



Practice Guidelines: Private Sector Sanitation for Schools in Kenya

- **Project:** School Water Sanitation and Hygiene Plus Community Impact (SWASH+). Operating in Kenya since 2006
- **Location:** Kenya
- **Target Population:** School stakeholders
- **Implementing Partners:** CARE, Sanergy, Kenya Ministry of Health and Education
- **Funder:** Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Summary Points

- Many schools in Kenya do not have sufficient sanitation facilities and existing sanitation facilities may not serve the needs of students – especially vulnerable are those with special needs or students in the younger classes.
- In some school settings, private sector services may be cheaper and provide an option for expanding and improving the facilities available at the school.
- These guidelines supplement existing Kenyan policies **to provide practical guidance for school and county leadership when considering or contracting private sector sanitation services for schools.**

SWASH+ background: School Water, Sanitation and Hygiene plus Community Impact (SWASH+) is an action-research and advocacy project focusing on increasing the scale, impact and sustainability of school water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) interventions in Kenya. Since 2006, SWASH+ includes CARE, Emory University, and the Government of Kenya – with other strategic partners joining for implementation or research. With input from key government, NGO, academic and school-stakeholders, SWASH+ has developed **Private Sector Sanitation Guidelines for Schools in Kenya**, designed to supplement existing Kenyan policies.

Rationale for private sector sanitation guidelines: Many schools in Kenya do not have sufficient sanitation services or facilities for students. Providing the option for all schools (public, private, vocational, boarding, primary, secondary) to procure sanitation services or facilities from the private sector is one option for expanding the ability of schools to serve students.

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Scope of the guidelines:

Safe systems in the sanitation value chain for Kenyan schools and how to apply national policies in the procurement of sanitation products and services from private sector providers.

Specifically, the guidelines aim to:

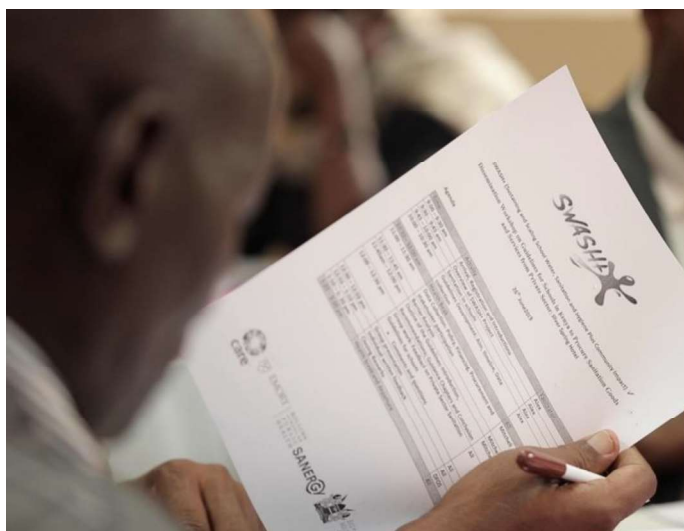
- Address how the sanitation value chain and “safely managed sanitation” applies to school settings
- Provide clarity on how private sector services offer a feasible alternative and compliment to meet the demand for safely managed sanitation in schools
- Provide guidance on the procedures and processes for private sector actors engaging with schools and the roles of school stakeholders

Audience for these guidelines:

- **School administrators and Boards of Management** as they identify sanitation needs, consider private sector services and/or procure sanitation goods from the private sector
- **Policy implementers and those responsible for monitoring sanitation standards in schools** as they make the procurement process more user friendly and easily applicable at the school level
- **Private sector sanitation product producers, marketers, and service providers** as they seek to engage schools who may wish to acquire sanitation services from them

Contents of the guidelines:

Key chapters of the guidelines outline steps to address the specific aims. Contents of these guidance chapters are summarized on the right.



Photos by Juozas Cernius, Inc.

Guidance 1: Safely managed sanitation in schools

This chapter emphasizes that the provision of sufficient sanitation services in schools encourage student use and align with all features of the sanitation value chain (e.g. contain, empty, treat or dispose of faecal waste). All schools play a role in toilet maintenance and use, containment and emptying. Before expanding sanitation facilities, male and female students, teachers and caregivers of young and students with special needs should be consulted separately on needs and expectations of school sanitation and hygiene facilities. Consulting members of the local community can also assist the school in understanding ways in which homes or other community institutions manage their waste, use clean water, and the means to expand hygiene and sanitation behavior change beyond the students.

Guidance 2: Private sector as a feasible alternative

This chapter expands on the recommendation that private sector sanitation services should be considered as a feasible alternative and compliment to meet the demand for safely managed sanitation in Kenyan schools. Specifically, this chapter maps out current private sector services available in Kenya and how they add value in school sanitation – something that will need to be updated every few years as new providers and services become available.

Guidance 3: Aligning procurement of private sector services with policies

This chapter aligns guidance on the procurement for private sector sanitation with the standard procurement protocol for schools in Kenya. This protocol includes developing a School Infrastructure Committee to assess and document the needs of the school in terms of facilities and infrastructure and issuing a tender to receive quotations for the required works.

Supportive next steps!

As part of the guideline development process, SWASH+ received feedback from Kenyan government and school stakeholders through more than ten consultation meetings and numerous one-on-one interviews. **These guidelines, which still need official approval from the Ministry of Education in the Government of Kenya, are a small but essential step in creating an option for schools to deliver clean, healthy and efficient sanitation services and facilities to their teachers and students, and contribute to the Sustainable Development Goal of equal education for all.**



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