
A PILOT STUDY TO IMPLEMENT WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE SERVICES IN ALL PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS PENAMA PROVINCE, 2019-2022

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INTRODUCTION

- The 10 year Vanuatu Education Sector Strategy has an explicit target to achieve 100% equitable and quality Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services at all schools.
 - Improved access to WASH services in schools can increase attendance, specially for adolescent girls.
 - Hygiene education to students is one of the most effective ways to change behaviors at the community level (agent of change!)
- However, currently there is only limited information on the status of WASH in schools;
 - water supply; 59% of schools have no service!
 - No data available on sanitation and hygiene
- MoET and UNICEF commenced a pilot in PENAMA province targeting all (62) primary and (12) secondary schools from 2019 onwards, aiming at improving all WASH conditions, targeting more than 9,000 students.



PROGRESS MEASURING METHOD

- 3- star monitoring with 21 indicators, covering five dimension on a scale of 0 star (lowest) to 3 stars (highest):
 - Hygiene services (eg are there handwashing stations with soap)
 - Sanitation services (eg. Are there safe, gender separated toilets?)
 - Water services (E.g. does the school have access to a safe water source?)
 - Hygiene education (e.g. do students lead on hygiene promotion activities?)
 - Management (E.g. is WASH budgeted in the school strategic plan?)
- Highest score is 3 stars, lowest is 0 star
- Schools to conduct self –assessment, with support visits collecting the data across the province.
- 4 rounds of data collection between 2019 and 2022 – last round with KOBO platform using tablets



IMPLEMENTATION METHODS

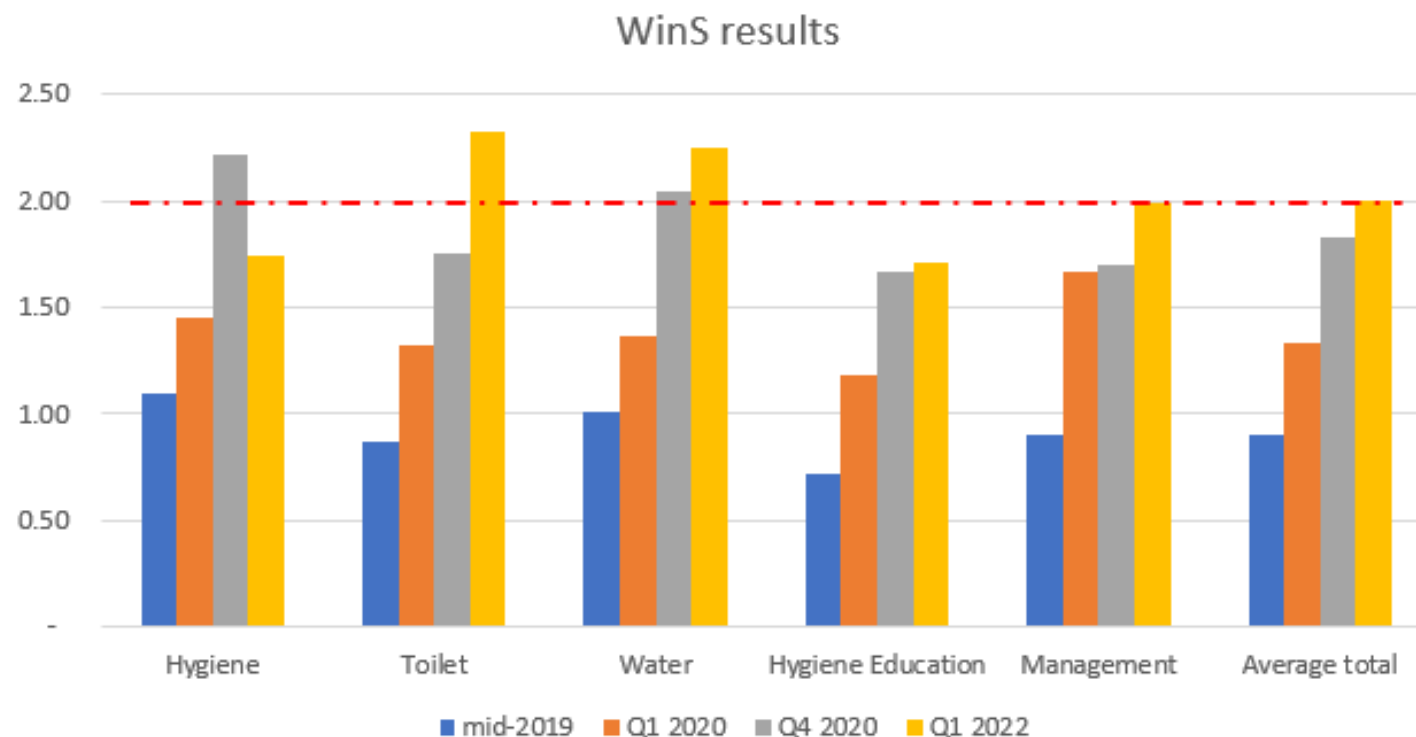
1. Training of principals on the 3- star monitoring and WASH Improvements planning (WIP).
2. Principals to conduct self assessment on 3 stars and development of a WIP.
3. Capacity building of principals on the education toolkit and distribution of materials.
4. Schools to implement the low to no cost improvements as per WIP and adopt improved hygiene education and practices.
5. Training of school handyman on WASH construction.
6. Procurement and delivery of materials to all schools.
7. Schools construct improvements with materials- while technical assistance is contracted by province/ MoET.



RESULTS

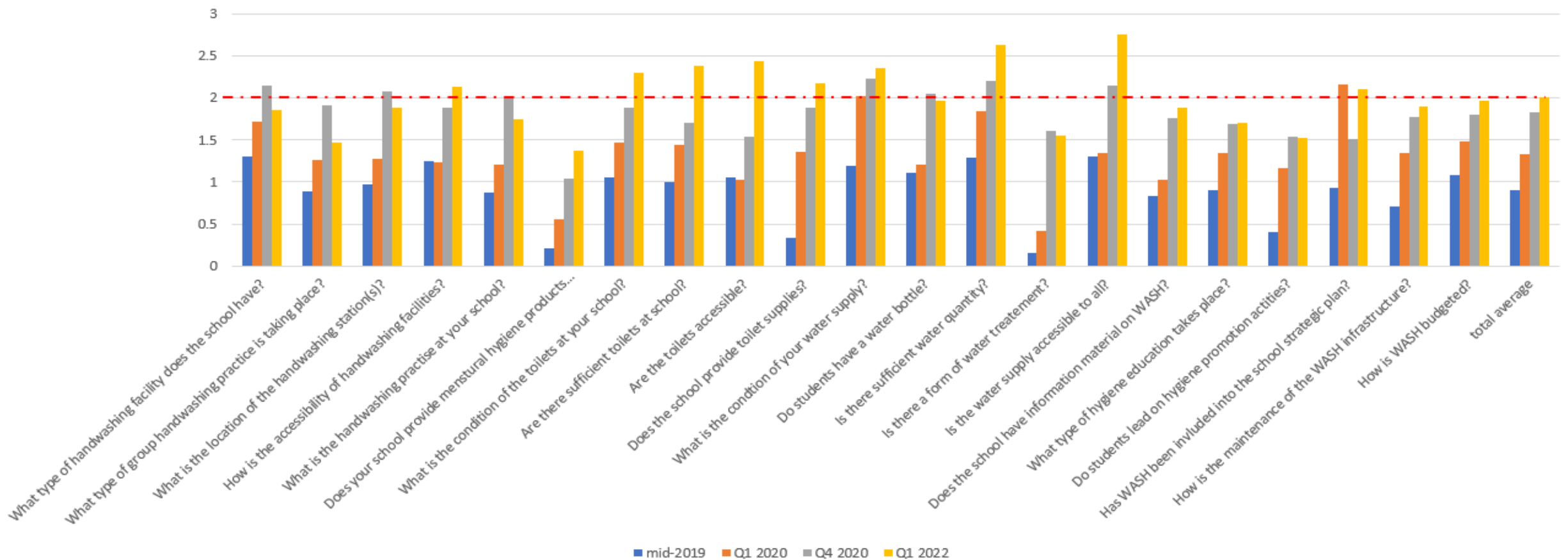
Significant progress across all domains!

- At the start of the pilot – the average score was 0.9 stars, this has increased to an average score of 2.0- and increase of 1.1 stars!
- Most dimensions score 2 stars or more, except hygiene and hygiene education.
- The largest improvements were made on toilet and water services (hardware)
- All elements progressed across the period except hygiene which went slightly backwards between Q4 2020 and Q1 2022- confirming that behavioral change takes more effort to sustain.
- The islands of Ambae, Pentecost and Maewo all made similar progress



RESULTS ACROSS THE 21 INDICATORS

Progress across indicators



DISCUSSION

- The pilot has demonstrated that empowering schools with technical, financial resources and skills can bring significant improvements of WASH services (bottom-up approach works!)
- Teacher's testimonies reveal that once children are getting use to improved hygiene practices, they are driving change in the community
- School leadership and community ownership were found to be crucial to drive the improvements.
- The progress on hardware (water and sanitation service) was more significant than on behavioral change (hygiene and hygiene education) which is aligned with experiences from other WASH interventions.
- The review of the pilot emphasized the need to work cross- sectoral at the provincial level, with better engagement with the MoH, DLA and DoWR.



RECOMMENDATIONS / IMPLICATIONS

- The pilot was **successful to improve WASH conditions** and roll out to the other 5 provinces is recommended.
- **Greater ownership** of the province with active participation of different departments (MoET/DoWR/MoH/DLA) is recommended for scaling and sustaining
- Conduct an analysis if the improved WASH conditions have contributed to improved **academic results** and **community health**



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Big appreciation to;
 - All 74 schools and communities involved for their ownership improvements being made
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