

Briefing to Etona UNICEF Representative WASH Key Results for Children (KRCs)

Guinea Bissau is accountable for KRC #8: Ending Open Defecation

The WCARO goal for KRC #8 is: By 2021, the proportion of the WCAR population practicing open defecation is reduced from 25.4 per cent (122 million) to 15.5 per cent (88 million).

Progress:

- Guinea-Bissau is one of the four countries in this region that are on track to end open defecation by 2030.
- The proportion of people practising open defecation is estimated to be 10.3% in 2021.
- Sanitation interventions are well integrated in the country's sector priorities.
- Sector monitoring strengthened through real time monitoring system for both monitoring service continuity and performance management of implementing partners as well as accountability to communities where data is used for community dialogue.
- Evidence generation for advocacy and timely action by both UNICEF and WASH sector partners by expanding access access the national sector database, which allows them to have a comprehensive view of the sector. this has encouraged some partners to invest in sanitation after being able to see the progress made and the potential impact that can be achieved (TESE, EU/ IANDA. World Bank).
- Strengthened community engagement for WASH and KRC#8
- Used improvement of WASH in Health Care Facilities to strengthen community engagement for health through use of HCF water for communities as incentive

Challenges that are hampering further progress:

- Limited availability of partners for water and sanitation programme and decreasing investments to sustain progress and maintain gains in the next program cycle.
- Over ninety per cent of rural sanitation interventions aiming to reduce open defecation are supported by UNICEF providing false sense of sufficiency of UNICEF's support limiting partners engagement.
- Tackling open defecation in urban areas is a particular challenge.
- Lack resources to support transition from limited services to basic service, to safely managed services.
- Lack of public and partner resources to enable the Government technical services to play their normative and regulatory role and diminishing UNICEF ability to support the government in its basic functions. This limits Government monitoring, verification and follow-up of interventions especially in rural areas.

Bottleneck removal strategies

- The elaboration of a costed National Roadmap for the Eradication of Opens Defecation, supported by UNICEF, has as goal to reflect the vision and strategy of the sector on the journey to achieve the SDG 6. But it will also be used as an advocacy and resource mobilization tool since it is set to have a detailed multi-year costing of the resources need to eradicate open defecation by 2030.
- The UNICEF supported national WASH database will continue to provide a clear view of the need and existing gaps that can facilitate investment decisions and support equity in programming.

- Strengthening availability of local level support services to maintain functionality of WASH infrastructure and its expansion based on lessons learned from the ongoing assessment.
- Improving understanding of social and cultural drivers that can motivate behaviour change in communities to deliver more appropriate context-specific programming.

Strategies to strengthen community engagement

- Community approaches for total sanitation specifically CLTS (Community-Led Total Sanitation) has been our primary strategy for sanitation. Up to now, 1554 communities have been declared open defecation free (ODF) through the implementation of CLTS. This represents 38% of the 4000 rural communities existing in the country.
- CLTS It triggers behaviour change based on sequential steps allowing to first identify the negative effects of open defecation that leads to the adoption of safe hygiene and sanitation practices including latrines construction for each household in the community.
- CLTS has also been used as an entry point to other sanitation and hygiene. We have been using CLTS sessions to disseminate menstrual health and hygiene positive practices and to make them into consideration in the construction of the latrine. In communities already declared ODF water safety planning actions have been rolled out using the same community structures use for CLTS make it simple for the beneficiaries to understand the linkages between sanitation and safe water.

Strategies to strengthen monitoring and evaluation

- Since 2016 we have adopted and a decentralised and collaborative monitoring system. With different levels of contribution and quality assurance, the system has integrated what is now the sector database. This monitoring system uses smartphone-based data collection tools and a cloud-based platform for data management and display. The database allows to follow the progress and assess results of sanitation activities in real time. All the data introduced by the implementing partners inform different program indicators which are verified by the government.
- Continue to advocate for and support sector statistics strengthening taking the example on the WASH sector database and aiming for future integration in the national statistics.
- Support pilot evidence generation initiatives (i.e. WASH infrastructure in schools survey) to be used as the base for knowledge production (field notes, case studies, papers, etc.)

Strategies to strengthen accountability to affected populations

- Continue to promote participation mainly through community approaches for total sanitation that also favours community participation in the decision-making process. Strengthen participation local actors (community workers, local organisations, adolescents, women groups)
- Take advantage of T4D tools to establish simple and reliable feedback and complaint mechanisms.
- Use proximity communication (radio programs, CLTS sessions, etc.) to provide information on actions and progress to communities and local authorities.