

Azerbaijan

Global WASH Thematic Report

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Prepared by:

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Report on progress of the WASH project implemented with WILO contribution via the Turkish National Committee in support of the hygiene and sanitation initiatives in selected schools of Azerbaijan

Background:

In 2017 UNICEF in partnership with the Ministry of Education of Azerbaijan Republic initiated a situation analysis of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in 167 schools in Azerbaijan to identify current situation on WASH in schools and map the relevant needs of the schools, including conditions, availability of resources, level of awareness on hygiene and sanitation and parent and community engagement. The study has revealed that the reality of WASH in many schools doesn't fully meet standards in place and doesn't meet children's needs, particularly in rural areas of the country.

While the government takes the overall responsibility for undertaking major repairs of facilities, there is a lack of understanding and commitment amongst the key local stakeholders and communities to maintain the required WASH standards in schools.

Following the assessment, UNICEF has identified 6 schools in Guba and 4 schools in Masally, rural districts of Azerbaijan, where water and sanitation facilities were either unavailable or in a very bad condition. The selected schools required some physical upgrades to facilities (for example, repair works, installing taps or improving water supply in toilets), as a way of mobilizing more active engagement of local authorities, communities and schools in providing and maintaining proper water and sanitation conditions at schools which are proven factors affecting student enrolment and quality of education.

Objective:

The objective was to improve WASH conditions in the selected schools of Azerbaijan for enhancing education outcomes and preventing school dropouts. The project was intended to provide stimulus for a more detailed discussion and engagement on the issue of school water and sanitation with the schools and communities to encourage them to take more responsibility for better management of water, sanitation and hygiene conditions at schools.

Key Activities:

With financial support of the Turkish National Committee from the funds received from WILO Foundation, sanitary and hygiene conditions improved in 6 selected schools in Guba and 4 schools in Masalli districts where water and sanitation facilities were either not in place or in significantly bad condition. The activities included:

- Identifying schools with the worst sanitary conditions in the selected 2 rural areas and specifying the needs in consultation with the local education authorities, school principals and communities;
- Designing and agreeing the improvement plans with the local stakeholders, including raising matching funding from the local communities to support enhancing WASH conditions at the selected schools;
- Improving sanitary and hygiene conditions at schools, including repair of toilets, ensuring water supply and safe sanitary conditions for girls (accessible with lockable doors), repairing plumbing systems, installation of basins and water tanks where needed;
- Engaging local authorities, schools and parents into awareness raising and community mobilisation activities to ensure they play stronger role in improving and maintaining the safe and good quality WASH conditions at schools. The importance of proper hygiene and sanitation

for child health and education outcomes was a key subject of the information sessions for the local stakeholders.

Results achieved:

While we initially planned to have about 1,000 primary school children benefitting from improved access and better quality of water and sanitation facilities, in fact the project reached over 5,000 school children in the selected districts of Azerbaijan.

School enrolment rate has increased by average 10% as reported by the schools' directors.

List of project schools:

School	Nbr of Children	Nbr of Boys	Nbr of Girls	Repair and construction work type
School no.1 in Guba city	937	522	415	Repair of toilet and installation of washbasin
School no. 6 in Guba city	826	426	400	Major repair of toilet
School no.7 in Guba city	430	222	208	Major repair of toilet
Gachrash village school, Guba district	417	227	190	Repair of toilet and installation of washbasin
Nugadi 1 village school, Guba district	767	428	349	Repair of toilet and construction of plumbing system
Pashaoba village school, Guba district	260	120	140	Major repair of toilet and installation of washbasin
Arkivan village school #1, Masalli district	527	282	245	Construction of water system and installation of a pump
Gariblar village school, Masalli district	354	190	164	Major repair of toilet and installation of a water tank
Iskandarli village school, Masalli district	300	160	140	Construction of a new toilet
Gizilvar village school, Masalli district	371	198	173	Repair of water tank
Total:	5,189	2,775	2,414	

Good practices:

The matching support from the community was attracted in terms of financial co-sharing of the expenses for the construction and repair of hygiene and sanitation facilities in the schools. This gave

sense of ownership to the community and stimulus to keep the facilities clean and working after the construction and repair works.

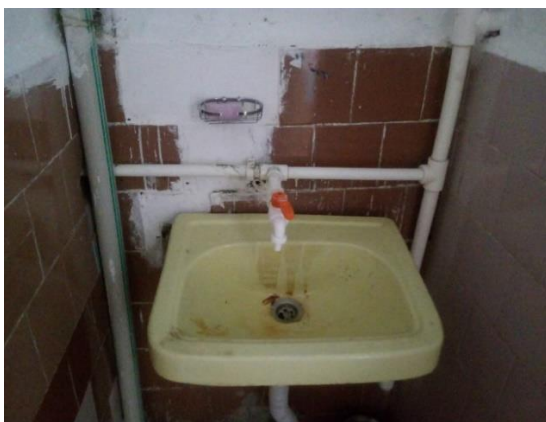
Project expenditure status:

Item	# of schools	Cost per school USD
Repair works for improving WASH conditions in schools	10	570
Total:		5,700 USD

Expression of thanks:

UNICEF Azerbaijan expresses its gratitude to the WILO Foundation and the Turkish National Committee of UNICEF for their crucial support and commitment for creating a safe and favorable environment in schools for children to grow healthy and learn effectively. The thematic funding allocated contributed to the results against the Education Programme outcome of improving national capacities and creating enabling environment for quality education in Azerbaijan.

Photographs (before and after)



Safe water for every child

When children have access to safe water, soap and toilets, they are more likely to stay healthy and stay in school. As part of its water, sanitation and hygiene programme, UNICEF in Azerbaijan supported refurbishment of schools in Guba and four schools in Masally, using funds received from the Wilo Foundation that supports projects in the field of youth, education and science. In some schools, work includes construction and major repair of toilets and plumbing systems and installation of basins and water tanks. Training modules and materials for school management, parents and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene club members have also been developed.

