

Call to Action for WASH in Schools in Europe
The Hague, The Netherlands, May 24-25th 2011

Brief Information

A Call to Action for WASH in Schools campaign (www.unicef.org/wash/schools) was launched in 2010 calling on decision-makers to increase investments and on concerned stakeholders to plan and act in cooperation – so that all children go to a school with child-friendly water, sanitation and hygiene facilities.

30 + international organizations joined the Call to Action for WASH in Schools movement at several global and regional launches in 2010. Agencies involved renewed their commitments to the sector which has been stagnating over the years (reflected by a survey conducted among 60 developing countries showing the status of WASH in Schools):

1. Less than half of the countries have information on WASH in Schools coverage
2. Less than half of all primary schools have access to safe water and just over a third have adequate sanitation in countries where data are available. Even where facilities exist, they are often in poor condition and hygiene education is often non-existent

This two day meeting aims to bring together WASH in Schools advocates from various organizations based in Europe (Ministries, UN agencies, Academia, Foundations, and Nongovernmental Organizations) to help development partners work on strategies to follow up the Call to Action for WASH in Schools.

Conveners: IRC, UNICEF and WASH in Schools Partners

Objectives of the Meeting on Day 1

The meeting will follow the six points of action outlined in the Call to Action for WASH in Schools and seek EU based WASH in Schools supporters (governments, donors, NGOs) to take a moment to gauge their engagement with WASH in Schools:

- *To strengthen the WASH in Schools Partnership in Europe and get European based organizations to engage with the global WASH in Schools movement*
- *Advocate WASH in schools to become an integral part of health, education, and WASH sector plans/investments/activities*

This session is designed to help development partners and selected Government partners work on strategies to engage and follow up the Call to Action for WASH in Schools. (Updates from the global Call to Action for WASH in Schools movement, outcomes of the e-debate with participants prior to this meeting, Soapbox presentations, Actions/agreements on the way forward).

Objectives of the Meeting on Day 2

During the second day of the workshop, a meeting will follow the six points of action outlined in the Call to Action for WASH in Schools meeting and seek EU based WASH in Schools supporters (governments, donors, NGOs) to take a moment to gauge their engagement in WASH in Schools.

- *Specific follow up actions on WASH in schools topics (e.g. research gaps in WASH in Schools)*
- *Based on the e-date, what direction do we see WASH in schools going and how can we secure continuous funding in this area*

This day entails that a number of persons from the first day of the meeting (and a number of other participants) are invited to this follow-up workshop with a smaller group of participants who are willing to work together on specific themes of the Call to Action for WASH in Schools (outcomes of e-debate with participants prior to this meeting, brainstorming specific themes in small groups i.e. research gaps, one-pagers with ideas for proposal development).

Plus: the E-debate on WASH in Schools

We are planning to have a meaningful web-based debate before the meeting to provide an introduction to the meeting itself it and to enable people who cannot participate to have a say. We hope that you will take part in the e-debate which will take place in April.

Administration:

Please express your interest in attending Day 1 (24th May) and/or Day 2 (25th May) of the meeting before the 31st of March 2011 by sending an e-mail to Joanna Rhodes rhodes@irc.nl