

Highlights and new resources from the WASHplus project and its partners

washplus News

Supportive Environments for Healthy Communities

December 2011

Best wishes from the WASHplus team for a prosperous New Year

WASHplus Program Updates



A teacher at Ray Middle Basic School in Petauke, Eastern Province, Zambia, stands by a rainwater harvesting system that provides water for a hand washing station inside a girl-friendly school latrine. The SPLASH program seeks to replicate (and improve upon) this type of innovation.

Zambia—WASH in Schools

Sarah Fry (FHI 360) and Peter Lochery (CARE) spent October in Zambia meeting with a wide range of stakeholders and partners to develop the overall strategy and implementation plan for the USAID/Zambia WASH in Schools project in Eastern and North Western provinces. The new program, known as SPLASH (Schools Promoting Learning Advancement through Sanitation and Hygiene), will support the Ministry of Education as well as the Ministry of Local Government and Housing to improve school



WASHplus News is a monthly newsletter about the WASHplus project and its partners. WASHplus is a five-year project funded through USAID's Bureau for Global Health that supports healthy households and communities by developing and implementing interventions that lead to improvements in water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) and indoor air pollution (IAP) activities.

New WASHplus Staff

WASHplus welcomes **Aleyao Binioube**, with Winrock International, who recently joined WASHplus as the new WASH specialist and program manager for Madagascar activities.

What's New on the WASHplus Website?

water supply, sanitation, and hygiene. The project's objective is to enhance health, learning, and educational performance of basic level students and their teachers through improvements in sustainable access to safe water and adequate sanitation and the adoption of better hygiene and health practices in targeted schools and communities. SPLASH aims to achieve not only greater access to safe drinking water and sanitation in schools but also to strengthen local operations and maintenance and management capacity by offering innovative solutions to commonly encountered technical and organizational problems, and linking school efforts to community development and ownership.

Madagascar—WASH Activities

Madagascar's work plan was recently approved and the team is moving ahead with implementation. Recent activities include participation in World Toilet Day, collection of WASH documentation, and the development of several products including a tool to assess sustainability, a monitoring and evaluation plan, and a knowledge management strategy. In addition, WASHplus received approval from USAID/Madagascar to use core funding to support a yearlong pilot activity to develop and test public-private partnership business models for improved fecal sludge removal and disposal from urban sanitary blocks (*blocs sanitaires*). The activity, led by WASHplus partner Practica, will take place in Ambositra, and involve the commune, local entrepreneurs, and NGOs.

Kenya—WASH & HIV Integration

WASHplus received funding from USAID/Kenya to build on work initiated under the Hygiene Improvement Project, which will emphasize training HIV and WASH partners in the integration of WASH practices into existing training activities and programs. WASHplus will provide technical assistance to Kenyan government and NGO programs to integrate improved WASH practices into HIV policies and activities. The WASH-HIV integration approach helps people identify feasible actions they can take to move closer to ideal practices for hand washing, drinking water treatment and storage, and the construction and use of latrines as well as sanitation options for people too weak to use a latrine. This new funding will help to move activities deeper to the community level, support other bilateral partners to ground WASH-HIV integration within their own activities, and explore related activities such as improving menstrual management and access to locally developed products.

Resource Partner Highlights

New IAP Study Released

Kirk Smith (with U.C. Berkeley) co-authored a new report, "Effect

WASHplus Annual Report for Year One

The [annual report](#) summarizing WASHplus activities during its first year is now available.

Resources for Innovation Funding

Check out the new page with [innovation funding resources](#) on the WASHplus Innovation Exchange Blog.

News Site for Household Drinking Water Quality Launched

WASHplus recently added a new resource page and newsfeed on [Household Drinking Water Quality Updates](#) to its website. This site provides the latest news, publications, and other resources on this topic.

A reminder that WASHplus also maintains three other newsfeeds:

[Sanitation Updates](#) (a joint effort with resource partner IRC)

[Urban Health Updates](#)

[Indoor Air Pollution Updates](#)

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of reduction in household air pollution on childhood pneumonia in Guatemala (RESPIRE): a randomised controlled trial."

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Managing Water Locally

This new report from WaterAid, Oxfam, and the Institution of Civil Engineers argues that the potential of local water management has been undervalued, particularly in low income countries, where conventional approaches to water resource management may be less effective. Local community involvement could dramatically improve water resource management and contribute to greater water security in developing countries.

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Envirofit Introduces New Cookstove in Ghana

Envirofit has introduced a charcoal cookstove in the Ghanaian market with the aim of reducing pollution and energy dependency while improving environmental, economic, and health benefits for consumers. The cookstove, nicknamed CH2200 Envirofit Cookstove, is said to have some advantages over its traditional charcoal-stove counterparts, including improved combustion resulting in efficiency of up to 40 percent, a reduction in biomass fuel consumption by 60 percent, and a decrease in smoke and toxic emissions by 80 percent.

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