

Sanitation for Millions

Improving access to safe and adequate sanitation

Background

The international *Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)* – launched in 2015 – explicitly target to achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation by 2030. The *German Development Cooperation* with the *Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation (BMZ)* as lead donor and *GIZ* as implementer launched in 2016 the multi-donor initiative *Sanitation for Millions (S4M)* to address the global challenges in the *WASH* sector and effectively contribute to the achievement of *SDG 6.2*.

S4M therewith complements other international initiative like *Sanitation and Water for All (SWA)* as well as the *High Level Panel on Water* by the *UN* and the *World Bank*. *BMZ* supports the promotion of access to sanitation in public institutions such as schools, health centers, and mosques.

The *Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation* joined in the end of 2017 as a co-financier, funding measures in *Uganda* and *Jordan* and facilitating further outreach of *S4M* with a focus on safely managed sanitation approaches across the sanitation value chain, including safe access/use, containment, transportation, treatment and reuse.

Objectives

Sanitation for Millions has the main objective to improve access to safe and adequate sanitation especially in countries afflicted by high numbers of refugees and internally displaced people.

Thereby, the global programme strategically aims at preventing conflicts, enhancing the local environmental conditions, mitigating health risks, strengthening the learning environment for students



Syrian students disposing waste at a school in Irbid, Jordan



(notably girls and students with special needs) and generating employment in the sector. So far, *S4M* has started interventions in three countries – *Jordan*, *Pakistan* and *Uganda* – with the ambition to extend to other countries where the need for improvement meets willingness to improve.

Activities

S4M is conceived as a multi-donor initiative open for new donors and implementing partners and transfers best practices to new countries. It aims to sustainable access to sanitation services through four lines of interventions:

- 1 Sanitation and hygiene promotion in schools
- 2 Provision of public sanitation services in public places, health centres, and religious institutions
- 3 Sustainable operation and maintenance along the sanitation chain as well as employment creation
- 4 Mobilisation of finance and upscaling.



Students washing hands with soap at a school in Baleli Union Council, Pakistan



From left to right: Jordanian students clean sanitary facilities; Syrian schoolgirls at the inclusive double-tier school Al Qadisiyah, Irbid, Jordan; Muezzin repairing a water tap in a mosque in Mafraq, Jordan

S4M follows a multi-stakeholder approach and cooperates directly with schools, local authorities, civil society and local enterprises. The close coordination with bilateral development cooperation programs facilitates direct access at the local level in the partner countries.

In order to efficiently use the available budget and comply with the aid effectiveness agenda of the international donor community, S4M applies a performance-based approach for resource allocation benchmarking between:

- relevance
- impacts
- efficiency
- effectiveness and
- potential for transformational change.

Impact

Improving sanitation and hygiene entails the collateral benefit of acting as preventive measure on the lingering conflict potential in host communities. Accordingly, improvements in basic services and living conditions contribute to social and political cohesion amongst affected people. Hence, S4M endorses participation of local communities with special attention to the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups. Women and girls are targeted with concepts for menstrual hygiene management. S4M also introduces concepts for barrier-free access for physically handicapped people.

To join the multi-donor initiative and for further information, please contact: Dr. Ulrike Pokorski, S4M@giz.de



Ritual washing in a mosque in Amman, Jordan

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