



September 20, 2011

Re: Learning Meeting on WASH in Schools, December 6-7, 2011

Dear Colleague:

You are cordially invited to attend a learning meeting on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in Schools: **Getting School WASH Right**, hosted by the [Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](#), the [WASH in Schools Partnership](#) and the [SWASH+ Project](#). The meeting will be held from **December 6-7, 2011** at the Emory Conference Center in Atlanta, Georgia, USA.

In recent years, there has been increased attention to and mounting evidence of the health, psychosocial, and, by extension, the educational benefits of school WASH. However, poorly implemented interventions that lack institutional support systems are unlikely to be effective or sustainable. Turning best practices into policy and fostering links between different health and development sectors is key to developing successful programs.

The goal of this meeting is to assemble researchers, practitioners and funders who work on WASH in schools to synthesize and interpret what recent learning is telling us on how to effectively implement and sustain school WASH interventions. While this learning will focus on the use of research to influence the decisions of donors, policy-makers and practitioners in a way that supports effective service delivery, sustainability and accountability, this forum will be open to discussion of lessons from less structured forms of learning in instances where this has been used to achieve changes at scale. A key element of discussions will be how to better bridge the sometimes artificial divide between research and action within socio-political environments that are inherently complex, contextually unique and constantly changing.

In addition to synthesizing lessons from existing data and evidence, attendees will also identify emerging research and learning questions. Sessions will include short presentations by sector experts and government representatives that will inform subsequent group discussions and points of action.

If you plan on attending, please RSVP by sending an email to swashforum@gmail.com no later than **October 31**. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Emory Inn and Conference Center at a reduced rate. To make a reservation, please call 1-800-933-6679. In addition, if you have not done so already, **please complete this 3-question survey** (<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/B5H6ZV7>) by September 30 regarding topics you might be interested in discussing or presenting.

Please feel free to forward this letter to others that may have an interest in attending. Thank you for your assistance. We hope to see you on December 6.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Lochery', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Peter Lochery
SWASH+ Project Director
CARE USA Water Team Director