

The Great Lakes University of Kisumu and Emory University collected data on safe water, sanitation, and hygiene practice in divisions in four districts in Nyanza Province as part of the SWASH+ project. The information was gathered between January and March of 2008 on over 10,000 children in almost 5,000 households as baseline research, in order to measure the effectiveness of the program. It also sheds light on huge gaps in provision of safe water, sanitation, and hygiene, all of which are essential for child health and educational performance.

Access to Safe Water

- Only 15% of schools report treating water to make it safe for drinking.
- While 67% of schools have a rainwater storage tank, only 50% of schools have a rainwater storage tank in working condition and only 22% have a tank that is in good condition and with working gutters.
- In the rainy season, the average distance from schools to the primary water source is 522m while in the dry season it is 1485m.
- In the rainy season, 69% of schools have access to an improved water source, while in the dry season, this number shrinks to 17% with 58% using surface water.

Access to Sanitation

- 96% of schools surveyed exceeded the government recommended ratio of girl pupils per latrine of 25:1. The average ratio in schools surveyed was 77.2:1 or more than triple the recommended.
- 100% of schools exceeded the government ratio of boy pupils per latrine of 30:1. The average ratio in schools surveyed was 80.7:1 or more than two and a half times the recommended ratio.
- There are significant problems with latrine cleanliness and maintenance. 92% of schools had a latrine bank with odor problems, 85% had at least one bank with a general lack of cleanliness or visible feces and over 90% of schools had latrines with fly control problems.

Promotion of Hygiene

- Only 39% of schools reported ever providing water for hand washing.
- Less than 13% of schools provided water for hand washing on the day surveyed.