Title of Article: Assessment of WASH Program in Public Secondary Schools in South-Western Nigeria

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Abstract: The provision of safe water, sanitation and hygiene in schools has been established to improve health, boost educational achievement, and promote gender equity which has a positive impact on the society. The aim of this pilot study is to ascertain the state of WASH program in public secondary schools in South-Western Nigeria. A total of twelve schools which span across three Local Government areas in two States (Lagos and Ogun), in South-Western Nigeria were selected. The standard for WASH in schools by UNICEF was used as the guiding principles to evaluate the adequacy of the various WASH components. Out of the 12 public secondary schools visited, only 3 (25%) had drinking water points (boreholes) and 40% of the schools do not have separate latrines for boys and girls, and for promoting privacy of older girls. Only 1 (10%) of the schools had hand washing points but without soap and there is no plan in the schools for advancing WASH program. This study reveals that the present WASH practice in many of the schools is not adequate.