WASHplus Project

Annual Report for Year Three

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The WASHplus project supports healthy households and communities by creating and delivering interventions that lead to improvements in access, practices, and health outcomes related to water supply, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) and indoor air pollution (IAP). This five-year project (2010-2015), funded through USAID's Bureau for Global Health (AID-OAA-A-10-00040) and led by FHI 360 in partnership with CARE and Winrock International, uses at-scale programming as well as integrated approaches to reduce diarrheal diseases and acute respiratory infections, the two top killers of children under five years of age globally. WASHplus can integrate WASH and IAP activities into existing education, HIV/AIDS, maternal and child health and nutrition programs and build strong in-country partnerships to increase impact. In addition, WASHplus is charged with promoting innovation in the WASH and IAP sectors.

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Table of Contents

Introduction 1

Country Updates 1
- Bangladesh IAP 1
- Bangladesh WASH 2
- Benin 3
- Kenya 3
- Madagascar 5
- Mali 6
- Uganda 7
- Zambia 8

Integration 9
- WASH & HIV 9
- WASH & Neglected Tropical Diseases 10
- WASH & Nutrition 10
- WASH in Schools 11

Global Partnerships & Technical Leadership 11
- Clean, Fed & Nurtured 11
- The Global Public-Private Partnership for Handwashing 11
- Joint Monitoring Programme Post-2015 Hygiene Working Group 12
- Rotary International/USAID International H_2O Collaboration 12
- RWSN/World Bank Webinar Series 12
- IAP Collaborative Activities 12
- WASH Conferences 12
- Innovation 13

Cross-Cutting Issues 13
- Monitoring and Evaluation 13
- Knowledge Management 14

Acronyms

CHW	Community Health Workers
CHEW	Community Health Extension Workers
CLTS	Community-Led Total Sanitation
CSA	Community Situation Analysis
COP	Community of Practice
EH	Environmental Health
ECD	Early Child Development
E3	Economic Growth, Education and the Environment
FANTA	Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance
FSM	Fecal Sludge Management
GACC	Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves
HQ	Headquarters
IAP	Indoor Air Pollution
ICS	Improved Cookstove
JMP	Joint Monitoring Programme
KPT	Kitchen Performance Test
KM	Knowledge Management
M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation
MHM	Menstrual Hygiene Management
MOH	Ministry of Health
NTD	Neglected Tropical Diseases
PMP	Performance Monitoring Plan
PPPHW	Public-Private Partnership for Handwashing
RANO HP	Rural Access to New Opportunities for Health and Prosperity
SDS	Strengthening Decentralization for Sustainability
SHN	School Health and Nutrition
SO	Strategic Objective
SPLASH	Schools Promoting Learning Achievement through Sanitation and Hygiene
TOR	Terms of Reference

Introduction

As Year Three of the WASHplus project comes to an end, activities are in full swing in six countries (Bangladesh, Benin, Kenya, Mali, Uganda, and Zambia), and have been scaled back in one (Madagascar). WASHplus is tackling issues that lack simple solutions—influencing cooking practices in a country with few low-polluting alternatives, improving sanitation in a country with too much water or hand washing in a country with poor sanitation coverage—and raising awareness of overlooked connections—menstrual hygiene and girl's school attendance or the impact of hygiene on early child development—relying on its content expertise, its strong network of resource partners, its institution strengthening, and its proven programming approaches.

Formative research, baseline assessments, technical in-country visits, and partner collaboration expanded the body of knowledge in the WASH and IAP sectors and influenced WASHplus programming decisions. WASHplus monitoring and evaluation, knowledge management, and integration expertise are well established in the field and sought after by USAID and potential collaborative partners alike, particularly in light of USAID's renewed emphasis on sanitation in its Water and Development Strategy. At the country level implementation and innovation are starting to make an impact on households and communities.

Country Updates

Bangladesh IAP

Over the course of Year Three WASHplus conducted field research, analysis, and reported on the findings of its improved cookstove (ICS) consumer needs, preferences, and willingness to pay assessment in Bangladesh. Five different ICS models were placed in 120 total households for cooks to use and give feedback through semi-structured elicitation questions. WASHplus also supported FHI 360 field staff who performed the baseline, three-day, and three-week surveys, as well as the willingness-to-pay assessments. Semi-structured survey instruments were complemented by stove use monitoring systems, temperature-sensing data loggers placed on all stoves in the homes (both the improved stove provided for the trial and traditional stoves that remained) to track actual stove use.

To build on the WASHplus program FHI 360 was awarded a small grant from the Office of the Secretary of State, Global Partnership Initiative to conduct Kitchen Performance Tests (KPT) to assess the fuel use (and thus fuel savings and efficiency) of proposed stove models. Resource Partner Berkeley Air conducted KPT in all study households, as well as 24 control households, to track changes in fuel use. After WASHplus review and editing, the final Berkeley Air KPT report was finalized in August.

An initial topline report of this Phase 1 of WASHplus's work was submitted to USAID, shared with the five stove manufacturers who produced the stoves used in the trial, and presented to the Bangladesh Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources at a meeting in June. WASHplus then undertook additional and deeper analysis of the stove trial survey data, and collected and incorporated feedback from organizations that reviewed the topline report. The resulting final report, entitled "Understanding Consumer Preference and Willingness to Pay for Improved Cookstoves in Bangladesh," was finalized then submitted to USAID and distributed at a USAID Catalyzing Clean Energy in Bangladesh "stove expo" and workshop in September. This information was also used to inform Phase 2 activities. This report is available at http://washplus.org/sites/default/files/bangladesh-consumer_preference2013.pdf.

In quarter 3 WASHplus launched Phase 2, which will lay the groundwork for a marketing and behavior change strategy for the uptake of ICS in Bangladesh. The proposed strategy will provide strategic marketing guidance and key marketing considerations around the 4 Ps (product, price, place, promotion) for ICS program implementers in Bangladesh. Guidance will take into account recent Bangladesh-specific research and assessments, including all WASHplus Phase 1 findings, and also draw on data and lessons and best practice in health behavior change, demand creation and marketing of sanitation, water treatment products, and cookstoves. During a visit in July WASHplus determined that the local marketing partner recommended by USAID was no longer available to support this activity, so WASHplus developed social marketing terms of reference (TOR) to find a new local partner.

During this process, WASHplus formally forged a relationship with the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves (GACC), which has identified Bangladesh as one of their focal countries. A Letter of Collaboration was written and signed, and GACC will now fund the contract with the social marketing organization. This ensures wider "buy in" and uptake of the marketing and behavior change strategy. GACC also works closely with the USAID Catalyzing Clean Energy for Bangladesh (CCEB) project, which reinforces our linkages with CCEB and allows WASHplus to contribute to "growing the market" for clean cookstoves in Bangladesh well beyond the life of WASHplus activities.

Bangladesh WASH

During Year Three WASHplus staff began preparation activities and then started implementation of a new WASH program that has three areas of focus—increasing access to sustainable WASH solutions in marginal, geographically challenging districts, building community and local government capacity, and strengthening coordinated WASH-nutrition programming. WaterAid serves as the prime implementing partner and has selected four local NGOs to work in four *upazilas* (subdistricts) and in 22 unions. Early activities included establishing zonal offices, hiring a project coordinator and behavior change and WASH nutrition integration coordinator, establishing guidelines to ensure consistent implementation of project activities across NGO partners, training partner NGOs, and conducting a formal project launch for stakeholders, held in August.

Residents of Char Fasson Upazila participate in a community situation analysis and a CLTS triggering with a WASHplus partner NGO.

The partner NGOs began conducting community situation analyses (CSAs) in August that will continue into October. By the end of September, 509 CSAs had been conducted. The CSAs both capture key data on WASH coverage in intervention communities, as well as lead the community through community-led total sanitation (CLTS) and triggering exercises that will pave the way to community action. The CSAs also empower communities to demand basic WASH services and to engage in activities that will sustain services over time.

Monitoring and evaluation and environmental management and mitigation plans have been submitted and final approval is pending for both. WASHplus staff, both its sanitation and innovation specialist and its behavior change advisor, traveled to Bangladesh in the fourth quarter to train and provide technical assistance to the team there on environmental compliance and behavior change, respectively.

In addition, WASHplus continued to work with several USAID projects in-country to find collaborative opportunities to integrate WASH and nutrition.

Benin

This year WASHplus launched the Benin Urban Hygiene Improvement Program, a three-year activity funded by the USAID Mission in Benin as part of its Global Health Initiative. WASHplus will be working with the Ministry of Health's (MOH) office of hygiene and basic sanitation to carry out social marketing and behavior change communications for improving hand washing and practices related to treatment of household drinking water in the most underserved neighborhoods of Cotonou, Abomey Calavi, and/or Porto Novo. The project is actively seeking partnerships to complement WASHplus's software activities with urban sanitation to create a holistic approach to the issue of childhood diarrhea and seasonal cholera. The government of Benin's MOH intends to use the results of the baseline survey and WASHplus activities to inform a new urban hygiene and sanitation strategy.

Program activities in Benin this year focused on shaping and conducting the baseline survey, building partnerships, and supporting and orienting Armand Aguidi, the local project coordinator. The baseline received internal review board approval, a local research firm was hired to conduct the survey, and MOH's Hygiene and Sanitation Division (a WASHplus/Benin key partner) agreed to put the national MOH laboratory at the disposal of the research team for assistance in water quality and residual chlorine testing. The lab trained the research staff and will follow them to provide quality assurance. The research firm trained the enumerators, pre-tested the instruments, and the research is underway. A local NGO implementing partner, ABMS/PSI, has been identified, and they will carry out social marketing and hygiene activities in two urban neighborhoods.

Mr. Aguidi has been working to develop partnerships with UNICEF, GIZ (the German development organization), and MOH, including incorporating their feedback into the TOR for the baseline. These partnerships are critical for future collaboration and advocacy efforts in favor of investment in urban WASH.

Lastly, WASHplus and Peace Corps/Benin are partnering to produce and test a set of technical materials for use by Peace Corps volunteers to carry out small-scale community and school WASH projects. A Concept Note and Letter of Collaboration for this activity have been finalized.

Kenya

WASHplus activities are gaining traction in areas across Kenya. The small doable action approach resonates in many settings, especially in hard-to-reach arid northern regions. Local partners continue to secure funding to train community health workers in WASH-HIV integration speeding the rollout process. Further, promoting inclusive sanitation is an approach that partners have acknowledged is important and needs to be addressed in a more comprehensive manner, particularly as CLTS is rolled out across the country. WASHplus continues to document success and learning and will continue to do so in the next year.

WASH-HIV Integration

WASHplus integration work in Kenya in Year Three focused on conducting a baseline survey and ongoing training, monitoring, and support to community health workers (CHW) and extension workers (CHEWs). The WASH baseline study was completed in early July at six sites representing peri-urban, rural and semi-nomadic populations; a total of 3,286 interviews were conducted. The report and dissemination of these results will occur in the first quarter of Year Four. Following this intervention, WASHplus will conduct an endline survey to measure the effectiveness of the small doable action approach.

During Year Three WASHplus facilitated multiple trainings, including APHIAplus IMARISHA where 63 master trainers trained in counties with very scarce water resources; MOH WASH-HIV trainings in Kiambu, Nyeri, and Kirinyaga counties and Rongo, Naivasha, and Langata subcounties; and review and refresher trainings with WASH-HIV integration trainers in Coast, Nairobi, and Central provinces, to name a few. Results from these training activities include:

Community health workers review WASH-HIV integration counseling cards at a WASHplus training.

- Trained trainers have mobilized resources from government, NGO and other non-US funds to roll out WASH small doable actions to approximately 80 communities in Central, Nairobi and Coast province.
- WASHplus training materials have been adapted and form the basis of the WASH module of the MOH-developed materials for community health workers.
- Approximately 12.3 million Kenyans in three provinces have been reached with important information on improving WASH practices (assumptions: 1 CHW serves 20 villages of approximately 50 households per village with 5.5 people per household).

Innovations at the community level are also starting to sprout up, such as designs for inclusive latrine use and ideas for income-generating projects. (Read more about one of these designs at http://www.washplus.org/kenya-washhiv-training.) Mobility challenged individuals in 11 villages were shown new ways to improve their access to sanitation by developing modified toilet seats and ropes were introduced to guide the visually challenged.

WASHplus presented "Promoting Hygiene and Sanitation Practices for People Living with HIV and AIDS" at the Water Engineering and Development Centre (WEDC) Conference held in Kenya in July. A story on CHW introducing small doable WASH actions to people living with HIV/AIDS in Mombasa County was published in the MOH September SSHIT newsletter. As co-convener of the National Hygiene Promotion technical working group, WASHplus convened several meetings to plan for Global Handwashing Day October 15.

WASHplus has been working with partners to review progress on WASH-HIV integration and efforts to incorporate WASH indicators into the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system to ensure that data collection tools capture WASH indicators and is also helping MOH develop the WASH technical module of the CHW training.

Advancing Sanitation Uptake—Community-Led Total Sanitation-Plus (+)

WASHplus and the MOH continued their collaboration on advancing sanitation among vulnerable communities through CLTS+ activities[1].

WASHplus reached over 10,000 Kenyans by directly training 37 villages on CLTS+. To date 22 villages claim open defecation free status and are waiting for MOH verification. When villages are triggered, this process includes the selection of natural leaders and the development of action plans for latrine construction. CLTS training participants included district public health officers, trainers, and community health extension workers, and during these sessions participants developed action plans for implementing CLTS+ activities in their respective areas.

WASHplus also organized a regional CLTS stakeholders meeting in Nakuru County to sensitize provincial and county leaders and instill ownership and support for CLTS and to share progress and develop action plans to accelerate latrine coverage and use. WASHplus, in partnership with MOH, organized a stakeholders' meeting for Nairobi County WASH actors to discuss urban sanitation; the meeting drew numerous international and local NGOs.

This activity is also targeting early childhood development centers with CLTS training and instituting the small doable action approach to improve sanitation options for households with mobility challenged individuals, an area that is generating a lot of interest. WASHplus has begun to document households that have moved up the sanitation ladder faster—from open defecation to improved latrines (concrete slabs). Intensified follow-up and engaging village elders, religious leaders, and local artisans (pit diggers) have improved latrine coverage. Two WASHplus-supported intervention sites claimed open defecation free status in August.

In addition, this year WASHplus printed and disseminated the Open Defecation Free Roadmap in partnership with the MOH. WASHplus, The World Bank's Water and Sanitation Program, MOH, and PSI are jointly working on a reference material that will guide CLTS implementers/households on latrine options/choices. The WASH sector is developing a national definition for an *improved latrine,* which will guide some of the examples/options that will be included in the reference material. Sharing lessons learned at local and regional conferences also continues to be a focus.

Madagascar

In Year Three WASHplus carried out program activities to contribute to the reduction of diarrheal disease incidence in Madagascar by developing institutional capacity to boost the implementation of successful approaches that expand and sustain coverage of WASH services and practices. WASHplus closed its local project office on September 30, 2013, after two years of activities. Because approval of

[1] WASHplus CLTS+ activities go beyond the strict definition of community-led total sanitation. The "plus" always includes ensuring that a hand washing facility is available outside the latrine to facilitate correct and consistent hand washing. However, different WASHplus countries emphasize other activities under the "+" umbrella. In Kenya, it also refers to equity and inclusion—making sure that latrines are accessible to the elderly, the weak, and pregnant women who may not be able to squat. In Mali, CLTS+ includes developing low-cost latrine models appropriate to the environmental conditions in each district coupled with training community-based masons to build robust latrines using local materials. In Bangladesh, where many communities already practice fixed point defecation, the emphasis is on a feces-free environment and motivating householders to address the issue of quality and hygienic latrines.

the work plan was delayed for several months, WASHplus was busy in the fourth quarter trying to complete the assigned activities and at the same time close out the project.

Program activities this past year focused on three areas—capturing lessons learned, best practices, and success stories from three other USAID-funded WASH projects; identifying and developing the institutional capacity of a local NGO to receive and manage USAID funding directly and implement WASH activities; and contributing to the operational and financial sustainability of WASH blocks by developing short-, medium-, and long-term plans for the safe disposal of fecal sludge, according to health and environmental standards.

At USAID's request, WASHplus hired local consultants to review the WASH activities of Santénet 2, which focused on sanitation improvement and mutual insurance schemes; and those of Rano HP and Ranon'Ala to document best practices and lessons learned from their work with the private sector.

SAF/FJKM, the NGO selected to receive capacity-strengthening training from WASHplus to support USAID's implementation of its Forward initiative, attended a three-day session on the USAID Forward approach. This NGO also participated in field training on establishing "WASH-Friendly" institutions, an approach that was initiated under the USAID Hygiene Improvement Project (the predecessor to WASHplus). After the training of local actors, which included teachers and members of the Parents' Associations at two private schools and the heads of the branches at two churches, and subsequent rehabilitation and development of improved latrines and water points as well as facilities for washing hands, facilities at these institutions are now WASH-Friendly.

Based on the success of the their fecal sludge management (FSM) innovation pilot, WASHplus asked Practica to design appropriate sludge removal systems in 17 sanitary blocks funded previously with USAID investment. The WASHplus team in Madagascar conducted a participatory assessment of the sanitary blocks, provided technical support to Practica to acquire land for sludge burial, monitored the implementation of sludge management plans, and provided feedback on the Malagasy version of the sludge removal manual and the 17 sludge management plans. (For additional information on this activity, see the section on Innovation on page 13.)

Mali

Though the launch of WASHplus's WASH and Nutrition Project led by CARE Mali was delayed many months beyond its intended start date due to military intervention and resulting instability in the project zones, activities are now underway in the three target districts (Mopti, Bandiagara, and Bankass) in the Mopti region. Following a competitive bidding process, two national NGOs, both of whom have previous USAID experience, were selected as the project's local implementing partners.

In late August WASHplus partnered with the Regional Direction of the Ministry of Health to organize a five-day training session for 21 local NGO partner staff on the national strategy for the Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition. Trainers from the National Direction of Nutrition facilitated the event, which enabled participants to familiarize themselves with the strategy and receive hands-on training. Another significant training event was a four-day workshop on CLTS. Trainers from the Regional Direction of Sanitation, Control, Pollutions and Nuisances facilitated the event and trained 25 people, including nine government staff from the District Technical Services and 16 participants from NGO partners. Technical Services staff trained will accompany the NGO teams during CLTS triggering events.

Jonathan Annis, WASHplus sanitation and innovation adviser, made a visit to Mali in September to support the project management team based in Mopti as it refines detailed implementation strategies for the major activities outlined in the work plan. He focused primarily on CLTS+, sanitation marketing, and the rehabilitation of water points. During the visit he accompanied local implementing partners in each of the three target districts to understand the variety of environmental conditions encountered across the project zones and give recommendations for how those conditions will influence CLTS+ and latrine construction.

The baseline research protocol was developed and submitted to FHI 360 for final approval after incorporating feedback from internal review boards. Data collection is scheduled to be completed early in Year Four.

Uganda

This year WASHplus began its multifaceted work in Uganda to strengthen district government capacity for WASH programming and support the integration of WASH into Feed the Future and HIV implementing partner programming. WASHplus is working with USAID partner Strengthening Decentralization for Sustainability (SDS) to provide intensive support to the districts of Kabale, Kisoro, and Kanugu to write plans and detailed implementation budgets, select from the WASH grants, and work through the many aspects of implementing comprehensive WASH at the district level.

Aryatuha Bashil, a community-based trainer from Kagunga Parish in Uganda demonstrates a do-it-yourself rain catchment cistern.

WASHplus support also included hosting workshops to bring together district health inspectors, school inspectors, planners, community development officers, SDS district focal person, financial and water officers and providing training on the WASH budgeting process. Beyond the workshop, the process required multiple steps and intensive inputs, starting with a July workshop in Kabale for all three districts and intensive follow up. Budget templates were developed that guided the district through the budgeting process. The budget for each districts were reviewed and submitted to USAID. After being notified that construction was no longer eligible for USAID grant funding, WASHplus is working with districts to refocus requests for software only.

In addition WASHplus is building on its predecessor project work in the country to integrate WASH into HIV and nutrition programming. Working with USAID implementing partners, including STAR-SW, SPRING, and SCORE, WASHplus led a collaborative process to plan integration activities. Among the activities already implemented are a number of workshops with the dual objective of building capacity in WASH integration and planning future integration activities with WASHplus support. Trainings and meetings have emphasized why WASH matters for HIV and nutrition and the small doable action approach. WASHplus is currently in the process of developing modules that will be used to train various target groups—village health teams, community knowledge workers, health workers, and district/subcounty officials.

Zambia

Zambia's Schools Promoting Learning Achievement through Sanitation and Hygiene (SPLASH) project is WASHplus's only activity integrating WASH in education. Well into its second year of implementation SPLASH continues to gain national visibility and become a global advocate for WASH in Schools. This year SPLASH focused on WASH facility construction/rehabilitation, hygiene education and behavior change, advocacy and partnership building, small-scale service provider strengthening, and M&E.

Highlights from Year Three:

- Completed 356 of 504 targeted new latrine compartments, rehabilitated 70 of 73 targeted existing water points, built 23 of 79 washrooms, 39 permanent hand washing and 98 safe drinking water facilities. As a result, 40,270 people (in both schools and communities) gained access to improved drinking water and new latrine are serving 15,787 pupils and teachers.
- Gained official approval of latrine and girls' washroom designs.
- Implemented school-based behavior change using school-led total sanitation.
- Trained teachers, teacher trainers, and school health and nutrition (SHN) coordinators.
- Provided governance strengthening via support to PTAs, school works committees, and district governing bodies such as District WASH Education committees.
- Brought together national and provincial Ministry of Education officials to work on improving the SHN program where school WASH is housed.
- Built partnerships with Rotary International, UNICEF, and the private sector.
- Carried out SPLASH facility assessment baseline in all schools in the three SPLASH districts using a paperless survey (tablets).
- Carried out a baseline survey in 72 schools for Chadiza and Vubwi districts. To support M&E effort, a consultant was hired to develop an online database to enable SPLASH to monitor its activities more efficiently and accurately.
- Commenced research and subsequently processed data related to two research studies: the impact of hydration on cognitive performance and pupils as credible WASH messengers
- Hosted three workshops with WaterAid to provide technical assistance on the development of the WASH in Schools equity and inclusion strategy—for the dissemination of survey results on improving inclusive designs for school WASH facilities.
- Identified 15 Area Pump Menders for training in borehole drilling supervision and borehole and pump repairs.
- Supported a weeklong workshop on the development of a curriculum framework for integrating WASH in Schools into the curriculum for district standards officers, subject area teachers, and district resource center coordinators.

The official launch of the ablution blocks at Mnkhanya Community School in Mambwe District was attended by high-ranking officials from government and cooperating partners.

- Hosted pre-SPLASH launch orientation and mobilization meetings for 47 schools in quarter 4; 3,101 community members participated. SPLASH reached 605 teachers, pupils, and community members through school-led total sanitation and trained selected ones on how to be a WASH-Friendly School Champion. Mambwe district staff from several ministries was involved in facilitating WASH-Friendly trainings.
- Observed that some WASH committees have gone a step further in the small doable action approach by including menstrual hygiene management in their action plans. They have procured pads, tissues and soap, and drawn an operations and maintenance chart to track monthly pupil contributions.

In addition WASHplus and partner staff provided technical support to SPLASH over the year on a range of issues. Mr. Annis provided technical assistance related to infrastructure construction and institutional support systems components; Knowledge Management (KM) Specialist Patricia Mantey provided support in KM and communications; WASHplus Senior Hygiene Program Advisor Sarah Fry provided a range of technical and management support to the team; Building Partnerships for Development's Jacques Tiberghien conducted a series of workshops on partnership analysis and creation; and Ellen Walters from WASH Advocates conducted a workshop for SPLASH and its partners on developing an advocacy strategy for WASH in schools.

Integration

Overview

WASH integration is a key component of almost all work WASHplus is doing, and the project continues to look for new opportunities to grow as well as to share its knowledge base and expertise in this area. This year WASHplus situated itself at the forefront of several new and promising integration efforts—WASH, nutrition, and early child development (ECD) and WASH and neglected tropical diseases—while continuing to expand its expertise in WASH in Schools, through its SPLASH program in Zambia and WASH and HIV activities in Kenya and Uganda. To support two newer country integration programs in Bangladesh (WASH, nutrition, and NTDs) and Uganda (WASH, HIV, and nutrition) WASHplus hired two country integration coordinators.

WASHplus's NTD assessment in Bangladesh found that school children know the critical times and technique for hand washing, but the challenge is to ensure people actually practice these behaviors. Here school girls in Barisal demonstrate hand washing at a pump.

Implementation

WASH & HIV

In addition to the activities detailed under the Kenya and Uganda highlights, WASHplus has been documenting stories on community innovation in Kenya related to WASH-HIV integration and updating the USAID's Country Operational Plan Toolkit, which includes evidence and resources to facilitate country PEPFAR programs to include WASH as part of country PEPFAR plans.

WASHplus has also been working on opportunities to collaborate with programs targeting orphans and vulnerable children. Toward that end WASHplus renewed conversations with FHI 360 vulnerable children and youth specialists to identify a few concrete items that will be reflected in next year's WASHplus work plan.

WASH & Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD)

USAID has engaged WASHplus to explore how best to integrate WASH into NTD programs, a critical yet overlooked topic that is receiving renewed attention. WASH Integration Specialist Renuka Bery organized and led a team of NTD and WASH specialists to conduct the WASH-NTD assessment in Bangladesh during September. The final report will be distributed early in FY14. Highlights of the findings and recommendations include capitalizing on existing platforms including the current WASH-nutrition integration activities in Bangladesh and the strong primary education platform that supports hygiene education, learning outcomes, and deworming weeks. Other country assessments may follow next year.

WASH & Nutrition

WASH and nutrition integration is increasingly a hot topic. WASHplus supported and participated in the Clean, Fed & Nurtured Consultative Meeting held in May, where the WASH, nutrition, and ECD agenda was launched. This event, which was jointly conceptualized and hosted by WASHplus, the Bill and Melinda Gates-funded Alive & Thrive project, Public-Private Partnership for Handwashing (PPPHW), and Save the Children, successfully stimulated new partnerships and advocacy for WASH-nutrition-ECD linkages. For more information, see http://aliveandthrive.org/events/clean-fed-nurtured

WASHplus has also helped to ignite this movement by:

- Organizing a panel session on environmental enteropathy at the CORE annual meeting, which included a presentation on WASH. WASHplus also presented on WASH, nutrition, and ECD integration in a different session at the same meeting.
- Finalizing and disseminating the brief on Integrating Water, Sanitation and Hygiene into Nutrition Programming http://www.washplus.org/sites/default/files/wash_nutrition2013.pdf prepared for the Clean, Fed & Nurtured meeting described above.
- Compiling the joint USAID/WHO/WASHplus WASH and nutrition how-to document, which will be circulated for review.
- Establishing and managing a community of practice for USAID's Environmental Health team on WASH and nutrition.
- Organizing and co-facilitating a webinar on environmental enteropathy for Feed the Future practitioners and one on nutrition-sensitive actions based on the Lancet 2013 nutrition articles (see KM section for details).
- Writing a series of age-appropriate WASH actions to include in WHO-UNICEF materials related to nutrition and ECD.

WASHplus also organized a meeting with USAID and other implementing partners to discuss how to integrate WASH substantively into the global Nutrition, Assessment, Counseling, and Support (NACS) guidance and at the country level be able to document best practice and highlight opportunities to replicate.

WASH in Schools

See section on Zambia on page 8 for details about this area of integration work.

Global Partnerships & Technical Leadership

Overview

Partnerships at both the global and country level enable WASHplus to increase its impact, leverage funding, and share results and resources. WASHplus sector and integration expertise continues to be sought in international venues, and its staff regularly contribute to the knowledge base and global conversations in both the WASH and IAP sectors. This year in particular WASHplus experience in behavior change, integration, and knowledge management has been harnessed to enhance USAID's leadership role and maximize its contributions to both sectors.

Implementation

Clean, Fed & Nurtured

WASHplus is an active participant in this newly launched collaborative. For more details see WASH & Nutrition in the Integration section above.

The Global Public-Private Partnership for Handwashing (PPPHW)

This year's PPPHW activities were bookended by celebrations of Global Handwashing Day (GHD) October 15, 2012, and preparations for the 2013 event. GHD 2012 reached over one billion people worldwide. PPPHW successfully launched a social media game and strategy that resulted in Global Handwashing Day trending globally on Twitter and over 90,000 fans on Facebook. In conjunction with the celebrations the partnership also launched the first hand washing distance learning module, Handwashing Behavior Change 101, and the newly designed Global Handwashing Day website. GHD 2013 featured the theme "The Power Is in Your Hands." Sesame Street was recruited as a partner for the event and developed a special video to be launched on GHD 2013.

In May, PPPHW was featured in a spotlight session at the GBCHealth conference in New York City. The presentation was well received, and GBCHealth has contacted PPPHW regarding opportunities for future collaboration. The partnership was also involved in the planning and presentation of the Clean, Fed & Nurtured Consultative meeting, detailed in the Integration section above. PPPHW was instrumental in drafting a blog on the topic for Impatient Optimists, the blog of the Gates Foundation, and helped prepare for the July webinar. By having a presence at WASH sector events such as the USAID Water Strategy Launch in May and USAID's Behavior Change in WASH Strate-Chat in June, PPPHW has been able to continue to maintain visibility among other WASH organizations and project implementers.

Another major area of activity included advocacy efforts around the post-2015 global development plan. The PPPHW is committed to ensuring that hand washing is part of any WASH goal in the post-2015 plan. Toward that end, the partnership participated in the JMP's communications working group, developed a draft two-page hand washing advocacy piece, and attended events around the UN General Assembly to understand the post-2015 process and key actors to target with advocacy efforts over the next year.

Staff also prepared presentations for a panel hosted by Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council on hand washing behavior change monitoring for the IRC Monitoring Sustainable WASH Service

Delivery symposium held in Ethiopia in April 2013. Topics covered general hand washing monitoring guidance, indicators in the MICS/DHS, and programmatic examples of monitoring.

Publications this year included the 2012 Global Handwashing Day Report and an Overview of Handwashing Literature http://globalhandwashing.org/resources/related-research.

Joint Monitoring Programme Post-2015 Hygiene Working Group

As a member of the working group, the WASHplus, through its M&E specialist Orlando Hernandez, mobilized partners to react to the UN Secretary General High Panel on post-2015 sustainable development goals to renew interest in adding hygiene to the discussion agenda.

Rotary International/USAID International H_2O Collaboration

Missions and Rotary clubs in the Dominican Republic, Ghana, and the Philippines each received a country-specific sustainability evaluation conducted through the International H_20 Collaboration using the WASH Sustainability Index Tool, which focuses on four critical areas that are known to be importance to the long-term sustainability of WASH interventions: institutional, management, financial, and technical factors. This tool developed for the H2O collaboration as well as findings from the use of the tool in the three countries mentioned above is available at http://www.washplus.org/rotary-usaid. The collaboration also developed and presented a more detailed 10-year framework and hired a new project manager and WASH area of focus manager.

RWSN/World Bank Webinar Series

On Tuesdays, September 24 – December 10, 2013, the Rural Water and Sanitation Network and The World Bank are hosting a series of webinars on themes related to Professionalizing Rural and Small Town Water Supply Management. As member of the steering committee of the RWSN Management and Support subgroup, Jonathan Annis worked with the organizers to plan the webinar topics and schedule presenters; he also facilitated the Q&A session of the first English language webinar in late September. For more information: http://www.rural-water-supply.net/en/2013-webinars

IAP Collaborative Activities

WASHplus continued planning activities for a Household Air Pollution workshop/meeting exploring data and evidence gaps on ICS adoption and correct and consistent use. The meeting , scheduled for October 22, 2013, is being jointly planned by USAID, WASHplus, TRAction, and the National Institutes of Health. In addition, earlier in the year WASHplus presented at both the ETHOS and the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves Forum.

WASH Conferences

As part of its global leadership mandate, WASHplus staff participated in panel discussions and made presentations at the following fora this year: University of North Carolina's Policy, Science and Innovation conference, Water and Sanitation Rotarian Action Group World Water Summit V, Latinosan 2013, IRC Symposium on Monitoring Sustainability of WASH Services, Colorado WASH symposium, WASH Sustainability Forum, 36th WEDC International Conference, and Integrating WASH and Freshwater Conservation. Many of the WASHplus presentations made at these events are available at: http://www.washplus.org/resources/presentations

Innovation

Workers from the local service provider, Aina, disinfect equipment used to extract and transport sludge to a burial site. The availability of water at the burial site is critical to ensure hygienic conditions.

WASHplus's chief innovation activity, the fecal sludge management pilot in Ambositra implemented by Practica, got underway in Year Three. The small business is now up and running and has reached a level of profitability (i.e., treating 20 cubic meters of sludge per month) since August 2013. Yet challenges to the sustainability of the model—ineffective mechanisms to extract sludge, cost of the service, and lack of entrepreneurial interest—must be overcome before the service is able to operate completely independently of donor support. Through the field team in Madagascar WASHplus continued to support capacity building initiatives to reinforce the capacity of the entrepreneur selected to participate in the pilot. WASHplus undertook regular field visits to monitor and evaluate progress and make recommendations for improvements. A critical next step is the need to enlarge a burial site to allow space for the long-term operation of the sludge removal service and to explore the sludge drying process as a way to reduce the volumes of sludge and produce waste byproducts that could be sold as fertilizer to local farmers. A summary of progress of the pilot is captured in a WASHplus Briefing Note (http://www.washplus.org/sites/default/files/fsm_brief2013.pdf).

Unfortunately, lack of USAID Mission funding caused WASHplus to close its Antananarivo office on September 30, 2013, after two years of activities. Nevertheless, the project will remain engaged in Madagascar through the second phase of the sludge management activity during 2014.

Cross-Cutting Issues

Monitoring and Evaluation

The majority of WASHplus M&E activities are connected to country-level programs; details on those specific activities are incorporated into the individual country updates above. WASHplus also takes a comprehensive look at M&E as it relates to WASH and IAP through its work with the Joint Monitoring Programme and participation in and contributions to global fora. (See section above under Global Partnerships for more information).

WASHplus completed a review and analysis of Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey/Demographic and Healthy Surveys (MICS/DHS) data in four countries—Ethiopia, Malawi, Sierra Leone, and Zimbabwe—to understand the determinants of functional hand washing stations and the relationship between those and diarrheal disease among children under five. The analysis used the data obtained through the indicator "% of households with soap and water at a hand washing station commonly used by family members," which has been included in the MICS/DHS survey since 2009 with the support of the USAID-

funded Hygiene Improvement Project, WASHplus's predecessor. In general, the predictors of functional hand washing stations are: access to water and sanitation, urban residence, and wealth. In other words households in the bottom two wealth quintiles, with no access to improved water sources or improved sanitation and living in rural areas, tended not to have functional hand washing stations. Use of the hand washing proxy indicator, rather than structured observation, enabled the researchers to conclude that the lack of functional hand washing stations and the resulting inability of family members, main caretakers included, to wash their hands is associated with diarrhea. Thus, it provides evidence in support of the use of this indicator to track diarrheal disease.

Knowledge Management

To highlight WASHplus and USAID WASH and IAP activities and share news and resources on these topics WASHplus uses a wide range of channels including the WASHplus Weekly, social media, the website, and electronic newsletter; quarterly, annual, and partner updates on WASHplus program activities; and regular updates to its five content-specific aggregator news sites. WASHplus also began managing two communities of practice (COP) this year. The WASH & Nutrition Community of Practice now has 59 members, and a platform for community sharing was set up on the USAID Learning Lab, http://usaidlearninglab.org/working-group/community-practice-nexus-between-wash-nutrition-and-feed-future. Periodic updates were sent to community members about new publications, events, and member activities. In addition, WASHplus supported a webinar on environmental enteropathy in collaboration with the USAID TOPS project, sponsored by the USAID WASH & Nutrition COP. A recording is available at: http://www.fsnnetwork.org/webinars/USAID-Webinar-on-Environmental-Enteropathy-and-WASH.

The second community of practice focuses on IAP. WASHplus and the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves are collaborating on this community, which explores the health impacts of cookstoves and other forms of household and indoor air pollution. Membership is growing and nearly 40 members have signed up thus far. Notices are sent out regularly to the community about new studies and relevant events. Visit this community and sign up at http://community.cleancookstoves.org/communities.

At the request of the USAID Economic Growth, Education and Environment (E3) Bureau Water Team, WASHplus participated in an event to mark the launch of the new USAID Water Strategy that was held on Capitol Hill in May and was invited to set up a display of materials and hands-on resources to showcase WASHplus activities. The WASHplus team also provided technical support to the E3 Water Team for the USAID Strate-Chat on "Behavior Change for WASH Programs" held at FHI 360 in June. For additional information see http://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1865/Key%20Takeaways_Behavior%20Change%20WASH_2013_0.pdf.

The following are highlights and statistics from WASHplus knowledge management and communication activities throughout the year:

- WASHplus Weekly updates continued to go out nearly every week and recent issues focused on including Cookstove Monitoring, Sanitation Marketing, and Rural Water Supply, and Handwashing. The list of recipients for the Weekly continues to grow, and it is now sent to 1,411 subscribers. Beyond this number, the Weekly is regularly forwarded by many individuals to their networks and colleagues. In addition, once a month, WASHplus is making indoor air pollution the focus of one of issue of the Weekly.

- Readership for the WASHplus blogs/news sites continues to grow and over the course of the year total visits for each site were: Sanitation Updates—180,000 visits; IAP Updates—87,700 visits; Urban Health Updates—67,100 visits; Household Drinking Water Quality—81,000 visits.
- The Innovation Exchange gets an average of 830 visitors each month and posts were added throughout the year on a wide range of including innovations in household water treatment, sanitation, menstrual hygiene pads, and cookstove design. The site has also sparked a bit of discussion on some posts and enabled some individuals with comment interests to connect.
- The WASH Twitter account (@washplusinfo) now has nearly 1,000 followers, and new for Year Four, WASHplus has started a Twitter that focuses on IAP only (@washplus_stoves).