



# WASH IN SCHOOLS IN GEORGIA

## Why WASH?

**WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) in schools** means looking specifically at the needs of rural schools, where there are especially poor sanitation and hygiene conditions, often due to outdoor bathrooms and poor water quality.

Contaminated water and improper sanitation are the main causes of water-borne illnesses in children. It negatively affects students' school attendance, education and employment opportunities.

There's not only the lack of infrastructure, but also low awareness on proper WASH behaviors.

The effect of addressing WASH schools is also the long-term economic benefits, such as better employment and economic conditions, from improved health and education of children.

*Since 2017, CARE, with Georgian Medical Group works in Adjara and Guria schools to improve health and education conditions, and facilitate behavior change on WASH through mobilizing communities and hygiene education, and empowering women and youth.*

**Supported by:** New World Program

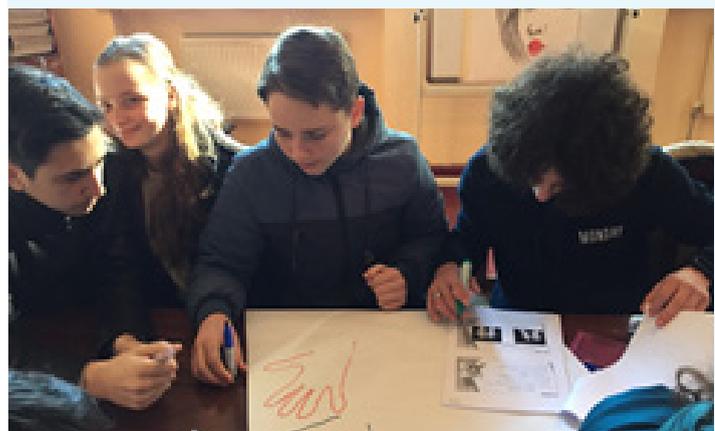
### Implementing organizations:

CARE International in the Caucasus, Georgian Medical Group (GMG)

**Aim of the project:** To improve the WASH infrastructure and knowledge on WASH practices in schools of Guria and Adjara regions. To increase awareness among the local population and decision-makers about the importance of WASH in schools in rural Georgia.

### WASH in schools model:

- **Improves physical infrastructure** at schools, complying with international standards.
- **Raises awareness within communities on WASH rules** through informational campaigns.
- **Increases capacities of schools to continue WASH education** through trainings of teachers and peer educators, and handing over the teaching materials.
- **Develops the local ownership** on WASH infrastructure and education.
- **Creates sustainable governance mechanisms on WASH** at schools and communities through WASH committees.
- **Refines WASH model, raises awareness in the society on importance of WASH**, to facilitate adoption of WASH model in schools of Georgia.





## Empowering women and girls

Lack of proper WASH conditions especially affects girls and discourages them to be fully engaged in education process. At every level of its implementation, the project takes into consideration the needs of girls and women. The project strengthens the leadership potential of women and girls, through their active involvement in WASH education, as WASH champions and advocates in their communities, and their inclusion in decision-making process through WASH committees.

CARE believes in the power of the local communities to act and change their lives to better, once they are given the necessary capacities to do so.. CARE ensures that the communities around the school are educated about the benefits of clean water and importance of good hygiene, and are engaged in the process. CARE and GMG approach focuses on building local pride and responsibility of maintaining WASH systems running properly and WASH education within the local communities.



### Infrastructure rehabilitation

- Separate bathrooms for boys and girls.
- Bathrooms adapted for the needs of children with disabilities.
- Using environmental-friendly technologies to prevent the pollution of school surroundings.
- Ensuring safe potable water for schools through installing ultraviolet lamps and filters.



### Raising awareness and altering WASH behaviors

- WASH committees ensure inclusion and participation of students, teachers, and local population in the maintenance of WASH infrastructure.
- Trained teachers and students gain important skills to continue WASH education with their peers.
- Knowledge transfer is happening through students and teachers who bring WASH education back in their families and communities.



## WASH project implementation in the schools of Adjara and Guria

- 4 schools in rural Adjara and Guria already have improved WASH infrastructure
- 40 higher-grade students and 40 teachers gained capacity to continue WASH education with peers
- More than 800 school students (50% are girls) have obtained knowledge on proper WASH rules this year
- 75% of WASH educators and leaders are women and girls, as they practice teaching WASH rules and participate in decision-making process
- More than 2500 community members have increased awareness on WASH through knowledge transfer, and informational campaign