

BLUE SCHOOLS – SUMMARY NOTE

Linking WASH in schools...

...with environmental education & practice

Supported by: Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC); Swiss Water and Sanitation Consortium (SWSC); Terre des hommes; Caritas Switzerland; HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation; Swiss Federal Institute for Aquatic Science and Technology (Eawag); International Rainwater Harvesting Alliance (IRHA).



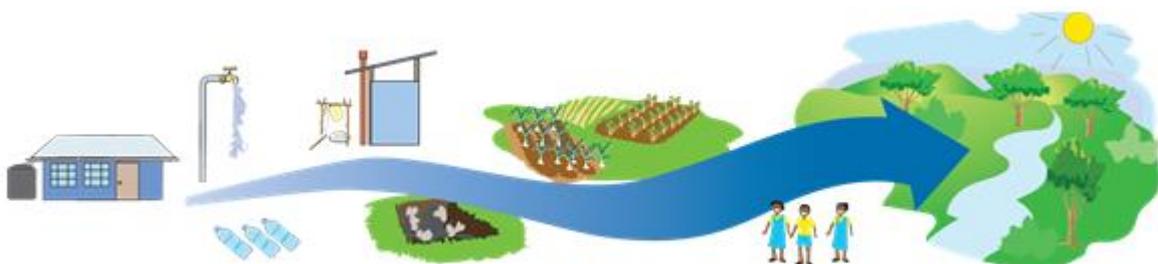
What is a Blue School?

A Blue School is a school where children learn **hands-on** about hygiene and environmental conservation. It offers a healthy learning environment and exposes students to environmentally friendly technologies and practices that can be replicated in their communities.

Becoming a Blue School is a **step by step** process. The starting point is to ensure that

children drink safe water, use well-maintained latrines and maintain good hygiene practices.

Once this is achieved, Blue Schools **goes beyond WASH** and focuses on menstrual hygiene and health, gardening activities, safe management of solid waste, and environmentally friendly practices. Children learn about these topics through **practice and experiments**.



What is the Blue Schools Kit?

Components of the Blue Schools Kit:

- **Catalogue of Technologies:** Examples of low-cost, easy to replicate technologies to choose from
- **Catalogue of Practical Exercises:** Hands-on and low-cost participative activities that teachers can use to complement the theoretical lessons
- **Facilitator's Guide:** A visual summary of the practical exercises that a teacher can use for each Blue Schools topic

These materials are meant to **inspire** school stakeholders on their pathway towards becoming a Blue School. They are organised in different topics:

- **WASH-related topics:** safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, menstrual health and hygiene;
- **Environment-related topics:** Sustainable land and water management techniques to apply in gardening activities, safe solid waste management, watershed, water cycle, etc.



My Drinking Water



Sanitation and Hygiene



Growth and Change



From Soil to Food



From Waste to Resources



My Surrounding Environment

Blue Schools and the SWSC

The ideas behind Blue Schools are not new. The Blue Schools Kit was developed in 2018 by the Swiss Water and Sanitation Consortium (SWSC) project teams and advisors from HELVETAS, Caritas Switzerland and Terre des hommes, in collaboration with Eawag based on field experience in WASH in Schools and lessons from piloting the environmental components in schools. Between 2020 and 2023, SWSC implements Blue Schools in over 150 schools in 12 countries. In addition, several other organisations are using the Blue Schools Kit in various countries.

The Blue Schools Kit is freely accessible online: waterconsortium.ch/blueschool

For more information, please contact: info.consortium@waterconsortium.ch

