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washplus News

Supportive Environments for Healthy Communities

Country Program Highlights



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

Uganda—Applying WASH to Challenging Terrain

In Uganda WASHplus is strengthening WASH activities in three challenging districts on the border with Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo, with funding from USAID/Uganda. In addition to focused work in these districts, WASHplus works with USAID implementing partners, including Community Connector, SPRING, FANTA, and STAR-SW, to apply WASH and HIV and nutrition integration approaches to their programs. The areas are especially challenging to work in due to their mountainous and rocky terrain, making it difficult to dig even simple pit latrines and requiring steep climbs up and down hillsides to access water from improved and unimproved sources. Applying its small doable action approach to WASH improvement, WASHplus is promoting self-supply rainwater catchment systems to increase the proximity and availability of household water supplies. This will reduce women's and children's burden, free them up for school and income generation activities, and make it possible to adopt hand washing and hygiene behaviors that require an increase in the quantity of water used in the home.

August 2013

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Benin—Improving Urban Hygiene

WASHplus Benin Coordinator Armand Aguidi is actively working with a range of partners to establish the WASHplus Urban Hygiene Program in Cotonou. One key Benin partner is the Ministry of Health's (MOH) Department of Hygiene and Sanitation, which has responsibility for urban services and is counting on the WASHplus experience to help develop a strategy for hygiene and sanitation service delivery aimed at peri-urban underserved and poor neighborhoods. The other key partner is the mayor's office, and WASHplus is negotiating a Memorandum of Understanding to ensure complete engagement and ownership of the program by the municipal authorities. WASHplus solicited proposals to conduct a baseline survey in up to eight peri-urban neighborhoods, and the firm selected is in the process of obtaining local ethical clearance.

Kenya—Collecting Baseline Data

A major activity in Kenya in recent months has been baseline data collection. Following a household mapping exercises in April, the team collected data from six sites in rural, peri-urban, and nomadic communities. The nomadic sites posed a challenge since accessing people was difficult and required more time than anticipated. Analysis of the baseline will continue for the next few months. In the meantime, the team continues to implement the WASH-HIV intervention in the selected rural and peri-urban districts. WASHplus has also recently visited programs in Coast Province that have integrated WASH and HIV. Read [more](#) on how community health workers are using WASHplus training to improve the lives of people living with HIV.

Madagascar—Building NGO Capacity

WASHplus is building the capacity of local NGOs as part of USAID/Madagascar's commitment to the global [USAID Forward Initiative](#), which seeks to increase funding of local partnerships. The ultimate goal is to develop the capacity of these organizations to become local leaders in USAID WASH program design and implementation. The process began with the identification of potential local NGOs interested in receiving training and field support; 48 organizations were considered and two were selected to participate in a three-day training in June. The capacity building training covered the WASH-Everywhere approach; behavior change strategies; and proposal development, monitoring, and evaluation, among other topics. The second phase of this support is underway as trainees from SAF/FJKM Anstirabe accompany WASHplus staff to visit successful WASH-friendly institutions and WASH sanitation blocks and see the

JOIN OUR COMMUNITIES

The Nexus Between WASH, Nutrition, and Feed the Future

CommunityThis new community of practice provides a place to discuss and learn about the linkages among the WASH, nutrition, and early childhood development sectors and maintains a growing list of resources on topics of interest to this community. Join [here](#).

Health Impacts

WASHplus and the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves host this Health Impacts community of practice on the health impacts of household air pollution and other health-related impacts of solid fuel use. Join [here](#).

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Each issue highlights new publications and resources on many different WASH and IAP topics. To subscribe, sign up at www.washplus.org, or [e-mail](#). Past issues can be viewed [here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Look for WASHplus at the UNC 2013 Water and Health Conference this October as it hosts or participates in side events on hand washing with soap on the global stage; neglected tropical diseases; WASH in schools; fecal sludge management; putting WASH knowledge into action; and the Clean, Fed & Nurtured collaboration on WASH and nutrition.

application and impact of community-led total sanitation.

Zambia–Linking School Improvements to Communities

With the hiring of two new staff to support behavior change (BC) and knowledge management the SPLASH (Schools Promoting Learning Achievement through Sanitation and Hygiene) program in Zambia now has a strong in-country team of 30. The project continues to build improved latrine, rehabilitate water points, and equip boreholes with pumps at schools in Eastern Province. This hardware activity is accompanied by training of area pump minders and school WASH committees. SPLASH organized a special WASH curriculum workshop for the Ministry of Education and hopes this will lead to suggestions for incorporating WASH themes into curriculum revisions. The project is strengthening ties to local chiefs to enlist their support in encouraging communities to contribute materials for construction, and PTAs are pitching in to ensure adequate school supplies of hygiene products such as soap, toilet paper, and menstrual pads. As part of the SPLASH research strategy, Emory University has initiated two studies in SPLASH target districts: one on effective BC channels from school to community and homes, and one on the link between student hydration status and concentration ability. The BC study is in full swing with Emory University students working alongside SPLASH staff to collect the data.



This student uses a tippy tap that he helped his family construct after learning at school about the importance of hand washing.

Note from the field: Bridget Kakuwa, SPLASH's KM Specialist

"The great work that SPLASH is doing in the schools cannot go unnoticed. The impact of the project has spread to all neighboring communities around the schools. This is evidenced by the number of tippy taps that are found in communities surrounding the schools. The children have shared the hygiene and sanitation messages with their

WASHplus Bloggers

Reflections from the Colorado Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Symposium, by Jonathan Annis [here](#).

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parents who have also been converted. These practices have been well embraced by the local communities that they even wonder how they used to manage before SPLASH came to help them on hygiene and sanitation practices."

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS AND FORA

Clean, Fed & Nurtured: Joining Forces to Promote Child Growth and Development

On May 2-3, 2013, WASHplus, together with [Alive & Thrive](#), [FHI 360](#), [PPPHW](#), [Save the Children](#),



and [USAID](#), organized an event called Clean, Fed & Nurtured to bring together practitioners, researchers, and academicians and begin creating linkages across their disciplines of WASH, including hand washing; nutrition, in particular infant and young child feeding; and early childhood development to move forward with research and integrated programming to support child growth and development. This meeting was an initial step to bring together experts to discover synergies, identify gaps, and grab opportunities to collaborate to achieve the goal of thriving children with a future as productive, resilient adults.

Participants discussed priority household behaviors that need to be improved and practiced consistently, identified future actions, and made personal commitments to ignite the movement and promote the brand...Clean, Fed & Nurtured. Access the event [website](#); or read the WASH and nutrition [brief](#) prepared for the event. WASHplus is helping to champion these efforts at coordinated action—through [blogs](#), webinars, talking points, and presentations at global fora, such as the June Rotary World Water Summit and the University of North Carolina 2013 Water and Health Conference.

Supporting USAID's Water and Development Strategy

USAID launched the U.S. government's first Water and Development [Strategy](#) on May 21, 2013, at a well-attended event on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. As USAID's flagship environmental health project, WASHplus has been actively involved in a number of strategy-related events, including the Water Fair that coincided with the official launch. In

May, WASHplus hosted a USAID brown bag on its expertise in integrating WASH into health and food security as it relates to the new Water Strategy. In June, Orlando Hernandez, WASHplus Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, as well as Merri Weinger, WASHplus Agreement Officer and USAID Environmental Health Team lead, participated in the first of several planned "strate-chats" connected with the strategy. A summary of the event, the presentations, and a link to the event video are available [here](#). WASHplus will also participate in an upcoming USAID event on WASH in Schools in the fall; look for an announcement from WASHplus sometime soon.

Monitoring Sustainability of WASH Services

Mr. Hernandez along with colleague Jonathan Annis, WASHplus sanitation and innovation advisor, attended the IRC Symposium on Monitoring Sustainability of WASH Services, April 9-11, 2013, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Mr. Hernandez was a panelist in a session on Tracking Hand Washing Practices within the Hygiene and Sanitation Conference Track coordinated by the World Water and Sanitation Collaborative. While at the event, Mr. Annis blogged about [Sustainability Tools and Clauses](#).

Latinosan

At this year's Latinosan Conference held in Panama in May, Mr. Hernandez spoke about lessons learned in the field on the topic of behavior change in WASH. His presentation is available in [Spanish](#) and [English](#).



WEDC

This year's WEDC International Conference, held in July in Kenya, focused on Delivering Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Services in an Uncertain Environment. WASHplus participation included SPLASH/Zambia Chief of Party Justin Lupele, who talked about advocating for [WASH in Schools in Zambia](#); and Kenya Country Program Director Evelyn Mugambi talked about [Promoting Healthy Hygiene and Sanitation Practices for People Living with HIV and AIDS](#).

Global Handwashing Day is Coming Up!

October 15 isn't that far away. Have you started planning your Global Handwashing Day Activities? If you need a little inspiration view this [Prezi](#) and then head to the Global Public-Private Partnership on Handwashing [website](#) for downloads, ideas, and templates.

RESOURCE PARTNER HIGHLIGHTS

Water and Sanitation for the Urban Poor (WSUP) – New Publication. Get to Scale in Urban Water, 2013. Reports on scale-out and scale-up experience from Antananarivo. Read [more](#).

WaterAid – Destination Zambia. In July a group of WaterAid’s supporters will visit Zambia to see the difference their support makes. Read [more](#).

Women’s World Banking. The president of Women’s World Banking talks about microfinance. See [video](#).

BPD in Water and Sanitation. Learning from Failure in Sanitation (Part II). The recent trend of “admitting failure” in aid and development forces sanitation specialists to ask if we can and should address failure more openly. Read [more](#).

IDEO.org – Awarded Development Innovation Ventures Grant. IDEO.org is using open-source mapping and mobile phones to raise support for improved sanitation in Ghana. Read [more](#).

Aprovecho Research Center – Partner in the Spark Initiative. The new Spark Initiative seeks to unite a community of parties interested in cookstoves, attract students to research and internship opportunities, and generate new partnerships between members of the Oregon University system and local experts. Read [more](#).



WASHplus, a five-year project funded through USAID’s Bureau for Global Health, supports healthy households and communities by creating and delivering interventions that lead to improvements in access, practice and health outcome related to water, sanitation, hygiene (WASH) and indoor air pollution (IAP). WASHplus uses at-scale, targeted 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 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.