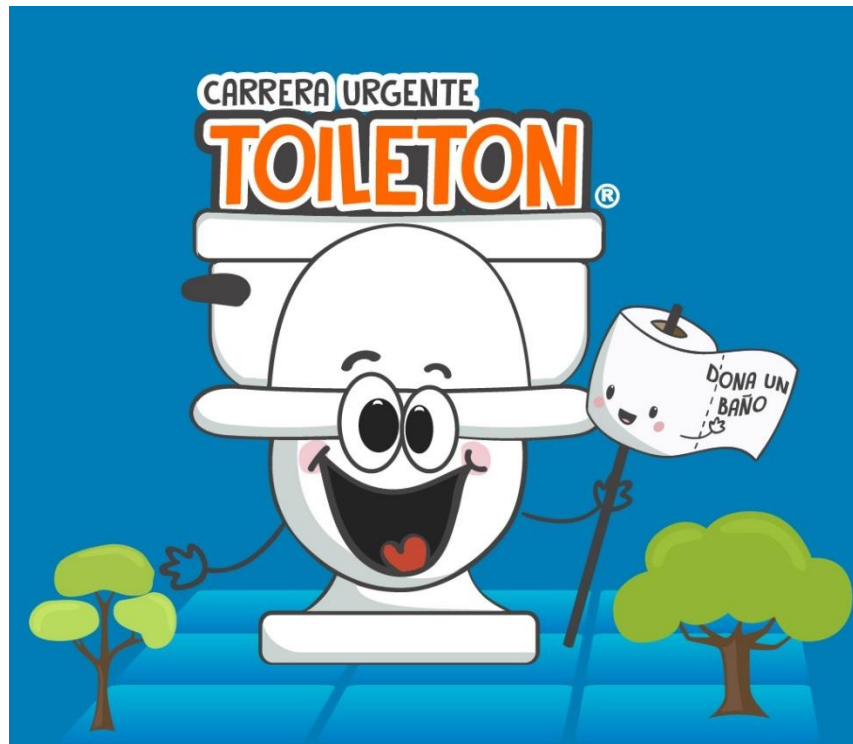




San Salvador
Maquilishuat



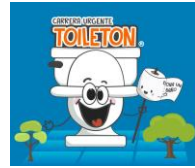
**TOILETON™ URGENT FOOTRACE
IMPLEMENTING THE WATER, SANITATION AND HEALTH (WASH) PROGRAM
IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN EL SALVADOR**

**AN OPPORTUNITY TO SAVE LIVES AND BUILD A BETTER PRESENT FOR THE
SALVADORANS WITH HOPE FOR THE FUTURE**

**TOILETON™ EL SALVADOR:
ROTARY CLUB SAN SALVADOR MAQUILISHUAT EL SALVADOR 2020**

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A. Global Context¹

Water is at the center of economic and social development; it is vital to maintain health, grow food, manage the environment, drive economic growth and create jobs. Despite water's importance, over 663 million people in the world still lack access to improved drinking water sources, and some 2.2 billion people around the world do not have safely managed drinking water services.

Globally 2.3 billion people live without access to a basic sanitation service: almost 892 million of these people practice open defecation and 3 billion lack basic handwashing facilities. Despite significant gains — over 2.2 billion people gained access to improved toilets or latrines since 1990 — sanitation was one of the most off-track Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) globally. Today, only 68% of the world's population has access to basic sanitation, and only 39% of people have access to safely managed sanitation (which includes containment, through safe collection and conveyance, to treatment and end use/disposal).

Healthier children become healthier adults who contribute more to the economy. Therefore, sanitation is critical to health, economic growth and the environment. Investing in clean water and sanitation is about preventing needless deaths, investing in people and transforming lives. 297,000 children under 5 years die due to diarrhea linked to inadequate WASH. Poor sanitation and contaminated water are also linked to transmission of diseases such as cholera, dysentery, hepatitis A, and typhoid

B. Domestic Context²

According to official data, in 2016 only 59% of children living in Salvadoran rural areas had access to clean drinking water and proper sanitation. Even worse, there was a lack of educational programs being implemented to address sanitation, hygiene and menstrual hygiene management (MHM). These conditions become important causes of scholar absenteeism due to the greater exposure to mosquito-borne diseases (Dengue, Zika and Chikungunya), diarrhea and other gastrointestinal diseases. Furthermore, the lack of MHM knowledge makes girls and young women get exposed to infections that severely harm their health.

The scenario above described is still valid at this point in time, and in some areas it has become worse. Children and adolescents at schools currently face poor health risks, poor learning performance and absenteeism due to the prevailing water and sanitation unhealthy conditions, as well as poor hygiene habits.

Corollary: "The deterioration of the sanitary conditions at schools considerably affect the health and well-being of students".

¹ The World Bank. - Understanding Poverty/Topics/Water and Sanitation

² Information gathered during field trips to rural public schools through interviews and site observation.



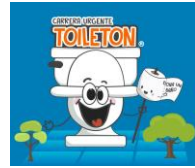
Water-borne diseases and fecal contamination spread rapidly through shoddy and poorly maintained toilets, confined spaces with limited ventilation, and lack of soap and appropriate facilities to wash hands. Additionally, girls do not have safe and decent spaces for their menstrual hygiene, so they decide to skip school attendance during their period, affecting their school performance and self-esteem.

Some schools have School Management as well as Health and Hygiene Committees comprised of teachers which, in some cases, do not hold active relations with the health authorities nor the municipal governments. Furthermore, in many cases they do not have a program for the sustainable maintenance of the water and sanitation infrastructure or waste management (they depend on the public service once a week). Additionally, parents and the community do not participate in the sustainability of hygiene practices and maintenance of infrastructure.

Finally, the overall problematic in public schools along El Salvador may be summarized as follows:

Field	Issue
Education	Lack of education to build healthy hygiene habits in students.
	Lack of trained teachers to instruct students on handwashing techniques and to supervise handwashing in groups at mealtimes.
	Lack of trained teachers to instruct girls on menstrual hygiene.
	Lack of WASH courses integrated in schools' curricula, and WASH-related training for teachers.
Facilities	Lack of water supply sources (including drinking water); hand washing stations; basic supplies such as soap and toilet paper; as well as gender-separated hygienic toilets for students.
	Facilities do not meet sanitation national standards, nor World Health Organization's.
	No regular maintenance guaranteed.
Behavior changes	Lack of control of handwashing before school meals and after using the sanitary facilities.
	Non generalized and constant use of sanitary facilities by students, nor active participation in the cleaning of the facilities.
	Hygiene, water and sanitation practices are not considered a priority. This is linked to the culture, structural poverty of families and teachers, as well as the limited involvement of community members in school sanitation.
Management	Lack of plans for operational maintenance of sanitation facilities and menstrual hygiene management.
	Nonexistent monitoring and evaluation to verify compliance with national standards and lack of notification of results to government authorities.
	MINED does not provide support to schools related to safe water access, sanitary infrastructure, and training on hygiene practices.

C. WASH Facts and Background



Research shows that WASH programs impact schools by:

- 1) Reducing the dropout rate, particularly among the girls, who would otherwise leave their studies when they reach puberty.
- 2) Promoting the adoption of good WASH habits in the community, since children become agents of change within their families and communities.
- 3) Preventing the spread of diseases and reduce malnutrition, diarrheal and other diseases caused by lack of access to drinking water, sanitation and hygiene.
- 4) Promoting gender equality, by teaching common tasks for girls and boys, such as cleaning toilets, carry and boil water and take care of the sick.

Rotary International has launched a challenge to all Rotarians around the world, urging them to join forces to improve the quality of education and its access, particularly for girls, and to work with communities to provide better WASH services, teachers training and curriculum development.

Rotary Club San Salvador Maquilishuat, responding to the challenge has supported seven schools to change health and sanitation habits along the last three years. The club has conducted interventions that ranged from maintenance of existing facilities to building completely new sanitation facilities. Total investment for the interventions amounted to US\$ 151,946.00

The methodology proved to be efficient and effective, and its product has had great impact in the scholar community; therefore, numerous schools and donors have approached the club to implement the program.

D. Description of the Intervention

Rotary Club San Salvador Maquilishuat's intervention purpose is to foster behavior changes related to hygiene and sanitation, aimed to improve health conditions and learning performance of scholar communities, in public schools.

Better sanitary conditions will help to enhance student's health and to prevent scholar absenteeism due to the greater exposure to mosquito-borne diseases (Dengue, Zika and Chikungunya), diarrhea and other gastrointestinal diseases as well as infections due to poor sanitary practices during the girls' menstrual period.

TOILETON™ is aimed to provide students, in eight public schools, access to drinking water, specific toilets and sinks for each gender as well as an appropriate solid waste management system. 2,800 students (Women: 1,344 and Men: 1,456) may be directly benefited. The irradiation of health education actions may indirectly impact students' families (14,000 people) and 100 teachers' families.

To achieve the intervention objective, the club is willing to work in the following:

- 1) Building of a safe, healthy, and sustainable high-quality scholar environment through the construction or improvement of sanitary facilities;



- 2) Development and implementation of a duly structured education component to fulfill the related-WASH sustainability requirements, which will also include MHM;
- 3) Implementation of a strict gender and human rights approach; and
- 4) Promotion and achievement of a larger participation of Public Health and Education officials, school management committees and community members.

The participation of the scholar community and the communities linked to the schools, in adopting healthy living habits, provides sustainability to the intervention and impact in families related to the schools. For this reason; at intervention inception the team will establish School Management Committees (SMC), which will be the governing bodies that will serve as liaison with Rotary Club San Salvador Maquilishuat and will take over the responsibility and sustainability of the facilities and education once the intervention is completed. The committees will be established in collaboration with schools' authorities and members of the community.

Children, teachers and community members will be taught on good hygiene practices, including menstrual hygiene for girls. The medium and long-term scope should be the adoption of a new culture on the use of basic sanitation systems, the adoption of good hygiene habits for the reduction of diseases, better learning performance and permanence in schools.

The school community will be trained for sustainability of the water and sanitation systems with community participation. It will also be important to conduct a local capacity building component for the establishment of networks of municipal, public and private cooperation.

E. Budget and Management Model

Interventions depend on the facilities conditions, found at their inception, as well as schools' internal and external organization; nevertheless, it is expected that the interventions will be completed in the eight participating schools in twenty months. The budget amounts to US\$ 200,000.00 (Two Hundred Thousand US Dollars) distributed as follows:

MASTER BUDGET TOILETON™ URGENT FOOTRACE IMPLEMENTING THE WASH PROGRAM IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN EL SALVADOR	
Item	Cost
Education	20,000.00
Infrastructure	160,000.00
Project Management Supervision and Monitoring	20,000.00
Total budget	200,000.00