

NADI SANGAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion

[WASH POLICY]

INTRODUCTION

Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 7: Ensure environmental sustainability;
Targets 10 & 11: To halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation

This policy brief has been produced to guide Nadi Sangam Primary School's engagement in policy dialogue and programming related to water supply, sanitation and hygiene promotion (WASH). Its intention is to strengthen the quality and relevance of our interventions. It helps inform how we approach economic growth, human and social development and environmental sustainability.

The school thus promotes an integrated approach to WASH, looking at how increased access can be addressed through channels such as national development plans, advocacy and governance reforms, humanitarian and recovery programmes and climate change adaptation. Country-led processes to deliver on MDG 7 targets related to WASH should be supported alongside civil society efforts to demand leadership and accountability from governments. Nadi Sangam Primary school recognises that innovative partnerships with entrepreneurs, community groups and civil society organisations are central to reaching the MDG 7 targets. Key areas for engagement include governance, private sector regulation, information management and human resource development.

Many important WASH interventions do not involve infrastructure and costly investments. Household level interventions such as hygiene education, potable water and sanitation promotion are highly effective and affordable.

Box 1: Key Policy Messages

Equitable access to sanitation, potable water and safe hygiene are essential for poverty reduction. They are priority lifesaving interventions in humanitarian responses.

Integrated approaches to human development, emphasising the interdependency of the Millennium Development Goals, are most effective.

Poor and marginalised populations need special attention in policy Dialogue and advocacy programmes, our priority is to achieve a minimum level of access for all.

Country leadership and national plans comprise the overarching policy framework for bilateral assistance. These are complemented by civil society engagement to demand **accountability** from governments.

Sanitation plays an important role in protecting the health, personal security and dignity of women and girls.

Holistic approaches to **water resource management** help to strike a balance between food security and livelihoods, economic growth and environmental sustainability.

WHY WASH?

Sustained, equitable access to WASH services is critical for progress on child survival, hunger, AIDS and gender equality. Evidence on the **economic and social costs** of neglecting WASH is well documented and compelling¹.

Access to safe water and sanitation is routinely identified as a priority by poor households. Investment in this area produces **tangible and measurable results** for poor women and men, girls and boys. WASH impacts are relatively easily communicated to the wider public, building public engagement with and support for the programme.

Poor people worldwide depend on **environmental resources** for their livelihoods. Sustainable management of water resources and protection of the environment from pollution and erosion protects poor households from shocks and crises;

Safe access to sanitation, water and hygienic practices address practical **gender needs** identified by women and girls. WASH programmes also have the potential to address strategic gender needs such as division of labour in the household and the ownership and control of resources.