

Highlights and New Resources from the WASHplus Project and its Partners

washplus News

Supportive Environments for Healthy Communities

December 2012

Best wishes from WASHplus for the holidays and a prosperous New Year

WASHplus Program Updates

Bangladesh—IAP and WASH Activities

IAP: WASHplus submitted an application for review by the Internal Review Board (for the protection of human rights) in Bangladesh for the improved cookstove consumer needs, preferences, and willingness-to-pay assessment about to get underway. The project has been recruiting interviewers, translating survey tools, and purchasing improved stoves for the household trials, which will include kitchen performance tests conducted by Berkeley Air Monitoring Group. WASHplus will analyze data from the stove trials, and based on these research findings and other regional lessons, identify key elements of behavior change and develop a marketing plan during phase two to share with multiple suppliers and program implementers.

WASH: WASHplus and WaterAid submitted a proposed work plan for a three-year WASH activity to be implemented through WaterAid/Bangladesh and local partners. Local NGOs will conduct this activity to strengthen local governance and management of water systems through innovative approaches like rainwater catchment and solar desalination as well as more traditional construction and rehabilitation of water points. Sanitation and hand washing activities and a comprehensive behavior change strategy will also be incorporated after participatory assessments and a community situational analysis to develop locally appropriate technologies and strategies. The program also proposes to help improve the evidence base for WASH and nutrition integration and strengthen coordination among various WASH and nutrition actors.



A village community trainer with the Community Connectors project (a potential WASHplus partner in Uganda) demonstrates a “do it yourself” rainwater catchment system he made to address water quantity and quality issues in the district. See Uganda entry for more info.

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



Demonstration of a simple commode for bedridden or elderly patients developed as a result of a WASHplus training session in Kenya. Full story at: <http://www.washplus.org/kenya-washhiv-training>

Kenya—Improvement of WASH Practices

WASHplus is involved in two parallel activities in Kenya—ongoing support for WASH and HIV integration activities as well as sanitation. The Kenya WASHplus team has been conducting training-of-trainers for community health workers (CHWs) and others to 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+ programs. These training sessions are having an impact; Central Province in particular is citing an increase in the uptake of WASH and HIV integration practices and district public health officers are seeking outside funds to implement some of these activities.

WASHplus will also be helping the Kenyan government generate demand for sanitation using a CLTS+ (community-led total sanitation-plus) approach, improve WASH practices among all households, and introduce simple supportive technologies to vulnerable households. As part of this activity, 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 to improve latrine quality. To support these activities WASHplus has been distributing training guides and job aids for CHWs across the country (available in [English](#) and [Swahili](#)).

Madagascar—Sanitation and WASH Support

As it did this past year, WASHplus will continue to play a role in helping to document and disseminate best practices and lessons learned by USAID-funded WASH partners as these activities wind down. And as USAID moves ahead with its Forward reform initiative, which includes more direct funding to local development partners and organizations, WASHplus will conduct an inventory and assessment of local NGOs working in WASH and then select one or two to build their capacity so that they will be eligible to receive direct grants from USAID in the future. WASHplus will also provide technical assistance to

an expert group of NGO, university, and private sector resource partners.

New WASHplus Resources USAID WASH Approaches in Madagascar

WASHplus supported a field review of USAID-funded WASH approaches in Madagascar in four areas: subsidy-free sanitation; public-private urban WASH block management; Village Savings and Loan Associations; and sanitation marketing. This review found that even in a context of poor socio-economic conditions it is possible to improve sanitation without subsidizing households. [Download/view](#).

The WASHplus team participated in the **2012 Water for Health Conference: Science, Policy, and Innovation** held at the University of North Carolina, October 29-November 2. Presentations included:

Building Blocks for Healthy Communities: Integrating WASH and Nutrition Interventions for Improved Health Outcomes. Renuka Bery: [link](#)

Challenges and Progress in Scaling Up WASH in Schools in Zambia, Justin Lupele and Sarah Fry: [link](#)

HIV and Menstrual Hygiene Management, Julia Rosenbaum: [link](#)

WASH Blocks in Madagascar: Setting the Ground for Sustainability, Orlando Hernández: [link](#)

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managers of sanitation/shower blocks it has previously supported, so that they can manage these blocks and carry out fecal sludge removal properly and safely in the future without USAID or WASHplus support. The Practica sludge management pilots to test the feasibility of sludge removal as a business are ongoing.

Mali—WASH and Nutrition

USAID Mali requested that WASHplus, through CARE/Mali, initiate an activity integrating WASH interventions and nutrition. 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 integrating them with nutrition and food security initiatives starting in January.

Uganda—Multiple Integration Opportunities

WASHplus Deputy Director Julia Rosenbaum recently traveled to Uganda where she worked with the USAID Uganda Mission to develop a work plan and budget for both HIV and WASH and nutrition and WASH integration activities at the national and district levels. Rather than direct implementation, WASHplus will work through the local government as well as USAID partners. The trip was coordinated with USAID Environmental Health's Jesse Shapiro, who worked with the Mission to strengthen its WASH programming, including an district grants program administered through the USAID Strengthening District Systems Project to address pressing WASH needs. WASHplus will help develop priority granting areas and corresponding objectives, outcomes, and indicators, and provide support to three districts to develop a strong WASH grant proposal for submission.



PTA work committees in many schools are digging pits for their children's school latrines, like this one in Chipata District in Zambia.

Zambia—WASH in Schools

The second year of the SPLASH program brings a consolidation of the hard and software activities launched in Year One. Year Two started off with the drilling of more than 40 boreholes for schools, along with training for 40 area pump menders. A paperless baseline survey was recently completed to assess WASH facilities, hygiene practices, and key educational success

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factors linked to WASH such as absenteeism, in all the basic and community schools in the three districts where SPLASH is working. The Ministry of Education (MOE) participated fully as enumerators, and the results will serve as a springboard for program directions and advocacy. SPLASH is also spearheading a yearlong school WASH advocacy and policy review process involving key government ministries and cooperating partners. Finally, WaterAid has begun its yearlong “equity and inclusion” technical assistance to ensure that all children, regardless of physical ability and gender, have equitable access to WASH.

Resource Partner Highlights

Water & Sanitation for the Urban Poor’s (WSUP) Sanitation Hackathon took place simultaneously in several cities across the world around the time of the World Toilet Summit (December 3, 2012). London hosted the UK event and WSUP organized the London hackathon. Read [more](#).

Ideo.org's Jocelyn Wyatt organized a hackathon in Ghana in November 2012 to develop software that would let people in the city of Kumasi report public sightings of human waste via text message or Facebook. Read [more](#).

Aprovecho Research Center Stove Workshop

Aprovecho Research Center is hosting a winter stove workshop February 4–8, 2013, in Cottage Grove, Oregon, USA. Read [more](#).

Berkeley Air Monitoring Group Stove Performance Inventory

This inventory currently contains data from over 600 unique sets of performance tests. It was compiled in November 2012 through a systematic review of published and gray literature. Read [more](#).

Toilets for Health

To mark World Toilet Day, November 19, 2012, the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine in collaboration with Domestos produced “Toilets for Health,” a comprehensive report on toilets and sanitation. Read [more](#).

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