School re-opening WASH Plan
24th June 2020

Dr Pyu Pyu Aye, Director, School Health Division,

Ministry of Health and Sports, Myanmar
Myanmar School Re-opening WASH Overview

- When COVID-19 lockdowns started schools were already closing for long annual holidays.

- 40,000+ schools due to open new school year on 1st June. Postponed until 3rd week of July (staggered opening)

- Development of overall guidance note for school reopening by MoE (not just WASH) started in March. Based upon global guidelines/best practices adapted to Myanmar.

- For WASH Ministry of Education worked with Ministry of Health and Sports, UNICEF and WHO to develop WASH specific checklists to be annexed and integrated into one overall school re-opening guidelines and plan.
Formation of WASH Technical Working Group

- Members of TWG: Representatives from MOHS and MOE
- Technical support: WHO and UNICEF
- Guidelines drafted in consultative process
- Guidelines and Checklists aligned with the draft National Standards for WASH in schools.
- Simplified to focus specifically on ‘critical criteria’ hand hygiene and ensuring teachers had easy to understand/check references.
School Re-opening WASH Guidelines

- **WASH guidelines include 8 components:**
  i. Preparation of handwashing station
  ii. Access to water for cleaning and disinfecting
  iii. Access to safe drinking water
  iv. Provision of Toilets/Latrines and Bowl/Stall Urinals
  v. Personal hygiene education and behavior change
  vi. Monitoring school canteen/kitchen and food handlers
  vii. Managing disposal of garbage and sewage water

- Checklists developed
- C4D Materials being developed to support the Guidelines
Key aspects of the guidelines

- Link with the draft National Standards for WASH in Schools and other existing guidelines
- Provision of improvement of basic infrastructure—focusing on handwashing facilities, school toilets, etc
- Integration with C4D and communication
- Assessment of WASH facilities using the checklists by local authority and school administration
- Planning and implementation of the guidelines by the local authority and school administration
- Creation of at least “one-star level” schools
- Financing from the government budget
Myanmar School Re-opening WASH Costing

- Costing considerations included from the outset and scaled to cover different categories of school with different types of potential interventions:
  - High risk schools (e.g. outbreak townships or used as quarantine facilities)
  - Low risk schools (no community transmission or usage as quarantine facility)
- Excel based cost estimation tool quickly identified suggestions that were unrealistic in terms of cost and or market availability
Myanmar School Re-opening WASH plan

- Pre-testing of WASH guidelines
- Review and refine the guidelines
- Finalize guidelines, printing and dissemination
- Orientation and training to State and Region, and Township level officials
- Online checklists being tested (RapidPro/Viber)
- WASH in School kits ready for distribution to high risk schools (under prioritization) as part of operationalization of Guidelines
Thank you