

We have to make sure that schools are safe and healthy environments for children to learn hygiene

Children need schools with access to proper water and sanitation facilities, where they can practice the health-promoting behaviour they learn and the life skills that help them to become physically, mentally and socially healthy citizens. Hygiene education offers the teachers an opportunity to help children in obtaining life skills addressing hygiene issues and passing them on to their families and communities, both at the time of studying and during their lives.

Ecological sanitation in practice/ AWHHE joint projects with Women in Europe for a Common Future

The Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment NGO has implemented the project "Improvement of sanitation in rural areas of Armenia" which is part of the program "Tapping resources" funded by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (TMF). One of the goals of the project was to provide an affordable option to upgrade school sanitation. It serves as an example of how the sanitary conditions in rural areas can be improved without any connection to sewerage supply system. In addition, the population became aware of the advantages of dry urine diverting toilets regarding the water protection and the use of ecosan produce as an excellent organic fertilizer. To address the common problem of inadequate school sanitation in rural



International coordinator, supervising the toilet building



The problem is being solved just on the spot

areas, the villages Hayanist, Khachpar and Fantan were chosen for implementation of dry urine diverting toilets pilot project.

The new sanitation approach increased the parents' and citizens' interest in ecological sanitation and was very well accepted by teachers and students. This pilot-project serves as an example not only for Armenian villages but also for many Eastern European, Caucasus and Central Asia countries, which face similar sanitary, environmental and health problems.



Field visit of WECF partners



Training in Hayanist village school (before completion of toilet rooms construction)

WECF

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Ecological Sanitation an option for all



A long-term fruitful cooperation
on sanitation with WECF

YEREVAN, 2009

Sanitation challenge:

To improve the livelihood of people and to restore the degraded environment halving the proportion of people without access to basic sanitation by 2015, as part of MDG's.

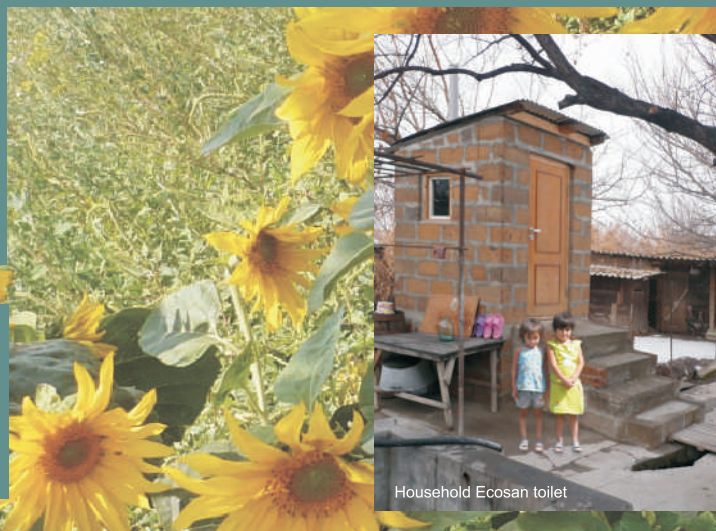


Exosan Toilet in Hayanist village school

Sanitation, like education and health, is the fundamental building block in the fight against world poverty. Today 2.6 billion people, i.e. more than 40% of the world's population lack access to basic sanitation.

Lack of sewerage system in rural Armenia (more than 90%) contributes to secondary drinking water contamination resulting in worsened social and public health situation.

Sanitation contributes to dignity and social development. Sanitary reform has historically been the starting point for civic improvement.



Household Exosan toilet

Sanitation is vital for human health.

Every day, diarrhea, caused by poor sanitation, takes away the lives of 5,000 infants and children. In Armenia, about 7% of all infant deaths are attributed to intestinal infectious diseases.



Exosan toilet interior



Urinals for schoolboys



Ecological sanitation, also known as ecosan, is a new paradigm in sanitation that recognizes human excreta and household wastewater not as waste but as resources that can and are recovered, treated (where necessary), and reused.

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ecological_sanitation

Diarrhea is one of the biggest killers of children under five worldwide and also the major contributor to malnutrition and stunting. Providing access to a toilet can reduce child deaths from diarrhea by over 30% and hand washing - by more than 40% and can also prevent most of the 130 million annual cases worldwide of serious worm infestation significantly improving the quality of life.



Urine tanks in the basement of Hayanist school

Advantages of Ecological sanitation

- Affordable option for all
- Improves health, forming a barrier against the spread of diseases caused by pathogens in human excreta
- Flexible - for each particular situation
- Eliminates large quantities of black water – the main source of contamination and pollution
- Enhances the dignity and quality of life of the poor
- Saves at least 20-40% of the domestic water consumption
- Can be used for agricultural purpose. Produces fertilizers containing large proportion of nitrogen in urine, potassium and phosphorus in faeces
- Facilitates energy production from organic waste resources
- Creates local business opportunities for construction, operation and maintenance and sale of fertilizer increasing family income



Composting workshop with participation of Georgian partners