

Post-2015 HYGIENE ADVOCACY TOOLKIT

Annex 2: Hygiene in the SDGs One-Pager

Developed by the Global Public-Private Partnership for Handwashing (PPPHW)

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Hygiene in the Sustainable Development Goals

Why should hygiene be a priority in the SDGs?

Hygiene is fundamental to achieving good health and nutrition, advancing education, strengthening the economy, and supporting gender equity, dignity, and human rights. If we hope to truly achieve the development potential associated with improving water and sanitation, then we must make strides in improving access to hygiene facilities. One significant failure of the MDGs was not addressing hygiene alongside water and sanitation. This oversight must not occur again.

Where is hygiene in the SDGs?

Hygiene is included as one of the targets under the so-called Water Goal, Goal 6. It states that by 2030, countries must achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all, and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations.

Decisions are still being made about whether and how to measure adequate and equitable hygiene for all. With the drive to reduce the number of core indicators to be measured, some are suggesting that measuring hygiene should only be optional. This would be a big mistake.

Where should hygiene be in the SDGs?

Hygiene should be included in Goal 6 and measured like water and sanitation because the three are equally important. Currently, less than a fifth of the world practices good hygiene. Many millions are sick and dying as a result. Measuring hygiene should be a global, compulsory indicator to ensure governments focus on improving hygiene and to measure progress.

Hygiene should be further defined by a set of **global indicators** that include:

- Handwashing with soap: presence of handwashing facilities with soap and water in the home, schools, and health care facilities.
- Menstrual hygiene management: presence of hygienic, safe, and private facilities for girls and women.

Consideration should also be given to incorporating hygiene indicators into: **Goal 1** (poverty), **Goal 2** (hunger and nutrition), **Goal 3** (health), **Goal 4** (education), **Goal 5** (gender equality), and **Goal 11** (safe cities).

For further information, see the recommendations in the JMP for Water Supply and Sanitation policy brief http://www.wssinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/resources/post-2015-WASH-targets-factsheet-12pp.pdf.