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WASHplus Project

Annual Report for Year Two

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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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Acronyms

AED	Academy for Educational Development
AOTR	Agreement Officer's Technical Representative
CLTS	Community-Led Total Sanitation
EH	Environmental Health
E3	Economic Growth, Education and the Environment
FAA	Fonds d'Appui pour l'Assainissement
FANTA	Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance
GACC	Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves
GH	Global Health
GLOWS	Global Water for Sustainability Program
GSF	Global Sanitation Fund HIP
HIP	Hygiene Improvement Project
HQ	Headquarters
IAP	Indoor Air Pollution
IAS	International AIDS Conference
ICC	Interagency Coordinating Committee
JMP	Joint Monitoring Programme
KM	Knowledge Management
M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation
MAHEFA	Madagascar Healthy Families
MHM	Menstrual Hygiene Management
MOE	Ministry of Education
MOPHS	Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation
PMP	Performance Monitoring Plan
PPPHW	Public-Private Partnership for Handwashing
RANO/HP	Rural Access to New Opportunities for Health and Prosperity
SO	Strategic Objective
SPLASH	Schools Promoting Learning Achievement through Sanitation and Hygiene
VSLA	Village Savings and Loan Association
WSUP	Water and Sanitation for the Urban Poor
WWD	World Water Day

Introduction

WASHplus's second year was marked by expansion—in its technical support at the country level, growth of partnership agreements, and outreach to the broader water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) and indoor air pollution (IAP) community—and greater concentration on the area of integration. The project made significant inroads into fulfilling its obligations in Madagascar and launching its new Zambia WASH and schools activity. More countries signed on as the year progressed, and Year Three will unfold with seven countries (Bangladesh, Benin, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Uganda, and Zambia) participating in WASHplus activities, ranging from urban slum hygiene improvement to menstrual hygiene management in schools to HIV-WASH integration.

While the project originally envisioned taking a broad approach to integration and innovation activities, the realities of staff availability and resources have forced WASHplus to fine-tune its agenda in these two areas. Strategic objectives two and four cover these changes in more detail.

Over the course of the year WASHplus has distinguished itself as a technical expert in the area of monitoring and evaluation, supporting USAID's work with the Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) and pioneering innovative evaluation methods in Zambia, and as a vital resource for knowledge and resources in the WASH and IAP sectors. Its presence has grown through multiplying communication channels and an embrace of social media.

As USAID's representative in a number of global partnerships and through its active participation in global fora, WASHplus helps set the agenda for current and future development efforts, advocates on behalf of WASH and IAP inclusion, and contributes to the body of evidence supporting integrated household and community approaches.

Management and Cross-Cutting Issues

Management

Administrative

Staff changes on the project at headquarters this year included the departure of Technology and Innovation Specialist Mike Pezone and the hiring of Aleyao Binioube, of Winrock International, as the new headquarters (HQ) WASH specialist and program manager for Madagascar activities.

WASHplus Resource Partners

The subagreement with CARE was modified to include activities for SPLASH Zambia (field funds) for Year One and also provide incremental funding through September 30, 2012. Core funding remained the same. There was a modification and extension of WASHplus's subagreement with Rotary International through June 2012. The subagreement provides financial and technical support to the Rotary International/USAID International H₂O collaboration. Considerable effort went into securing a subagreement with Water and Sanitation for the Urban Poor's (WSUP) to proceed with start-up activities in Madagascar. In addition, an agreement with Practica for a pilot activity in Madagascar was also finalized. Other expansions with resource partners occurred over the course of the year and information on specific activities can be found under each of the four WASHplus strategic objectives in this report.

Work Plan

The Year Three work plan was provisionally approved. Separate work plans were created for the Public-Private Partnership for Handwashing (PPPHW) and Rotary International secretariats, and country-specific plans were developed for Bangladesh (for IAP), Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, and Zambia. Additional country work plans for Bangladesh (for WASH), Benin and Uganda are under development.

Cross-Cutting

Knowledge Management (KM)

Resource Sharing

- *WASHplus Weekly* updates continued to go out each week and WASHplus regularly hears from the readers of the Weekly that they find this a valuable resource and that they look forward to it each week. Forty-six issues were distributed this past year on a wide range of topics, including: rainwater harvesting, menstrual hygiene management, and climate change. The list of recipients for the Weekly continues to grow, and it is now sent to 1,179 subscribers, in addition, the Weekly is often forwarded by many of our readers, highlighted on other websites and blogs, and Tweeted about.
- Four issues of *WASHplus News* were distributed this year, highlighting planned or recent activities in Bangladesh, Zambia, Madagascar, and Kenya as well as new resources and updates from WASHplus and resource partners.
- The Innovation Exchange blog gets more than 1,000 visitors each month and shares news and resources on topics such as innovations in cookstoves, WASH technology, and mobile applications. <http://blogs.washplus.org/innovation/>
- At USAID's request, a news site on Household Drinking Water Quality was launched this year: <http://blogs.washplus.org/drinkingwaterupdates>, which already had 33,090 visits. The other project news sites all experienced a growth in visits this year: Sanitation Updates (a joint WASHplus activity with the IRC International Water and Sanitation Centre)—235,988 visits; Indoor Air Pollution Updates—48,172 visits; and Urban Health Updates—48,171 visits. All are available at <http://blogs.washplus.org/>
- WASHplus is also finding Twitter to be an excellent way to increase our reach, have information forwarded through "retweets" and connect with others to find new ideas and resources. There are now 409 followers of WASHplus on Twitter (@washplusinfo), and some of the information retweeted by others includes WASH performance indicators, urban community-led total sanitation (CLTS), many issues of the WASHplus Weekly, and cookstove innovations.
- WASHplus set up a Facebook page this year, although it is still a bit in progress. (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/WASHplus-Project/285226614829453>)
- Finally, the KM team worked with the team in Madagascar to review and provide input for their knowledge management strategy and activities.

WASHplus Website

This year the project retooled the look of its website (www.washplus.org) to better highlight new resources and updates. Another new activity this year was the development of a HIV and WASH Integration Resources collection that highlights reports, journal articles, training and job aids, and programming guidance that address this important issue. Organizations are encouraged to let WASHplus know if they have any resource that they would like included in the collection on this site. The site was

created with support from resource partner SecondMuse, and it can also serve as a platform to support discussion and collaboration around WASH and HIV integration topics.

<http://blogs.washplus.org/hivwash/>

Webinars

- This year WASHplus participated in several webinars to disseminate research/lessons learned and collaborate with its partners. Senior Behavior Change Specialist Julia Rosenbaum worked with WaterAid/Australia to jointly facilitate a webinar on “HIV, AIDS and AIDS” in January 2012. The webinar was part of a broader series on inclusive WASH. Resources and recordings are available at: <http://www.inclusivewash.org.au/hiv-aids-chronic-illness>.
- In addition, the project cosponsored a webinar with WASH Advocacy Initiative and Global Water Challenge on December 15, 2011, on “Leading with Sustainability—Laying the Groundwork for Sustainable Services,” which discussed how to plan for sustainability in WASH programs. Eighty-eight participants from around the world attended this session. A recording of the webinar is available at: <http://www.slideshare.net/washadvocates/leading-with-sustainability-webinar-december-15-2011>.
- Finally, on July 17, Global Public-Private Partnership for Handwashing (PPPHW) with support from WASHplus, hosted a webinar onto share highlights from the Handwashing Think Tank held with UNICEF in June in New York City, available at: <http://www.washplus.org/resources/webinars>. (For more info, see PPPHW section under SO4).

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

In addition to providing M&E support to the country program in Zambia, WASHplus coordinated activities and meetings of a the Hygiene Working Group for Post-2105 Global Monitoring working under the Joint Monitoring Programme to propose goals, targets, and indicators for the post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals agenda. Beginning in the first quarter, M&E staff worked to recruit participants and set the agenda and calendar of activities for the group. Subsequently, WASHplus coordinated the hiring, writing, and reviewing of a background paper that could be proposed as part of the hygiene agenda that the international community may adopt post-2015, when the current Millennium Development Goals expire. A joint collaboration of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, the IRC International Water and Sanitation Centre, and the International Center for Diarrheal Disease Research in Bangladesh, the paper focused on three hygiene topics: hand washing with soap at critical junctures, menstrual hygiene management, and food hygiene. Highlights from the working group meetings and discussions and the background paper are available on the JMP website at:

<http://www.wssinfo.org/post-2015-monitoring/working-groups/hygiene/>.

The background paper helped to spark discussion during the first face-to-face meeting of the Hygiene Working Group led by USAID with financial support from the Department of State. WASHplus organized the meeting, which brought together experts from the donor community, academia, implementers, and civil society, May 15 and 16, at FHI 360’s conference center. The purpose of the meeting was to generate a short list of goals, targets, and indicators for hygiene targets proposed in the background paper; the short list was submitted to the JMP for further vetting. WASHplus produced a paper reflecting the conclusions of the meeting. This document is also available at the same website indicated earlier. WASHplus staff worked closely with its USAID Agreement Officer’s Technical Representative (AOTR), Merri Weinger, to plan and make all necessary arrangements for the meeting.

WASHplus was involved in presenting the recommended hygiene goals, targets, and indicators at Singapore International Water Week and at Stockholm World Water Week. In addition, WASHplus also participated in discussions with three other working groups within the WASH sector to integrate targets and indicators, and develop a common package that will be submitted to the UN community in the winter of 2013 for further discussion.

Ongoing support was provided to Zambia/SPLASH and Madagascar. Orlando Hernandez, WASHplus monitoring and evaluation advisor, and Matt Freeman, Emory University school WASH expert, went to Zambia to help with SPLASH program M&E activities, such as revising the performance monitoring plan and helping prepare for the baseline study. (See SO1 Zambia for details.) Mr. Hernandez and Mr. Pezone provided support to Madagascar to design and conduct a sustainability check of nine WASH blocks. The purpose of the sustainability check was to develop correct strategies to ensure that factors influencing sustainability would be in place at these facilities before WASHplus ended its support to the blocks.

WASHplus also participated in the WASH Monitoring Exchange meetings for the WASH sector and in the M&E Technical Workshop of the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves (GACC). The WASH Monitoring Exchange formed a small group that will make proposals on what to track for the sector. The M&E GACC meeting covered different types of indicators (distribution, coverage, behavioral, economic, environmental impact, etc.). WASHplus participated in the discussions on behavioral indicators, making the distinctions among new, correct, and consistent users of cookstoves by stove category. WASHplus developed the platform that GIZ uses to track numerous indicators associated with their clean stove program implemented in 17 countries.

As part of its work with partner Rotary International, WASHplus reviewed Aguaconsult and Building Partnerships for Development's proposal to conduct a sustainability assessment of sample of 15 Rotary-funded WASH programs.

Looking Ahead

In Year Three, WASHplus will build on the dissemination and collaboration efforts already in place and look for additional ways to engage new and existing audiences to share information and knowledge on WASH and IAP topics. And as new project activities get underway, WASHplus will build up its website to highlight new updates or key learning and resources to share. In the area of Monitoring and Evaluation, baselines will be conducted in Zambia, Kenya, Mali, and Benin in FY13. Further, an impact study of WASH on school attendance and teacher-student contact time will be undertaken in Zambia. WASHplus will also continue to be involved with JMP-related activities, helping with further consolidation of WASH targets and indicators across WASH working groups.

SO1: Increase the Availability and Use of WASH and IAP Interventions

Overview

Year Two activities were marked by a growing WASHplus presence at the country level. The project provided support to a robust agenda of sanitation and hygiene improvements and partner development activities in Madagascar. Zambia's SPLASH activity was launched and with it opportunities to create healthy learning environments in Zambia's schools, improving health and hygiene and school performance at the same time. Two WASHplus-supported cookstove studies in Bangladesh and Kenya explored improved stoves and their impact on IAP. And by year's end, USAID missions in Benin, Mali, and Uganda had committed their support for new WASHplus activities beginning in FY13.

Implementation

Bangladesh

In May WASHplus launched the improved cookstove (ICS) consumer needs, preferences, and willingness to pay assessment in Bangladesh, funded by USAID/Dhaka's Economic Growth Office. This program lays the foundation for a broader clean energy investment, namely the Catalyzing Clean Energy in Bangladesh program expected to begin in late 2012. Ms. Rosenbaum, IAP Specialist Elisa Derby from Winrock International, and two Winrock consultants undertook initial stakeholder consultations, household visits, and meetings with small scale producers, including meeting with numerous NGOs, small ICS producers and Government of Bangladesh ministries. During the on-the-ground assessment the WASHplus team discovered that fuel combination usage varies significantly by region, and gained USAID's approval to target higher fuelwood-dependent districts, rather than the Feed the Future areas that USAID originally proposed. The team also confirmed that the locally produced ICS model currently promoted in Bangladesh is rudimentary in design and performance, and that few other options are currently available in the country.

During the stove trial study consumers in multiple villages will try out various improved stove models in their homes for several weeks and report on likes, dislikes, difficulties, and suggest modifications in design or use. Willingness to pay will be assessed, with a focus on financing or payment options hypothesized to be barriers to stove purchase for poor consumers. Lastly, to build on the WASHplus program FHI 360 was awarded a small grant from the State Department to conduct Kitchen Performance Tests to assess the fuel use (and thus fuel savings and efficiency) of proposed stove models. To date, extensive work has gone into finalizing a study design and work plan, gaining essential technical and ethical approvals both in the United States and Bangladesh for conducting research, and arranging for import of the new stoves to be tested. From this first phase of research, WASHplus will identify a limited number of improved cookstoves that are not only effective from both an energy and health perspective, but also desirable and affordable to poor Bangladesh consumers.

An employee of a local NGO that produces and distributes the Bodhu Chula cookstove in Bangladesh, where WASHplus will conduct consumer preference research on new and improved cookstoves.



A second phase (to be carried out in FY13) will develop a generic marketing plan for increased uptake (purchase) of improved cookstoves in Bangladesh, specifying desired benefits and stove attributes, motivating appeals, willingness to pay, and mechanisms to facilitate purchase. From the supply perspective, WASHplus will work with stove producers to share consumer preference information and develop generic promotional appeals for adaptation that capture critical preferences. If simple modifications to hardware are indicated, WASHplus will encourage particular manufacturers to consider modifying and testing changes such as color, work surface around stove, work height, or fuel feed.

In addition to its IAP work in Bangladesh, WASHplus received support from USAID Bangladesh to address pressing water quantity and quality needs, sanitation, and hygiene. At the request of the Mission, WASHplus worked with resource partner WaterAid to develop a concept note for a new WASH program in southwestern Bangladesh to increase access of poor and marginalized communities to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene using locally appropriate technologies and strengthen community and local government capacity to provide and sustain facilities and services. This is being finalized in consultation with the Mission, and activities will begin in the first part of FY13.

Benin

USAID/Benin has requested WASHplus assistance in designing and carrying out an urban slum hygiene improvement activity under its Global Health Initiative, to begin in October 2012. WASHplus's Sarah Fry, senior hygiene program advisor, and Camille Saade, public-private partnership specialist, traveled to Benin in June and spent 2.5 weeks visiting a broad range of stakeholders from the public, private, and NGO sectors. They conducted field visits to seven representative peri-urban neighborhoods suffering from flooding, lack of services, and widespread open defecation. The team prepared a proposal and budget for a three-year activity and plans were being finalized as the year closed.

Kenya

WASHplus has been involved in two parallel activities in Kenya this year—field testing improved cookstoves and continuing work on HIV and WASH integration.

Indoor Air Pollution

With support from WASHplus, resource partner Berkeley Air Monitoring Group conducted a study in Kenya of the locally manufactured *Jiko Poo*, a fuel-efficient rocket stove. Results of this study, conducted using a "before and after" design, showed a 37 percent reduction in carbon monoxide kitchen concentrations and a 51 percent reduction in PM2.5 (fine particulate matter) kitchen concentrations. A socioeconomic survey identified the four most important features of a good stove: it uses little fuel, cooks quickly, produces less smoke, and looks modern. Households cited these same reasons when discussing their decision to purchase the *Jiko Poo*. In addition, 92 percent of households reported saving time using the stove, and 80 percent reported fuel cost savings. Results from this study were used to inform USAID activities as well as the stove selection process for the Centers for Disease Control/National Institutes of Health IAP study for Kenya.

WASH

WASHplus received field support funds from USAID Kenya to continue HIV/WASH integration activities that were initiated under the Hygiene Improvement Project and sustained through the C-Change project. In July, WASHplus officially took over from C-Change when staff was transferred and funding shifted. New staff was also integrated into the team: a WASHplus technical coordinator and an administrative assistant. Throughout July and August WASHplus hosted and provided technical support

to WASH-HIV training of trainer sessions—facilitator training for APHIA+ implementing organizations, capacity-building training for community health extension workers specializing in home-based care, and training of trainers for CDC implementing organizations. A total of 108 trainers were trained in this period. Participants left the workshops with implementation plans in hand.

With WASHplus support the Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation (MOPHS) organized regional Interagency Coordinating Committee (ICC) meetings in both Eastern and Nyanza provinces. The meetings focused on accelerating CLTS approaches to meet ministry open defecation free targets by 2013. WASHplus also helped to support the national ICC meeting held by the ministry in Nyeri. In addition, the project organized a meeting with provincial public health officers to monitor progress on WASH-HIV integration activities. Support to Central Province included convening meetings and contributing to preparations for Global Handwashing Day. The WASHplus team also participated in an inception meeting for formative research on sanitation practices organized by MOPHS, the Water and Sanitation Project, and the International Finance Corporation. IPSOS- Synovate Kenya will carry out the research. Finally, community health worker training guide and counseling cards in Swahili were printed and will be distributed in the next year. (English versions available [here](#); Swahili cards [here](#).)

Madagascar

As Year Two came to a close, Madagascar was winding down several activities that had occupied much of its time this year—support to Water and Sanitation for the Urban Poor (WSUP) sanitation activities, coordination and rehabilitation of sanitation blocks, and a field review of USAID-funded WASH. Though it took a while to finalize the WSUP agreement, once in place, WASHplus supported the construction of water kiosks, promotion of the production and sale of SanPlats, and implementation of the WASH-Everywhere strategy, in collaboration with partners such as CARE and WaterAid. The activities took place in two peri-urban communes in the Analamanga region of Antananarivo, Bemasoandro and Andranonahotra. WSUP was charged with ensuring the best use and sustainability of existing structures, rehabilitating or building additional services such as water kiosks or collection points, and increasing hygiene and sanitation activities aimed at households. To support these efforts WASHplus undertook technical studies, requested cost estimates, established building plans, built local partner’s capacity, controlled and approved water kiosk work plans, and prepared tender agreements. WASHplus was also involved in the rehabilitation of two sanitation blocks.



WASHplus has been exploring the viability of public-private management of sanitation blocks in Madagascar.

Part of the WASHplus portfolio is to support the coordination of USAID water and sanitation partners and others and to document the breadth of USAID WASH activities in the country. Toward this end an extensive field review was undertaken of USAID-supported WASH programs, focusing on subsidy-free sanitation (through CLTS); the management and operation of public-private WASH sanitation blocks in urban settings; the usefulness of Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) to access sanitation services in rural areas; and the use of sanitation marketing to promote the purchase and installation of SanPlat slabs. The review found that even in a context of poor socioeconomic conditions, it is possible to improve sanitation without subsidizing households and that a combination of approaches creates momentum for WASH improvements in urban and rural target areas. These effects have been seen on small- to medium-scale, and are mostly limited to project areas. This report, “Field Review of USAID’s

Approaches to WASH in Madagascar: Success Factors and Lessons Learned” is available at: http://www.washplus.org/sites/default/files/madagascar-field_review2012.pdf

Monitoring and Evaluation

WASHplus support to sanitation marketing activities included conducting a situation analysis for eight of the nine WASH sanitation blocks it supports to identify constraints and corrective actions for the management of the facilities. The initial assessment concluded that support was especially needed in connection to environmental and sustainability issues. Given the high demand for WASH block services, pits are filling up more quickly than expected and pit emptying, sludge transportation, and treatment are issues that some of the WASH blocks must address in the near future. Social sustainability remains a concern in many of the blocks, and customers must continue to be motivated to abide by existing operational rules. This is particularly true in the newest blocks, operational for over a year. Other support included providing training for workers of JEMSH, a producer/seller in Analamanga as part of the implementation of corrective measures to improve the quality of the slabs produced. Staff also monitored the implementation of corrective measures for other sanitation marketing efforts including sanitary pads and credit for latrine construction; reinforced or improved the system to track sales; installed a permanent sample of slabs for outlets; and reproduced the SanPlats user guide.

Key results from this year include:

- 19,400 people gained access to improved water sources through activities with schools, churches, community sanitation blocks and water kiosks
- 13,340 people gained access to improved sanitation facilities through the WASH-Friendly approach at churches, private schools, households, and community sanitation blocks

In the M&E and partnership development arena, WASHplus provided WASH partners with capacity building support and technical assistance as requested. A few examples of those efforts included:

- Orienting the regional managers of Madagascar Healthy Families (MAHEFA) on the environmental mitigation and monitoring plan and CLTS
- Hosting CLTS and WASH PAFIs (small doable actions) training for regional MAHEFA officials
- Participating in the scaling up of the CLTS approach with the Global Sanitation Fund (GSF)/Fonds d’Appui pour l’Assainissement (FAA) and assisting with sanitation marketing efforts
- Conducting training with Rural Access to New Opportunities for Health and Prosperity (RANO/HP) Manakara for TIAVO, a microfinance institution
- Sharing sanitation marketing guidance with other partners mainly MAHEFA, RANO/HP, FAA

Partnership and Capacity Building

WASHplus drafted a number of documents and tools this year, including a partnership development document, a sanitation marketing training guide, and a compendium of Malagasy WASH sector policies and regulations. The project also launched a photo sharing site on Picasa and provided photography training workshops. Furthermore, WASHplus participated in World Water Day (WWD) this year as it has since 2009 with other USAID WASH partners. WASHplus coordinated logistics and developed documents and tools related to the WWD celebration, including the USAID mission director’s speech, a press release, brochures about WASH/USAID partners, the WWD agenda, banners and hats.

Coordination

WASHplus coordinated activities to support USAID WASH partners in Madagascar, which included the completion of a WASH program field review. WASHplus organized, participated, and provided logistical

support to the USAID WASH partners in numerous meetings and in project evaluations such as (RANO-HP and RANONALA). To share knowledge and lessons, WASHplus engaged in numerous meetings throughout the year with current and potential partners such as: microfinance and VSLAs, the Support Fund for Sanitation/FAA as well as with RAN'Eau, JICA, UNICEF, NGO Brother Saint Gabriel, USAID, and the World Wildlife Fund.

WASHplus helped JICA develop technical guides for schools and health centers; draft the pragmatic and institutional communication strategy for FAA; and develop the M&E manuals for FAA/CLTS with the indicator reviews. WASHplus also helped develop behavior change communication tools for FAA/CLTS and participated in discussion groups on monitoring approaches in the water sector; developing an urban sanitation strategy; implementing WASH in the poorest areas; and WASH-Friendly schools.

The project closed out the year with a pilot activity getting underway to test the feasibility of sludge removal as a business. This Practica experimental project supported by core WASHplus funds will initiate, implement, and evaluate the business case for low-cost pit emptying services and test approaches for improving current unhygienic fecal sludge removal practices from public fee-for-use sanitary blocks, institutions (hotels, prisons, etc.), and household latrines.

Mali

During the final quarter, the USAID Mission requested that WASHplus, through CARE/Mali, initiate an activity integrating WASH interventions and nutrition. CARE/Mali worked with WASHplus HQ staff to draft a proposal in response to the request; the final proposed version of the work plan was submitted at the end of September and subsequently approved by USAID.

Tanzania

Per an agreement with the GLOWS (Global Water for Sustainability) Program, CARE staff under WASHplus provided short-term technical assistance to Tanzania in sanitation marketing. The assistance included reviewing and validating the financial credit model(s) and approaches used to date and documenting lessons learned from what has worked and what has not. CARE will use this information to enhance and adapt methods to improve program quality. A similar scope of work was developed for WASHplus technical assistance to the Rwanda Integrated Water Security Program. Initial contact has been established through monthly planning calls and sharing of information on sanitation marketing in Tanzania and elsewhere.

Uganda

Ms. Weinger and WASHplus Project Director Sandy Callier visited Uganda in late February through early March to review USAID Uganda's current WASH programming, including strategy, approaches, and accomplishments; identify opportunities for strengthening the integration of WASH and existing HIV, health, energy, economic growth, and other USAID programs; and recommend a strategic approach for a well-coordinated USAID WASH program that supports Ugandan capacity in cooperation with development partners. They drafted a proposed scope for a district level WASH-HIV integration activity to be implemented through WASHplus based on a Mission investment, It is anticipated that a scope will be finalized and work initiated in early FY13.



Zambian Girl Guides presented a poem on their right to quality education and school WASH facilities at the Eastern Province Indaba.

Zambia School WASH Indaba

August 14, 2012, was the kick-off day for the first-ever WASH in Schools *Indaba* (a multi-stakeholder strategic planning meeting) in Eastern Province, Zambia. This event was convened by the Zambia Ministry of Education, UNICEF, and the USAID-funded SPLASH project.

All seven districts of Eastern Province were represented along with nine distinct stakeholder groups (including many engineers, local government officials, NGOs, cooperating partners, and the private sector). They gathered to spend the next day and a half defining trends in school WASH; finding common ground; and producing a common action agenda for reaching the goal of covering 80 percent of schools with adequate WASH facilities and activities.

When the dignitaries left, the participants sprang to life and began tackling the task of developing timelines of events related to or influencing school WASH of a personal, global, and local nature (all Zambia and closer to home). After presenting these timelines, the entire group was led through an exercise to develop a mind map of trends affecting the issue of school WASH. This mind map became the platform from which the groups dreamed up and produced future scenarios to achieve school WASH goals and then moved on to action planning.

A short video about the Eastern Province *Indaba* is available at: <http://www.washplus.org/zambia-indaba>

Zambia

At the beginning of Year Two WASHplus launched a new WASH in Schools program, Schools Promoting Learning Achievement through Sanitation and Hygiene (SPLASH), funded through the USAID Zambia Education Sector. The project objective is to improve health, learning, and educational performance of primary students and their teachers through sustainable access to safe water and adequate sanitation and the adoption of better hygiene and health practices. SPLASH supports the creation of a healthy learning environment by delivering WASH interventions (including improved latrines, hand washing stations and safe drinking water) in primary schools in Chipata, Mambwe, and Lundazi districts of Eastern Province. SPLASH has a strong sustainable operations and maintenance and Ministry of Education (MOE)/School Health and Nutrition institution-building component, as well as an equity and inclusion strategy for orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) and children with physical challenges. WaterAid was brought on board in August as a subcontractor for a year to develop and build capacity within the MOE and SPLASH in WASH equity and inclusion.

WASHplus fielded a team to carry out a scoping and design mission during October. The team—Activity Manager Sarah Fry, CARE’s Peter Lochery, local consultants Justin Lupele (now chief of party) and Simeon Zgambo—traveled to Eastern and Northern provinces and met a wide range of stakeholders. The team submitted a program plan and budget to USAID at the end of November and responded to subsequent feedback from the Mission. In February WASHplus finished hiring and orienting new staff and conducted the first start-up

workshop. By April all SPLASH provincial and district staff was on board (23 not including drivers). At the end of April, SPLASH held the second start-up workshop at Fringilla outside of Lusaka. All staff members attended. The two and a half day workshop covered all the essentials of the SPLASH program activities and outcomes, management, roles and responsibilities, and culminated in teams writing their work plans for the rest of the fiscal year.

The SPLASH chief of party, the activity manager, behavior change advisor, and M&E specialist carried out a two-week field mission to Eastern Province, met with high level government and Ministry of Education officials, and introduced SPLASH to stakeholders in the three districts where SPLASH will intervene. Additional school visits were carried out in Eastern Province to increase understanding of WASH infrastructure and hygiene conditions and needs.

Mr. Hernandez and Matt Freeman, Emory University school WASH expert, visited Zambia in April 2012 to complete the SPLASH PMP (performance monitoring plan), to design the baseline and impact study, and to identify operations research topics. The baseline will include a facility assessment that will be implemented in all target schools. Data collection will be initially focused on the three districts of the Eastern Province where SPLASH is operational. SPLASH will use handheld electronic tablets for paperless baseline data collection, creating the basis for program monitoring activities that will be conducted by SPLASH and the Ministry of Education. An international specialized consultant was hired, and a local NGO with expertise in use of tablets for data collection brought on board to manage the baseline activity. The data collected will be linked to the Ministry of Education's management information system and available for progress monitoring.

The impact assessment will be a longitudinal surveillance study to be conducted in sample schools in the Eastern Province. This study will seek to establish a relationship between a comprehensive WASH program and attendance of pupils and teachers. Increased attendance of pupils and teachers is expected to increase time at learning tasks, also an indicator that will be tracked. Other studies have shown a relationship between time at task and school performance. Impact research may start on/about April 2013, once a full comprehensive WASH program is implemented in targeted schools. A comparison group will be drawn from target schools where no program activities may be in place for a certain number of months.

In August, WASHplus joined forces with UNICEF to host SPLASH's Eastern Province School WASH *Indaba* and followed up with mini Indabas in each district. (See sidebar on previous page.) Bringing together 100 government and nongovernment stakeholders in school WASH at the provincial level, the highly successful strategic planning event provided a platform for coordination, contribution, and capacity building. Participants identified 16 areas of common ground; topping the list was adequate WASH facilities in all schools. Another priority item of the Indaba—creating and harmonizing a WASH database—is an upcoming activity for SPLASH.

In September, Ms. Rosenbaum designed and carried out a capacity-building training activity in Eastern Province for SPLASH staff and counterparts from the GRZ and other NGOs, in behavior change theory and best practices, and in the School-Led Total Sanitation/Wash-Friendly Schools using the manual developed under the USAID Hygiene Improvement Project (HIP).

Looking Ahead

Ongoing implementation will continue in Kenya, Madagascar, Zambia, and with IAP activities in Bangladesh. Activities will get underway in Benin, Mali, and with Bangladesh WASH. WASHplus will continue to focus its support on sanitation in collaboration with GLOWS in Tanzania and Rwanda. And together with USAID/Washington the project will define and pursue a limited number of new opportunities for field activities.

Bangladesh IAP: During the first quarter of Year Three WASHplus will recruit interviewers and enumerators, pretest survey tools and questions, submit internal review board approval applications, purchase improved stoves, and undertake trials of improved practices with the stoves, including kitchen performance tests (KPT) performed by Berkeley Air Monitoring Group and willingness-to-pay assessments. WASHplus will analyze data from the stove trials, and based on these research findings and other regional lessons, WASHplus will identify key elements of behavior change and develop a marketing plan that will map out the potential geographic reach of ICS promotion, which will be available to multiple suppliers as well as the Catalyzing Clean Energy in Bangladesh program implementers.

Bangladesh WASH: After coming to agreement on a concept note, WASHplus will develop a work plan and budget early in FY13, and then begin accelerated implementation through WaterAid and others. Activities will work through local NGOs to strengthen local governance and management of water systems, including innovations like rainwater catchment and solar desalination as well as more traditional construction and rehabilitation of water points such as boreholes. Sanitation and hand washing will be incorporated into activities.

Benin: Recruitment for a local coordinator is underway and the coordinator should be in place early in FY13. As an initial step in implementation, a baseline survey will be conducted to confirm WASH conditions in poor, underserved, and flood-prone zones and support advocacy for larger scale attention to these problems. WASHplus will combine forces with UNICEF to raise awareness of the conditions in these peri-urban zones and foster increased investment by the government of Benin and donors to improve WASH services and practices there. The baseline survey also will underpin development of a hygiene improvement and social marketing program to address the needs of underserved households and neighborhoods in and near Cotonou.

Kenya: Building on prior work through the C-Change and HIP projects, WASHplus in Kenya will improve WASH practices of communities, families, and individuals with a special focus on vulnerable communities working through the government's community strategy and USAID's APHIA+ bilateral programs. WASHplus will help the Kenyan government generate demand for sanitation using a CLTS+ approach, improve WASH practices among all households, and introduce simple supportive technologies to vulnerable households. WASHplus will also test new approaches to better understand how to help people meet minimum standards without subsidy that can be replicated across the country in an effort to improve latrine quality.

Madagascar: As it did this past year, WASHplus will play a role in helping to document and disseminate best practices and lessons learned by USAID-funded partners in the WASH sector as these activities wind down. And as USAID moves ahead with its USAID Forward reform initiative, which includes more direct funding to local development partners and organizations, WASHplus may be asked to conduct a technical assessment of all WASH local NGOs in Madagascar and then build the capacity of several of

these organizations so that they will be eligible to receive direct grants from the USAID in the future. In addition, the Practica sludge management pilots will continue; and WASHplus will likely provide technical assistance to managers of sanitary/shower blocks so that they can manage fecal sludge removal activities properly and safely in the future without USAID support.

Mali: Through this now approved 24-month initiative, additional resources will be focused on community and household WASH activities in selected sites where CARE is currently operating and integrate these with nutrition and food security initiatives. Work will be initiated early in FY13.

Uganda: Early in FY13, WASHplus will develop a work plan and budget for an HIV-WASH integration activity. Rather than direct implementation, WASHplus will work through the local government as well as other organizations, including USAID Collaborating Agencies.

Zambia: The second year of the SPLASH program will start with the drilling of 40 boreholes to be expanded to more during the course of the year. The baseline will also take place early in the year, to be followed by data analysis and dissemination. SPLASH will spearhead a yearlong school WASH advocacy and policy review process involving key government ministries and cooperating partners. WASH advocates will come to Zambia to provide training to SPLASH and others. In addition to its core activities of rehabilitating and providing WASH facilities and carrying out hygiene education activities in schools, SPLASH will focus on knowledge management and documentation. The WASHplus KM team will provide hands-on assistance to SPLASH to develop a KM, documentation and communications plan. SPLASH and partners such as UNICEF will launch the “adopt-a-school” program for the private sector and other partners to complement donor-funded school WASH activities.

SO2: Develop and Implement WASH and IAP Integration Strategies

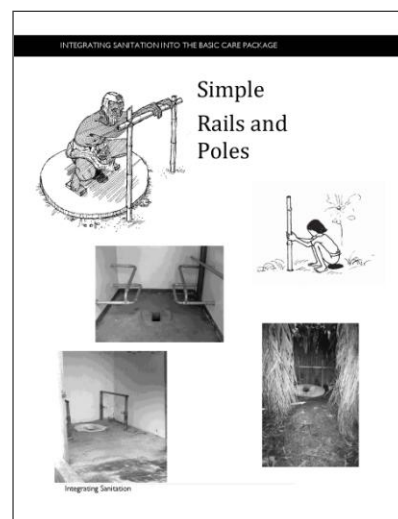
Overview

Existing resources and finances have caused WASHplus to streamline its integration efforts to three areas of focus—HIV, nutrition, and schools integration (with menstrual hygiene management as a component). While Year One sought to integrate WASH and IAP, WASHplus spent more time this year exploring ways to promote IAP improvements alongside WASH program activities, tapping into broader global initiatives such as Feed the Future, and identifying strategic opportunities for country-level activity. Relationships established under HIP and through WASHplus partner organizations and a growing recognition of the WASHplus technical specialists’ contributions in various health and environment communities brought about significant opportunities to pursue WASH in Schools integration (through SPLASH) and further expand HIV/WASH linkages in Kenya and Uganda.

Implementation

WASH & HIV Integration

WASHplus staff spent a significant level of effort developing a guidance document, “Integrating Sanitation into the Services for People Living with HIV and AIDS,” using primarily C-Change funding but drawing from HIP and WASHplus work, in close consultation with Ms. Weinger. Several new reference materials/job aids were developed as annexes to the document, including latrine modifications to facilitate inclusive use by people with HIV/AIDS (see illustration on right), and a more general latrine guidance document. The report was distributed at the International AIDS Conference (IAS) in Washington, DC, in July, and is available online: http://www.washplus.org/sites/default/files/integrating_sanitatio_n2012_0.pdf.



To further raise the profile of its integration activities, the WASHplus team made two presentations at the IAS conference: “Poop and People/Taps and Toilets: Community-Based Approaches to Meeting the Most Basic Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Needs of Families Affected by HIV” and “Integrated Approaches, Local Solutions: Integrating Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene into HIV Programming as an Effective Strategy to Improve Lives, Uptake of Services, and Key Health Outcomes,” available at: <http://www.washplus.org/resources/presentations>. WASHplus staff also managed a roundtable discussion on WASH and HIV for World Water. The early morning hour of the roundtables seemed to limit participation, but the WASHplus WASH and HIV table was filled to capacity, in the end combining with the gender and WASH table because its facilitator had been delayed in transit. The resulting focus on WASH, HIV, and gender led to robust discussion and resource sharing.

Webinars have become an effective way to inform broader audiences of WASHplus’s integration activities. Ms. Rosenbaum prepared and delivered a webinar presentation and two-week online dialogue on WASH-HIV integration for WaterAid/Australia’s Inclusive Sanitation web series. The collaboration focused on material found in the Integrating Sanitation and Hygiene guide and highlighted the small doable action approach taken in Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania to HIV-WASH integration. This approach was new to colleagues and the webinar audience, and seemed to resonate as practical, feasible, and exciting.

WASHplus outreach efforts to the Kenya and Uganda missions yielded commitments for new and continued integration activities that started as Year Two concluded. For details see SO1 descriptions for each country.

Menstrual Hygiene Management

Zambia signed on to pilot a menstrual hygiene management (MHM) activity as part of SPLASH. WASHplus is in the process of developing the strategy to be implemented in the coming year. Other work in this area includes presenting a session at the USAID Mini-University in September 2012 on MHM and girls in schools and participating in a thorough technical review of an MHM guideline, *Menstrual Hygiene Matters!*, which WASHplus will co-publish with several organizations, including WaterAid/UK and UNICEF.

Working with the informal HIV WASH Integration Community of Practice and the MHM guideline reviews, WASHplus submitted an abstract for a side session on MHM at the University of North Carolina's Water and Health Conference in October 2012, which was accepted for presentation.

WASH & Nutrition Integration

Much work has been put into producing a WASH and Nutrition joint document. WASHplus and USAID have been holding monthly meetings with co-publishers WHO and UNICEF to review and revise the work in progress. The expanded outline has been simplified; a case study template has been thoroughly vetted and revised and is being finalized. WASHplus has identified a process manager, Renata Seidel, to move this activity forward more quickly. Additionally, WASHplus provided support this year to FANTA 2 Bridge—helping finalize a literature review on food hygiene, incorporating WASH information into nutrition assessment, counseling, and support guidance, and reviewing a WASH chapter of a Title II food security program report.

Other WASH & Nutrition activities included drafting “How to Integrate WASH into Feed the Future” at the request of USAID water and nutrition counterparts and a WASH and nutrition brief; leading a roundtable discussion on WASH and Nutrition for WWD at the World Bank; developing different activities for the InterAction annual meeting in late April/early May; and attending several integration meetings, such as the Annual Public Health Association Meeting, and discussing integration with AIDSTAR colleagues from JSI. WASHplus Behavior Change Specialist provided a WASH and Nutrition workshop for the USAID SPRING Project and Bill and Melinda Gates-funded Alive and Thrive Project in Bangladesh. Project staff also served on the USAID SPRING Project Behavior Change Technical Advisory Group, providing technical input and programmatic approaches for integrating WASH into the nutrition focus of SPRING.

Finally, WASHplus submitted an abstract for a side session on WASH and nutrition at the University of North Carolina's Water and Health Conference in October 2012, which was accepted for presentation.

WASH in Schools Integration

Zambia's SPLASH project serves as the centerpiece of WASHplus's integration efforts within schools. (See SO1 for a thorough discussion of Zambia activity development.) WASHplus continues to sit on and have a role in the WASH in Schools Partnership, coordinated by UNICEF, and helped develop the agenda for the October daylong WASH in Schools session at the UNC Water and Health Conference. In addition, WASHplus developed guidance on WASH-Friendly early childhood development centers/OVC child care centers and continued to explore country-level opportunities to integrate WASH into schools and OVC settings.

Looking Ahead

This year WASHplus will focus its integration efforts on integrating WASH into HIV, education, and nutrition/food safety. The strategic approach will continue to be opportunistic and our activities may shift to harness partnership opportunities. We will continue the two-pronged strategy, attending to both global- and country-level activities, with the aim of extracting global guidance and tools from country-level learning.

WASH and HIV: WASHplus will continue to work with USAID Technical Working Groups to advocate and integrate; update the annual Toolkit for integrating WASH into USAID (PEPFAR) Country Operational Plans. We will continue to identify entry points to integrate WASH into home-based care and also to

push forward with new entry points such as preventing mother-to-child transmission, counseling, addressing WASH needs of OVCs, and advancing inclusive sanitation programming and technologies. Likewise, WASHplus will target the water and sanitation sectors to introduce HIV-friendly home and institutional latrine and pump designs/modifications, such as stools and poles for support in latrines and long handles to facilitate drawing water. Through partner NGOs WASHplus will support strategies for improving water quality and meeting the increased quantity needs of families affected by HIV. WASH-HIV integration activities will continue in Kenya and begin in Uganda.

WASH and Nutrition: WASHplus will continue to promote nutrition and food security programming to integrate WASH programming more thoroughly within the global community, most notably through the joint publication of a UNICEF, WHO, and USAID Nutrition-WASH Integration document. Beginning this year in Mali, WASHplus supported by Feed the Future, will promote feasible hygiene and nutrition practices working with a range of multisectoral outreach workers such as VSLAs and women's and men's groups. Some overlap may occur with integrating WASH into nutrition and HIV since ensuring adequate nutrition and food security for families affected by HIV/AIDS is a key issue. WASHplus will continue to serve on the SPRING Behavior Change Technical Advisory Group, as well.

SO3: Support USAID's Participation in Strategic Partnerships

Overview

As the follow-on project from HIP, WASHplus has quickly become a recognized and valued contributor to the global WASH agenda, providing support to programmatic partnerships and producing literature on advances and lessons learned in the sector. In Year Two WASHplus showed that it is also gaining recognition in the IAP sector judging from the number of conferences it participated in and requests for support from USAID field offices and other agencies.

Implementation

The Global Public-Private Partnership for Handwashing (PPPHW)

WASHplus continues its programmatic partnership with PPPHW, housing the Secretariat, and participating on the Steering Committee (through Sandy Callier), and providing technical and financial input. Participation in PPPHW's high profile annual event, Global Handwashing Day (GHD), celebrated annually on October 15 has grown every year. More than 60,000 (up from 50,000 in 2010) visited the PPPHW website in October 2011 for information, more than 30,000 (17,000 in 2010) downloaded tools, and more than over 38,000 (16,000 in 2010) became Facebook fans. A brief published for the event, "Governments Take Action," highlighted the role of the government in hand washing behavior change. A Global Handwashing Day survey was completed and distributed. PPPHW also hosted an annual Behavior Change Think Tank. This year's two-day event was at UNICEF headquarters in New York in June. Bringing together 30 leaders in hand washing behavior change from various organizations, the think tank took stock of the best, identified the gaps, and articulated the way forward for hand washing behavior change. As noted in the KM section earlier, PPPHW held a webinar to share a summary of the Think Tank meeting and next steps for those who were unable to attend this event.



Celebrating Global Handwashing Day in Madagascar.

Other activities this year included presenting and participating in Emory's "Getting WASH in Schools Right" conference and obtaining project contributions from UNICEF and Colgate-Palmolive. WASHplus also represented PPPHW at a World Water Day program sponsored by the Washington, DC WASH coalition, giving a presentation at the Hand Washing 101 session and participating in a panel discussion on public-private partnerships along with representatives from CARE and the Global Water Alliance. PPPHW launched a redesigned website

(<http://www.globalhandwashing.org/>) featuring resources for implementers and the latest hand

washing-related research, which WASHplus helped compile. The Steering Committee is in the process of developing a new business plan to relaunch PPPHW as a larger and more active partnership.

Rotary International/USAID International H₂O Collaboration

WASHplus serves a similar financial and technical support role for the Rotary International/USAID International H₂O Collaboration. Aguaconsult was brought on board to carry out an evaluation and sustainability check of phase one of this collaborative program with USAID, which implemented WASH programs in three focal countries: Ghana, the Philippines, and the Dominican Republic. The final evaluation report was submitted in August. WASHplus staffers Mr. Hernandez and Ms. Rosenbaum participated in the Steering Committee meeting earlier in the year to help plan for the evaluation.

Participation in Global Fora

WASHplus shared its technical expertise and programming experience in a wide variety of global venues focusing on WASH and IAP topics. Ms. Derby and Ms. Rosenbaum represented WASHplus at the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves partners' meeting in Washington, DC, in January, during which the alliance presented its draft strategic business plan for input from partners and key stakeholders. Ms. Derby and Madagascar Country Program Director Aleyao Binioube represented WASHplus at the ETHOS conference in Seattle in January; ETHOS is an annual conference where practitioners, researchers, students, and others come together to share their advances in developing, testing, disseminating, and monitoring appropriate cooking and heating technologies around the world.

WASHplus staff participated in the Washington, DC-based WASH coalition's efforts to organize and host World Water Day activities on March 21 and 22. Staff was engaged in various activities as part of the two-day event, including a roundtable presentation on HIV and WASH. Mr. Lochery from CARE spoke at the evening reception on Capitol Hill to commemorate World Water Day.

In addition, the project was asked to represent the JMP Post-2105 Global Monitoring Hygiene Working Group at the Singapore International Week in July 2012 where the conclusions of the Washington meeting were presented. WASHplus prepared a presentation and participated in a panel where three other similar working groups in the WASH sector delivered the conclusions of similar efforts carried out in the area of water, sanitation, and human rights. WASHplus was also involved in planning further internal discussions via teleconferences between members of the thematic areas to further refine

targets and indicators in preparation for a second delivery of the recommendations of the Hygiene Working Group in August 2012 at Stockholm World Water Week.

Other

WASHplus staff continued to participate in a range of working groups, offer its technical assistance to current and potential resource partners, and explore collaboration opportunities. Some of the work in this area during Year Two included:

- Providing behavior change input to the National Institutes of Health's Indoor Air Quality Writing Workshop in October 2011
- Participating in a TRAction Technical Advisory Group Meeting to review research of three grantees on the acquisition and correct use of improved cookstoves to reduce indoor air pollution, and also a TRAction Project Launch
- Exploring collaboration opportunities with Procter & Gamble in Ghana and Medentech in Haiti and Zambia on the water treatment side
- Attending a two-day learning session on School WASH held at Emory University, December 6-7, 2011, which included WASHplus support for a presentation made by the Ms. Weinger
- Representing WASHplus as a reviewer in a U.S. Department of Energy proposal evaluation panel, providing numeric scores and written comments for three proposals responding to the department's Technology Research, Development, and Tools for Clean Biomass Cookstoves Funding Opportunity
- Representing WASHplus on the proposal evaluation panel for the Department of Energy solicitation to develop innovative affordable biomass cookstoves that reduce emissions by at least 90 percent and reduce fuel use by at least 50 percent compared to traditional biomass-fueled cookstoves and open fires, and for instruments to improve field testing and monitoring of stove performance and usage, both of which would be highly useful for WASHplus implementation activities
- Completing final edits to the Peace Corps Improved Cookstoves Manual
- Reviewing and submitting comments and suggested revisions to the Peace Corps WASH Training Manual
- Serving on the USAID SPRING Project Behavior Change Advisory Group, integrating WASH into its nutrition and early childhood feeding project

Looking Ahead

PPPHW will be heading in a new strategic direction by implementing a three-year plan that focuses on advocacy and technical leadership within the hand washing sector. Additional communications support from existing partners will help promote the partnership more widely and gain more exposure for its activities. The partnership will work to expand its support to a wider group of hand washing behavior change organizations and to engage new sources of funding and resources from those groups. Activities have not yet been finalized for the coming year but will include at least another Handwashing Behavior Change Think Tank, Handwashing Behavior Change Distance Learning Program, and Global Handwashing Day promotion activities.

In addition, during Year Three, WASHplus will continue to explore opportunities and options to engage with additional partners from both the private sector and other organizations to support global advocacy and programming for the WASH and IAP sectors and to enhance WASHplus activities.

SO4: Develop and Test New and Innovative Approaches and Tools

Overview

With more than 700 visitors each month, the face of WASHplus innovation in Year Two was its Innovation Exchange blog (<http://blogs.washplus.org/innovation/>) established to share a variety of resources and encourage communication amongst practitioners. Throughout the year WASHplus continued to seek public and private sector partners to connect through its innovation mandate. Innovation activities underway are connected to current WASHplus projects in Madagascar, a sludge removal business model pilot, and Zambia, a paperless baseline survey.

Implementation

A pilot activity in collaboration with Practica in Ambositra, Madagascar, on fecal sludge management is just getting underway. The objectives of the activity include:

- Demonstrating sustainability and cost effectiveness of low-cost pit emptying service in a provincial town.
- Training and supporting selected entrepreneurs by developing appropriate business and technical training modules, providing ongoing technical assistance, and promoting the pit emptying service in Ambositra.
- Creating tools for and building capacity of local government officials in Ambositra to develop strategic plans for sludge removal regulations and enforcement.
- Developing, testing, and determining technical recommendations across the sanitation value chain for scaling a low-cost pit emptying enterprise that can reach low-income urban consumers across Madagascar.

WASHplus also developed a draft tool with the WASHplus Madagascar team to evaluate the level of sustainability of sanitary blocks. Madagascar staff tested the tool at two sites and made revisions. Currently, the tool is being shared with other partners in Madagascar, including WSUP.

WASHplus outreach efforts included meetings with resource partners and technical assistance proposals to potential USAID Missions. Staff prepared three targeted Development Innovation Ventures (DIV) country briefs to educate Mission staff on the DIV and WASH for Life opportunities. A fair amount of research and due diligence, including interviews with country experts, was conducted to develop each brief. The briefs were designed to show Mission staff how WASHplus could provide technical assistance through a DIV grant to help them accomplish existing program goals.

Multiple private sector partners met with WASHplus to discuss potential collaborations for innovation activities, including Cascade Design SE Chlorinator technology and Vestergaard Frandsen's LifeStraw Family products. WASHplus conducted market research, exploring potential partnerships in Haiti, and examining the feasibility of applying for a WASH for Life DIV grant in collaboration with resource partner Medentech, which has an MOU with Digicell, the largest telecommunications provider in Haiti. In addition, WASHplus coordinated with partner Cascade Design Incorporated, a Seattle-based outdoor camping company that has developed a technology that can produce a chlorinator with simply water,

salt, and a car battery. Aside from approaching external field partners to apply for DIV grants, WASHplus is exploring opportunities to integrate the SE 200 Chlorinator into its SPLASH activity in Zambia.

Also in conjunction with SPLASH, WASHplus pursued SO4 activities focusing on opportunities such as school and water point mapping initiatives, which included developing an action plan for the mapping exercise in Zambia using mobile devices to capture relevant information (GPS coordinates, presence of WASH facilities, status of such facilities, etc.), and a design competition. WASHplus developed an innovative paperless approach for SPLASH's baseline survey and hired a consultant expert in the use of smartphones/tablets to collect data and upload pictures, and who also has extensive experience working with the Education Management Information System in Zambia. This innovative approach is a first-ever in Zambia. It is expected to evolve into an innovative WASH monitoring system for the Ministry of Education with SPLASH support.

WASHplus became a member of mHealth, a mobile technology and health working group that is a collaborative forum for sharing and synthesizing knowledge. The working group seeks to frame mobile technology within a larger global health strategy. This is very relevant and beneficial, specifically for SPLASH in Zambia, and WASHplus's participation is aligned with USAID Forward's mandate.

Looking Ahead

Going into Year Three, the pilot fecal sludge activity is underway and will be completed by year's end. WASHplus has been exploring what niche and role is appropriate and attainable in the innovation area given its staff/technical and resource limitations. The project's level of resources dictates a very selective, strategic approach. WASHplus intends to focus on identifying one to two opportunities within ongoing country programs that encompass the concept of innovation and tackle an issue that might otherwise not be adequately addressed—for example, promoting the development and/or testing of new hand washing stations at either the household level (Bangladesh) and/or school level (Zambia) or supporting the introduction and testing of a new water treatment product for school drinking water in one district in Zambia. WASHplus will also explore options to fund an existing resource partner activity that could benefit from additional project resources to expand the scope of this effort (related to WASH or IAP innovation) to increase its impact or learning.