

WASH in Schools Massive Open Online Courses

WinS MOOCs for Schools and Divisions

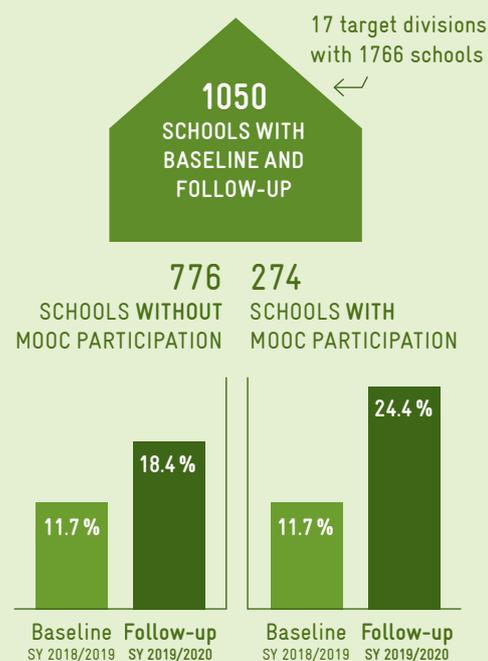


All children have a basic right to have access to safe drinking water, basic sanitation and hygiene in schools (WinS). The provision of adequate WinS is a defined target within the Sustainable Development Goal framework, in particular 4.1 a and 6.1 and 6.2. As children spend half of their day in school, provision of basic WinS services are a pre-requisite to open schools.

LEADING WINS IN SCHOOLS is a 40-hour course specifically designed for school heads and teachers to acquire the information and skills needed to effectively implement WinS in their respective schools. The pilot run of the course was launched at the end of 2019.

ACCELERATING WINS IN DIVISIONS has been developed for subnational officials. This is also a 40-hour course aimed at equipping participants with the essential knowledge to help support and manage WinS program implementation. The course was piloted in early 2020.

LEADING WINS MILESTONES PROPORTION OF SCHOOLS REACHING STAR LEVEL (CRUCIAL INDICATORS FOR WINS)



MOOCs OVERVIEW & RATIONALE

To further ramp up the information and education campaign to improve the status of WinS in the Philippines at mass scale, Department of Education (DepEd), together with its development partners, GIZ and SEAMEO INNOTECH, jointly developed the massive open online courses (MOOCs) on WASH in Schools, as a response to the capacity development needs of DepEd's Division offices and schools. The use of digital training solution facilitates a wider audience reach while allowing flexibility, low maintenance costs, administrative efficiency, and economies of scale.

The courses were first hosted via the Knowledge and Education Exchange Platform (KEEP) until 2020 and eventually migrated to DepEd's Learning Management Systems (LMS) for teaching and non-teaching personnel and are now being offered to focal persons in schools and subnational offices.

The emergence of COVID-19 has underlined the role of WinS as a pandemic preparedness and response strategy, creating an even greater demand for capacity building on WinS in the education sector. The MOOCs are utilized even more in this context. A section was added with COVID-19 related resources that includes global and national guidelines and framework on health standards that also aimed to support DepEd's learning continuity plan.

LEADING WINS HIGHLIGHTS END-OF-COURSE SURVEY



* 4 = very satisfactory; 5 = excellent

The e-learning journey begins with understanding WinS and its importance. The next part is on assessing the current WinS situation in their respective schools, followed by creating a roadmap toward the national standards, and then finding ways to ensure WinS sustainability. The course ends with a synthesis of all the concepts learned.

Similarly, the path starts with defining WinS and its significance in a child's development. It is then followed by an explanation of the role played by the subnational office in WinS implementation and the provision of technical support to schools. To wrap up the course, the participant creates and articulates their vision of WinS.



INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY

Keeping participants attentive and engaged throughout the self-paced course is necessary to ensure optimum learning and successful completion of the course. Various teaching strategies are employed to sustain interest and participation, such as:

Videos // Surveys // Discussion forums // Peer review assessment // Reflection writing // Hands-on exercises

The integration of discussion forums and peer learning into the course encourages interaction among on-ground practitioners. This forms a platform for participants to share best practices, learn from co-participants, and motivate each other to push for the improvement of their respective schools' WinS situation.

From the launch of WinS MOOC in 2019 to November 2021, a total of 22,510 participants have enrolled and 10,921 of them have successfully completed the courses (equivalent to a completion rate of 49%).

DepEd WinS Monitoring results indicate that the course has significant impact on percentage of schools improving star level after participation in the MOOC compared to schools that did not participate. Feedback obtained from participants showed high satisfaction with the courses. // The Leading WinS is an accredited course by the National Educator's Academy of the Philippines (NEAP) and course completers earned professional development units counting towards their promotion.

In order to institutionalize WinS, the Philippine Department of Education (DepEd) released Department Order No. 10, series of 2016, defining the standards for water, sanitation, hygiene, deworming, and health education. Along with the policy came its implementing mechanism, the Three Star Approach, as an integrated system for monitoring, quality assurance, and performance recognition. To enable the attainment of the national standards, an online monitoring system and booklets on water, sanitation, hygiene, and deworming were also made available to schools and education sector officials. Orientations on the policy and its guidelines have been conducted in various subnational offices across the country. However, financial and logistical constraints have illustrated the need for quality training mechanisms that reach schools at a massive scale.



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WINS MOOC ON THE DEPED PHILIPPINES PLATFORM:
<https://training.deped.gov.ph/course/index.php?categoryid=34>

MORE INFORMATION:
www.fitforschool.international

