The development of a WASH in school (WinS) budgeting tool: Evidence to action of SWASH+ life cycle costing studies

Summary Points

- **What is it?** SWASH+ costing studies aimed to facilitate adoption of life cycle cost (LCC) budgeting for WASH operation and maintenance in schools — that is, costs of WASH services over the course of its useful life, not just upfront costs.

- **How was it made?** Annual reported WASH expenditures from 189 urban and rural schools and cost data from 32 local shops across six counties in Kenya were used to model expenditures required to maintain a school's WASH program.

- **What will it do?** This LCC budgetary calculator will help schools to plan their annual expenditures and support head teachers in advocacy to address gaps in WASH resources based on data for schools similar to them.

**Tool overview:** School and government officials have expressed challenges in accurately estimating budgetary requirements for school WASH, specifically with regards to maintenance and recurrent costs (i.e., LCC). The availability and reliability of LCC data can be problematic. SWASH+ partners, in collaboration with the Kenya Ministry of Education, have developed a simple Excel-based tool designed to increase the application of WASH budgeting practices and increase access to LCC cost data. Development of the tool parameters was done in accordance with the “Standards & Guidelines for WASH Infrastructure in Pre-primary and Primary Schools in Kenya.” Coupling national guidelines with representative cost data from a diverse group of 189 schools helped develop cost parameters that provide robust budget estimations specific to the school’s need.
Overview: Tool tabs
“Profile” to enter your school’s information
“Budget” to customize school’s estimated WASH budget
“Recommendations” to review a summary of recommendations based on Kenya school WASH guidance
“Tool Details” to review how the tool was made including budget assumptions and calculations

STEP 1: Input data:
Calculate your school’s WASH budget based on only five key school properties: (1) Urban or rural, (2) Primary or secondary, (3) # of students and % female, (4) Primary water source, (5) Latrine type and # usable

STEP 2: Construction or major repairs:
Identify if your school is planning any WASH construction or major repairs. If yes, there is a list of handwashing stations, latrines, and water systems to choose from

STEP 3: Review budget:
“Estimated Average” values are automatically calculated using average annual expenditure of WASH items for schools similar to your school’s profile. These values are modeled from annual reported WASH expenditures from 189 urban and rural schools and cost data from 32 local shops across six counties

STEP 4: Identify donated items:
Have item(s) listed that are donated? No problem, simply uncheck the box and the “My Budget” value will automatically go to 0. Here is an example of a school that receives donated sanitary pads

STEP 5: Customize budget values:
Raise or lower “My Budget” values, as desired, based on common expenditures at your school. Here is an example of a rural school that hires a caretaker for 4,000 Ksh per year instead of allocating caretaker duties to teachers and/or students (which is the most common among rural schools). Simply, recheck the box to undo any customization and the value will automatically reflect what is in the “Estimated Average” column

STEP 6: Review construction costs:
If applicable, expand section to review construction costs

STEP 7: Add additional items:
Customize your school’s WASH budget even more by adding any other items (and their costs)

STEP 8: Total estimated budget:
Total costs and costs per pupil are automatically calculated to reflect any budget customization. For public schools, the difference between capitation grants available for WASH and per pupil total estimated budget is also calculated