, and more.



Addressing a taboo such as menstruation in a comprehensive and sensitive way can turn the topic into a common and openly discussed concern for schools and families, with lasting benefit for school-going girls. MHM is common now in Eastern Zambia.



Clean classroom drinking water means that students don't leave lessons to search for water and increases pupil-teacher contact time for learning. Students are better hydrated, which helps attention.



Handwashing has become a normal daily activity. Handwashing stations managed by student WASH Clubs ensure water and soap are available on a regular basis.



Through SPLASH's advocacy, WASH topics are now included in the national curriculum.



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