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Innovative Solutions for Safe School Sanitation in rural regions of the EU and EECCA

Do pupils have a right to Safe Sanitation at School?

Margriet Samwel

GTZ - Eschborn, 19.11.2009 - World Toilet Day

Sustainable Water and Sanitation Projects

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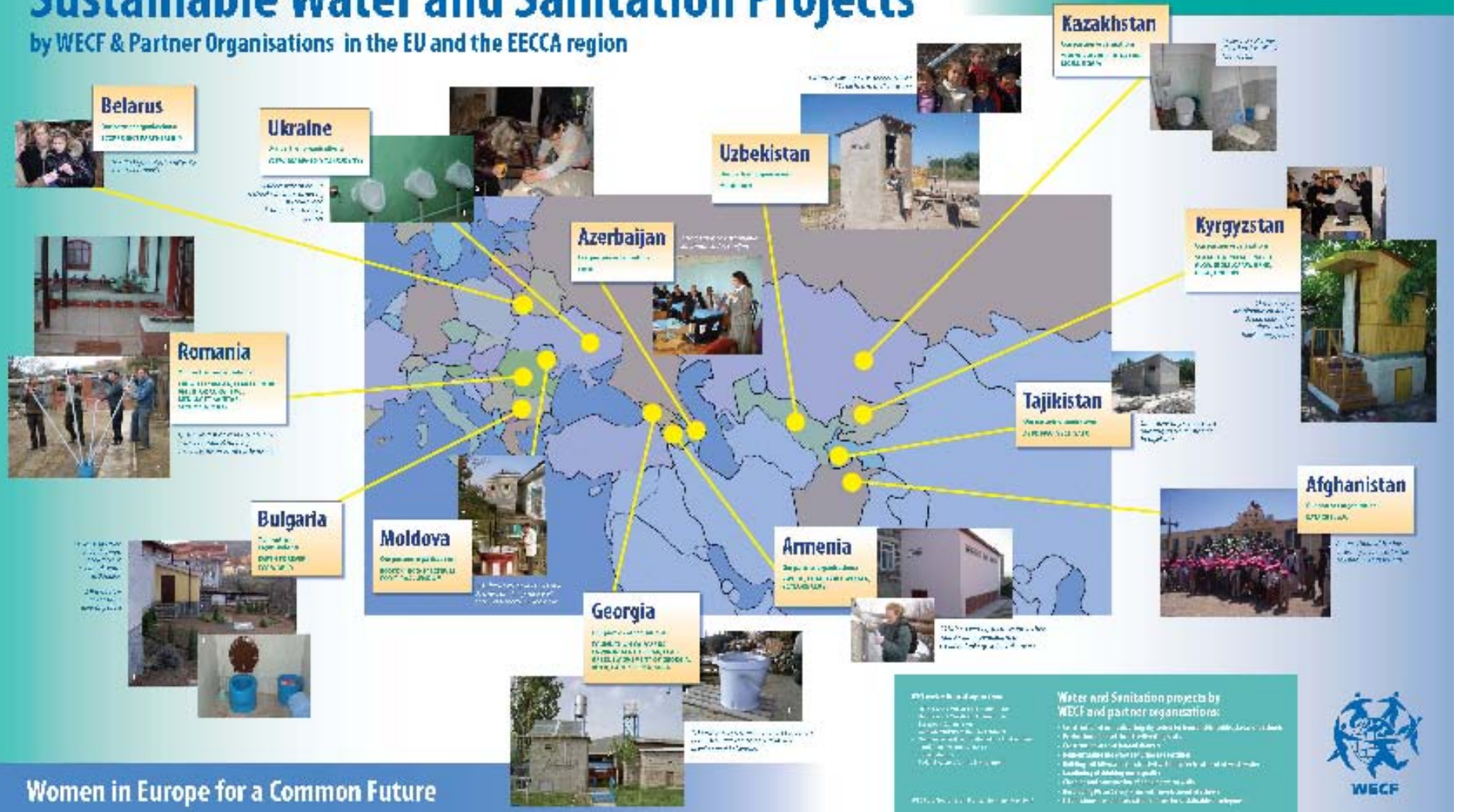
by WECF & Partner Organisations in the EU and the EECCA region



Water and Sanitation projects by WECF and partner organisations:

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School Sanitation

In the Least Developed Countries (UNICEF):

- only 63% of girls attend primary school
- only 24% attend secondary school

School Sanitation and Menstruation

Why do school girls face specific challenges at puberty that boys do not?

The answer is a mixture of the biology or physiology of puberty

- the social and cultural implications of transitioning to adulthood,
- the institutional infrastructure and functioning based on male norms,
- and the economic realities of young people's lives.

Underlying them all is the frank reality of pubertal bodily changes, and in particular, girls' unique experience of managing menstruation (Dooley 2008)

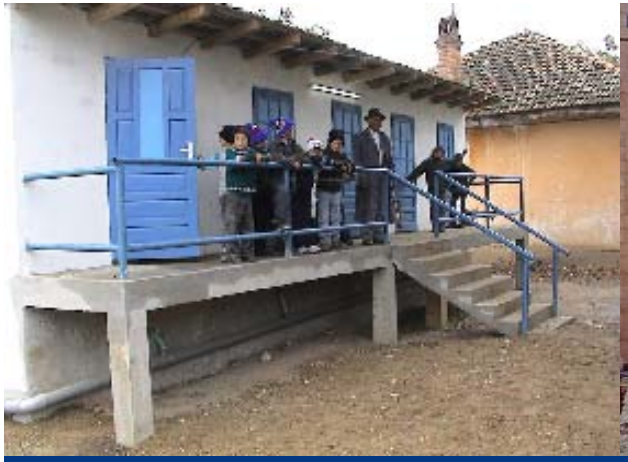
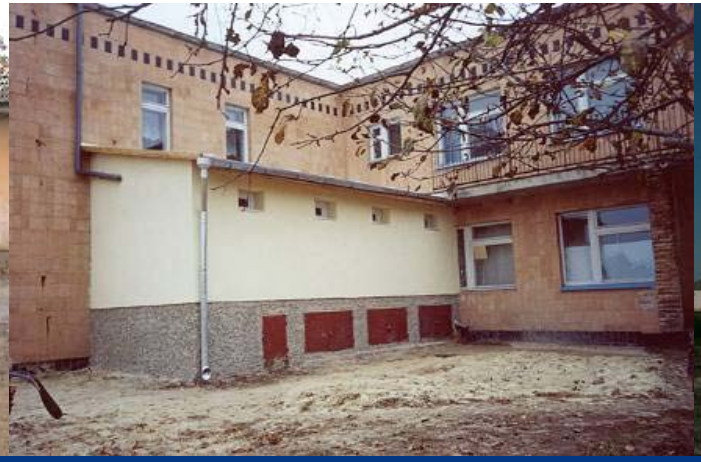
Traditional School Toilet in Rural Areas

Recommendations for School Sanitation

There is a fundamental need to address specific needs for sanitation.

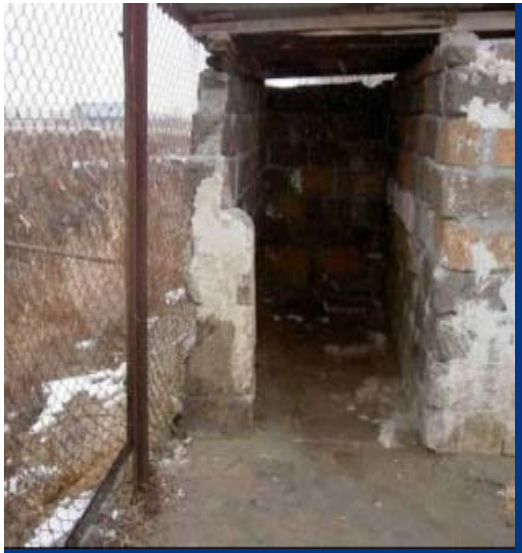
Such facilities must be:

- hygienic,
- environmentally friendly,
- resource low,
- safe,
- private,
- clean,
- and above all, tailored to the specific needs of local post-pubescent school girls.

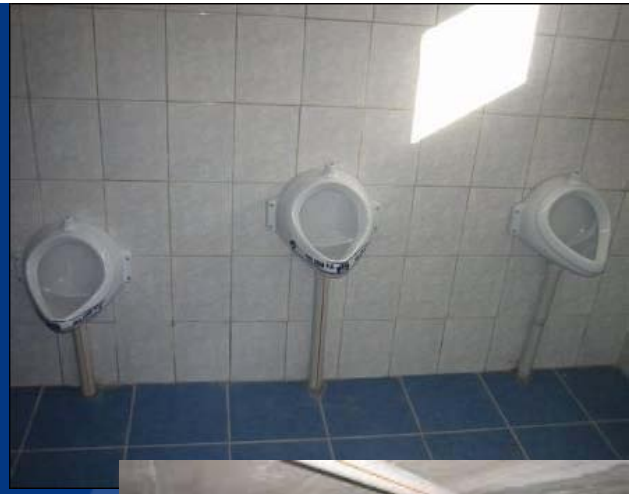




Examples of sustainable School Sanitation based on UDDT by WECF and Partner

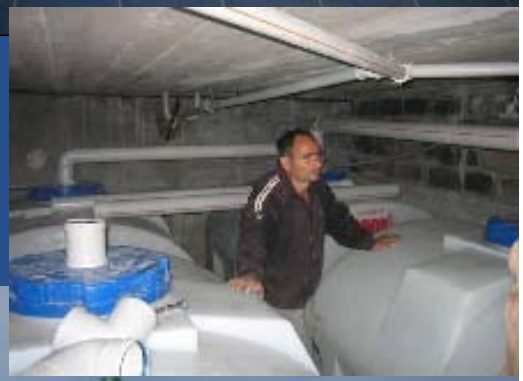


Before

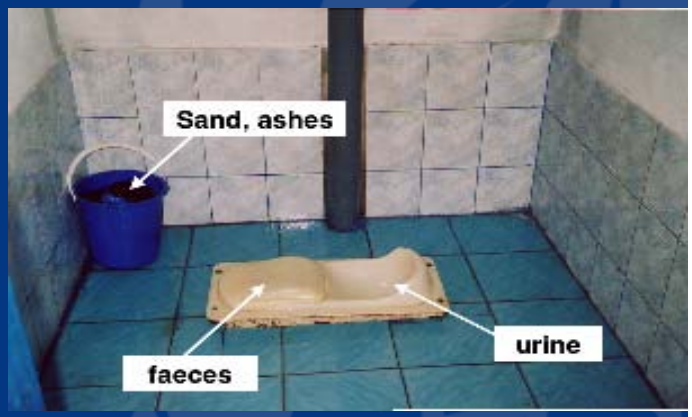


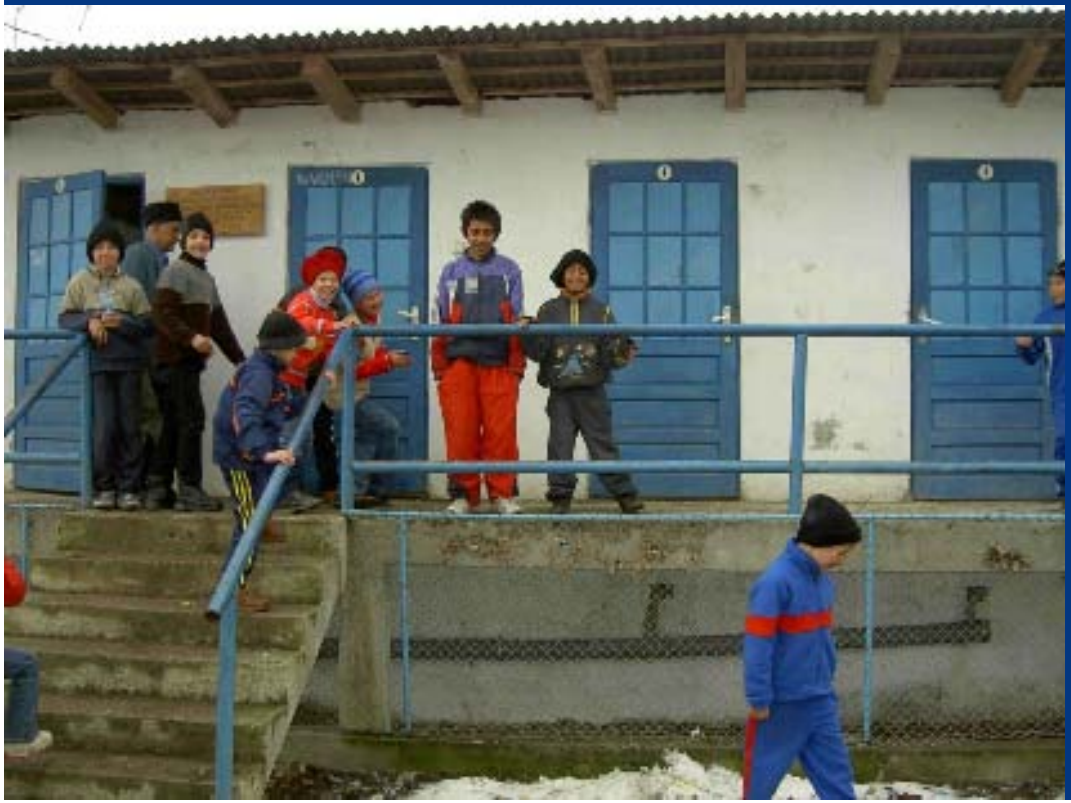
Example Indoor School UDD Toilet Facility for 350 school children plus teachers in Hayanist, Armenia



Before

Example: Outdoor School UDD Toilet Facility for 200 school children plus teachers in Garla Mare, Romania





Experiences in the EECCA region

- UDDT in particular for schools are well accepted
- Even without connection to a sewage or centralised water system sustainable sanitation can be realised
- Awareness raising and education are crucial for success

- After one year usage of UDD toilets less Helminths were found among Ukrainian pupils (SES, Odessa)

Barriers for safe sanitation at schools

- Sanitation is a taboo
- Low awareness on the importance of sanitation
- Sanitation is not on the political agenda
- Lack of financial resources for school sanitation
- Low awareness on approaches of sustainable and safe sanitation
- Institutional - National /EU Legislation

Thank you for your attention!

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