FLASHCARDS

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for Schoolchildren in Emergencies

Companion to the GUIDEBOOK FOR TEACHERS

Edition for Africa

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Acknowledgements

UNICEF is grateful for the work of Bob Linney, the artist who created the drawings for these flashcards. His creativity and expertise were essential to producing this resource. Many thanks are also due to members of the UNICEF WASH in Schools family in New York, including Therese Dooley, Murat Sahin, Rita Jen and Catherine Rutgers.
FlAshcArds: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for Schoolchildren in Emergencies
Introduction

Emergencies are traumatic for everyone, especially children. When children are surrounded by chaos, schools, child-friendly spaces and temporary learning spaces can provide them with a sense of normality and personal safety. In these situations, children remain open to new ideas and often want to be involved in their community’s recovery. They can also take part in helping other children and in sharing WASH in Schools messages with adults.

This book of flashcards is a companion to ‘Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for Schoolchildren in Emergencies: A Guidebook for Teachers’ – which provides the information needed to ensure that every child has access to safe water and improved sanitation and learns healthy hygiene practices. Together, these books are designed as a resource for those involved in teaching and working with children in emergency preparedness, during an emergency and throughout the recovery period.

The ‘Guidebook for Teachers’ and the companion flashcards are not technical publications about installing taps and building toilets. Instead they are resources for developing interactive games on safe WASH behaviours that help children, families and teachers to stay healthy and avoid life-threatening diseases.
Using the flashcards

‘Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for Schoolchildren in Emergencies: A Guidebook for Teachers’ provides simple strategies/tools for use and adaptation with children and families to ensure a smooth transition to a healthy and accessible learning environment.

Annexes 1 and 2 of the ‘Guidebook for Teachers’ provide details for 26 different WASH activities and games. These ideas for interactive learning are organized by theme, simple to carry out, adaptable for the needs of younger or older children and make learning the life-saving messages of good hygiene practices fun! They can be stand-alone extra-curricula activities or integrated within mainstream subjects such as math, language and science. The aim is to enable children to practise the healthy WASH behaviours being taught.

Many of the activities use the flashcard pictures, or materials that are typically available in a school or child-friendly space or could be locally developed. The flashcards can be used to strengthen the messages on six WASH in Schools themes presented in the guidebook: (1) Hand washing with soap; (2) Safe excreta disposal; (3) Safe drinking water; (4) Personal hygiene for boys and girls; (5) Looking after our school; and (6) WASH beyond school.

Every community and each emergency is unique. Because the experience of children will be different in each situation, teaching and learning tools must be relevant to the particular location and children’s needs. To enhance the effectiveness of the flashcards, three versions have been created for reaching an audience in Africa, Asia and Latin America, respectively. See Annex 3 in ‘Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for Schoolchildren in Emergencies: A Guidebook for Teachers’ for suggestions on how to adapt the flashcards.
every 3 - 4 hours
Join us in sharing your WASH in Schools emergency preparedness and response experiences.

Please contact Murat Sahin, UNICEF adviser for WASH in Schools, at msahin@unicef.org and visit www.unicef.org/wash/schools for more information.