

## Highlights and New Resources from the WASHplus Project and its Partners

# washplus News

Supportive Environments for Healthy Communities

April 2013

## WASHplus Program Updates



*A pit emptying team demonstrates how to safely and hygienically remove sludge from a household latrine using equipment known as the Gulper. (Photo credit: X. Gras)*

### Madagascar—Updating Fecal Sludge Removal Pilot

The WASHplus fecal sludge management activity in Ambositra, Madagascar, made significant progress over the last quarter. Municipal authorities led the process to identify and select a local entrepreneur interested in offering an integrated sludge management service to collect, transport, and hygienically dispose of fecal sludge from household and institutional latrines within the 12 villages that make up the urban center. The winning bidder invested private funds to complement the tools and trainings offered by WASHplus to launch the business.

The project has trained teams of pit emptiers working for the entrepreneur to use locally fabricated tools to extract, haul, and safely handle the sludge in crowded urban spaces. The



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 to improve access, practices, and health outcomes related to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) and indoor air pollution (IAP). WASHplus is led by FHI 360 in partnership with CARE and Winrock International, and joined by an expert group of NGO, university, and private sector resource partners.

### New WASHplus Resources



### World Water Day Video

In celebration of World Water Day, March 22, 2013, WASHplus released a video highlighting its small doable action approach to improving child health. View "[Breaking the Cycle.](#)"

project's local implementing partner, Practica, is now working with the service provider and the municipal authorities to develop a marketing strategy to publicize the service. The sludge treatment and burial site is being developed on a donated plot of public land on the outskirts of town. The commercial service is expected to begin in May 2013. A customer satisfaction survey will provide insights into opinions on cleanliness, costs, and timeliness of the service. Recognizing that technology is only a small piece of a successful commercial venture, WASHplus will continue to support the service provider to develop business skills essential to running a successful enterprise over the next three months. A training guide for the sludge removal process is available (in [French](#) only).

### Bangladesh—Evaluating Cookstoves

As reported previously, WASHplus is conducting an improved cookstove consumer needs, preferences, and willingness to pay assessment in Bangladesh. This assessment borrows from the qualitative Trials of Improved Practices (TIPs) methodology to identify barriers and motivators to change, and which factors are most influential in spurring the performance or nonperformance of a behavior. The team (including local partners Village Education Resource Center, DESH GORI, and IDEA) placed one of five different improved cookstove models in 120 total households for cooks to use and give feedback at three time points. Qualitative surveys were complemented by stove use monitoring systems—temperature-sensing data loggers placed on all stoves in the homes to track actual use—and kitchen performance tests undertaken in all study households as well as 24 control households to track changes in fuel use. Two innovative willingness-to-pay assessments marked the completion of the stove trial: in seven villages households were given the opportunity to purchase the study stoves in a bargaining exercise with installment payment options; and in one village households were given the stove as a gift, but offered cash to sell it back.

This Bangladesh activity draws on South Asia regional lessons in behavior change; demand creation; and marketing of sanitation, water treatment products, and cookstoves. Based on these lessons and the results of the TIPs, WASHplus will develop practical “how-to” tools and marketing and behavior change strategies for USAID and other energy and health stakeholders to replicate this methodology in Bangladesh and throughout the region. Initial results will be available next month.

### Benin—Improving Urban Hygiene



### New Global Handwashing Day Report

The Global Public-Private Partnership for Handwashing released its 2012 Global Handwashing Day report. In 2012, Global Handwashing Day reached over one billion people worldwide. Learn how Global Handwashing Day performed on social media and read stories about Global Handwashing Day celebrations from around the world in this report. Click [here](#) for more information.



### Join the New Discussion Group on Health Impacts and Indoor Air Pollution

The Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves and WASHplus have created a new community of practice focusing on the health impacts of household air pollution and other health-related issues. Members are invited to share information and discuss health issues (i.e., research, program implementation) related to cookstoves and other forms of household or indoor air pollution. To join, visit the Alliance community [page](#), or send an email to moderator [Dan Campbell](#) for instructions.

WASHplus hired local coordinator M. Armand Aguidi to manage the Urban Slum Hygiene Improvement program. He and WASHplus Activity Manager Sarah Fry met with all key urban WASH stakeholders—the government of Benin, USAID, UNICEF, and the German Society for International Cooperation. These partners were given updates on progress in organizing the baseline survey and invited to review and contribute to the protocol, as this baseline will serve the interests of sector players who are concerned by the alarming WASH conditions in urban coastal Benin. Ms. Fry's visit coincided with a visit to Benin by USAID/Washington Urban Health Specialist Tony Kolb. As the WASHplus activity is intended to be carried out in synergy with other family USAID health initiatives in urban slum areas, the team was able to visit sites and move the implementation planning forward. Mr. Kolb pledged continued involvement in this activity as Benin is one of the few USAID countries with an urban-focused health/WASH program.



### Kenya—Measuring Needs of Vulnerable Communities

With the recent approval of the Kenya Medical Research Institute, WASHplus has begun training data collectors to conduct a baseline survey in April and May. WASHplus will use this baseline to document community-level implementation of WASH integration activities and use this evidence to improve WASH practices among vulnerable communities. In addition, WASHplus recently met with the World Bank's Water and Sanitation Program and the government of Kenya to discuss how best to develop guidance for digging latrine pits. The current minimum standards are out of date and the government is keen to develop guidance that will give users options.

The WASH-HIV integration activity continued to roll out support at the community level; WASHplus provided technical assistance to the training of additional [APHIAplus](#) Nairobi-Coast trainers and local implementing partners in February. The majority of the participants are community health extension workers (CHEWs). The CHEWs go on to train and support community health workers to implement small doable actions at the household level. In collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation WASHplus also continues to support community-led total sanitation-plus to advance sanitation uptake through training workshops and input to the 2013 Open Defecation Free Rural Kenya Campaign.

### Zambia—WASH in Schools Baseline Results

Using a paperless tablet-based system to facilitate data entry during the collection process, WASHplus conducted an assessment of all basic and community schools in the Chipata,

---

### New WASHplus HQ Staff

Jonathan Annis joined the WASHplus headquarters team in February as the new sanitation and innovation adviser. He spent the past 10 years working in Madagascar, the last three for CARE. Sarah Meyanathan has also joined WASHplus as the project's new behavior change materials specialist. She previously worked for USAID's C-Change project.

---

### Are You Receiving the WASHplus Weekly?

Each issue highlights new publications and resources on many different WASH and IAP topics. To subscribe, sign up at [www.washplus.org](http://www.washplus.org), or e-mail [dacampbell@fhi360.org](mailto:dacampbell@fhi360.org). Click [here](#) for past issues.

---

Visit our Facebook page: [facebook](#)

Follow us on Twitter: [@washplusinfo](#)

Visit our website at: [www.washplus.org](http://www.washplus.org)

Email us: [contact@washplus.org](mailto:contact@washplus.org)

Mambwe, and Lundazi districts of the Eastern Province where the SPLASH (Schools Promoting Learning Achievement through Sanitation & Hygiene) project is being implemented. The survey will serve as the project's hardware and software baseline at the facility level; updated enrollment, absenteeism, and retention rates were also captured from the 621 schools. The high student-to-latrine ratios (1:219 average for boys and 1:207 for girls) do not meet the government-recommended standards of 40 boys or 25 girls per toilet. While the survey indicates that 70 percent of schools have access to a water point, this water supply is often shared with the community, commonly comes from a borehole, and remains untreated in 87 percent of schools. Of all the schools surveyed only 28 percent had hand washing facilities, and of those only 14 percent supplied soap. SPLASH recently carried out a baseline dissemination workshop that was well attended by the Ministry of Education from province and national levels, and will serve to shape school WASH efforts in Eastern Province.

## Resource Partner Highlights

### **Akvopedia WASH Finance Portal Launched**

A new free and open source knowledge portal has been launched by Akvo and the IRC International Water and Sanitation Centre. It is designed to help WASH teams achieve sustainable financing throughout the entire life cycle of WASH services. Read [more](#).

### **Water & Sanitation for the Urban Poor – Land Tenure Brief**

This brief offers practical guidance for program managers dealing with land tenure and tenancy challenges in water and sanitation services delivery. Read [more](#).

### **IDEO.org – Scaling a Toilet Franchise**

IDEO.org is working with Sanergy, a social enterprise providing residents of informal settlements a clean and pleasant sanitation option via the Fresh Life toilet franchising model. Read [more](#).

### **London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine – Neglected Tropical Diseases Research Launched**

LSHTM has teamed up with several institutions in London to launch a new research initiative to tackle Neglected Tropical Diseases, which affect more than one billion of the world's poorest people. Read [more](#).

### **CARE Water + Impact Report**

Is CARE creating the right type of changes through its work in water, sanitation, and hygiene and water resources management (collectively known as water+)? What differences

has it made in the lives of women and girls? In honor of World Water Day 2013, the first-ever CARE Water+ Impact Report addresses these and other questions. Read [more](#).

[follow on Twitter](#) | [forward to a friend](#)



WASHplus is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) under cooperative agreement AID-0AA-A10-00040. The information in this newsletter does not necessarily represent the views or positions of USAID or the U.S. government.

[unsubscribe from this list](#) | [update subscription preferences](#)