

Symposium on WASH interventions in healthcare facilities and schools: Disseminating the learnings of the Hands4health project and sharing experiences from SWSC projects

The 2-day symposium will bring together experts, researchers, practitioners and policy makers from the Swiss community of practice along with project teams from our partner countries.

Date: Tuesday 17 – Wednesday 18 June 2025

Location: FHNW School of Life Sciences, Hofackerstrasse 30, 4132 Muttentz, Switzerland

Co-Organisers: FHNW, SWSC

Languages: ENG/FR (translation will be available on Day 1)

Registration: <https://ee-eu.kobotoolbox.org/x/gkhefbEc>

Program

Tuesday, 17 June (hybrid)

Time	Topic	Presenters
08:30-09:00	Coffee and registration	
09:00-10:15	Opening presentations and key insights	
	Opening of the symposium	Maryna Peter (FHNW), Thijs van der Velden (SWSC)
	Research, innovation and humanitarian crisis	Nicolas Randin (SDC)
	Hands4health: Results, outcomes and lessons learned	Maryna Peter (FHNW)
	The Swiss Water and Sanitation Consortium	Thijs van der Velden, Rahel Künzle (SWSC)
10:15-10:45	Who is Who in the room and online?	
10:45-11:10	Coffee break	
11:10-12:10	WASH FIT and strengthening primary health care	
	WHO WASH FIT global	Maggie Montgomery (WHO)
	WASH FIT implementation as a driver for strengthening primary health care	Aboubacar Ballo (SWSC)
	Management of health care facilities and WASH FIT	Mamadou Keita (Ministry of Health, Mali)
	Q & A	

12:10-13:00 Sustaining hardware in schools in crisis settings

Why infrastructure fails: The missing link of preventive maintenance	Maryna Peter (FHNW), Matthias Saladin (Skat Foundation)
What is needed to keep WASH systems running in schools in fragile contexts: Lessons learned from Nigeria	Zainab Abdulkarim (Tdh), Umar Goni (Ministry of Education, Nigeria)
Q & A	

13:00-14:15 Lunch break

14:15-15:30 Deep Dive: From Field Implementation to Strategic Integration at National Level

Contaminated water and the chlorination gap: Barriers to action and how to overcome them	Carola Bänziger (FHNW), Kamboulbé Dah (Tdh), Hassane Dembélé (Tdh), Hassan Sawalha (PPU)
Augmenting Ethiopia's health environmental health work-force in HCF and enhancing Benin's education curriculum for practical learning	Tigist Gebremedhin (SWSC)
Driving behaviour change	Andrea Tamas (Ranas/FHNW)
Q & A	

15:30-15:50 Coffee Break

15:50-17:05 Measuring Impact: data, indicators and lessons learned

What does the data tell us? Critical reflection on Health Care Facilities	Anais Galli (Swiss TPH)
What does the data tell us? Measuring impact in schools	Yaman Abuzahra (Swiss TPH)
Hwise/Inwise: Capturing water insecurity and personal experiences with indicators	Ramesh Bohara (SWSC)
Q & A	

17:05-17:20 SDC's approach to research for development and way forward

Outlook to the workshops on day 2	Martina Schmidt (SDC)
	Maryna Peter (FHNW), Thijs van der Velden (SWSC)

17:20 Apéro riche

Wednesday, 18 June (only live)

Time	Topic	Presenters
09:00-09:30	Introducing the workshops	All workshop leads
09:30-10:45	WS1: WASH FIT*	Aboubacar Ballo (SWSC, Tdh), Kamboulbé Dah (Tdh), Mamadou Keita (Ministry of Health, Mali)
	WS2: Hardware, maintenance concepts and interventions in schools*	Maryna Peter (FHNW), Hassan Sawalha, Maher Jabari (PPU), Za- inab Abdulkarim (Tdh)
10:45-11:15	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11:15-12:30	WS3: Driving behaviour change: Tools & experiences*	Andrea Tamas (Ranas/FHNW), Zainab Abdulkarim (Tdh)
	WS4: Water quality and chlorination – How to overcome barriers*	Carola Bänziger (FHNW), Kamboulbé Dah (Tdh), Hassane Dembélé (Tdh)
12:30-13:00	Sharing WS 1-4	Workshop leads WS1-4
13:00-14:15	<i>Lunch break</i>	
14:15-15:30	WS5: Turning evidence into policy: Co-creating recom- mendations*	Mirko Winkler, Yaman Abuzahra, Anaïs Galli (Swiss TPH)
	WS6: Advocacy for sustainability and scale*	John Oldfield (SWSC)
15:30-15:50	<i>Coffee break</i>	
15:50-17:00	WS7: Stakeholder engagement and sustainability	Matthias Saladin (Skat Founda- tion), Maryna Peter (FHNW)
17:00-17:15	Sharing WS 5-7	Workshop leads WS5-7
17:15-17:30	Closure	Maryna Peter (FHNW), Thijs van der Velden (SWSC)
17:30	<i>End</i>	

* Parallel workshops: WS1&2; WS3&4; WS5&6