

USAID-WASHplus Activity to Integrate WASH and NTDs



Renuka Bery, FHI 360
Kerry Gallo, Children Without Worms/TFGH
Stephanie Ogden, CARE/TFGH

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USAID's interest

- Seeking opportunities to reduce prevalence of 3 neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) – soil-transmitted helminths, schistosomiasis, trachoma – beyond mass drug administration
- Exploring potential for integrated activities including WASH for long-term control of disease
- Test integrated approaches and develop recommendations
- Contribute to global conversation on WASH/NTDs

Phased Activities

- Phase 1: Desk review: Global review and review of the WASH and NTD landscapes of 8 countries
- Phase 2: In-depth assessment in 2 countries to identify possible integrated activities with a focus on WASH
- Phase 3: Integrated activity in 1-2 countries

Desk Review

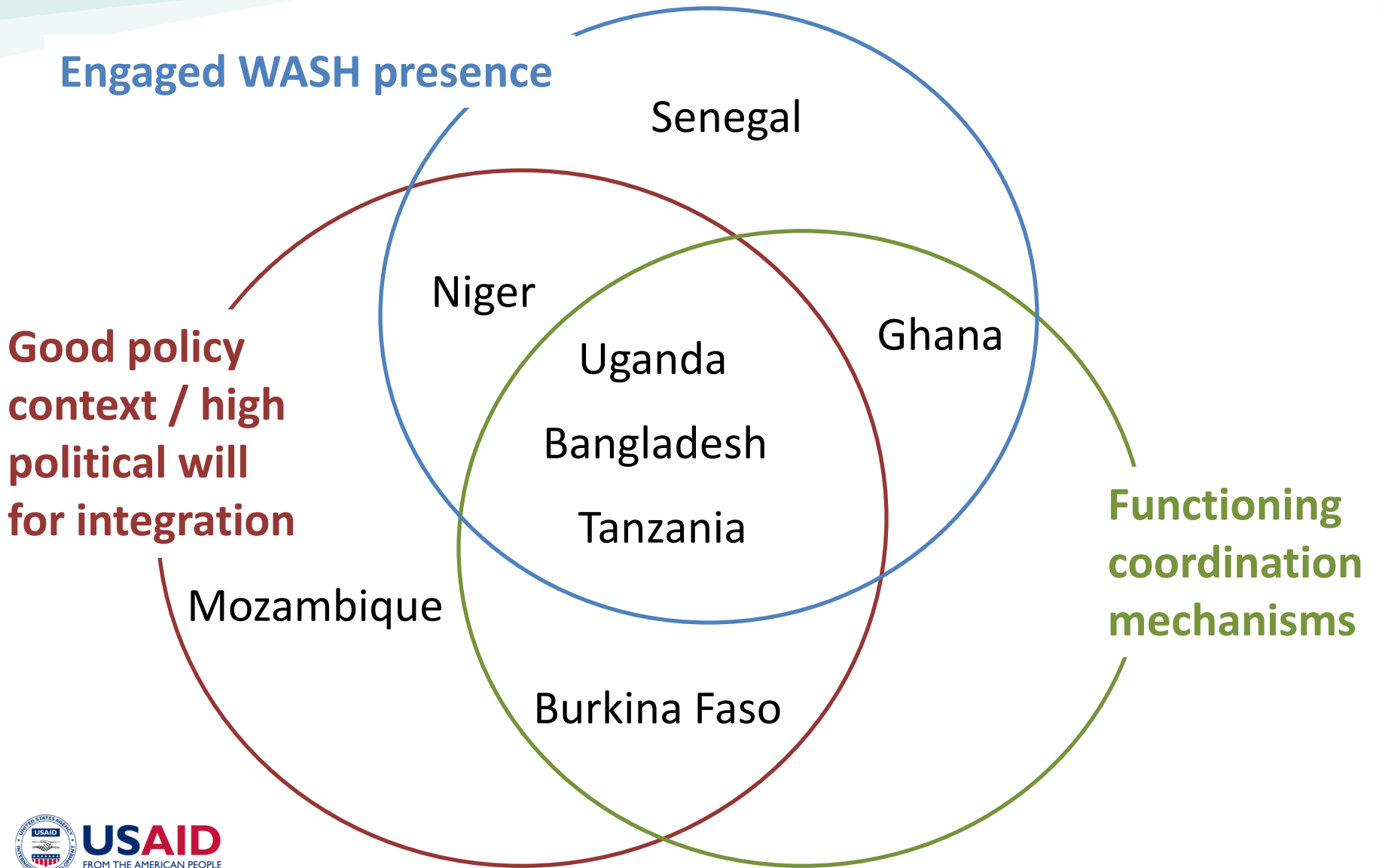
- Global scan of WASH and NTDs
- Reviewed 8 countries
 - USAID countries of interest
 - Mix of need and existing activities
 - Countries with varying political will



Desk Review Results

- Good understanding of WASH related to NTDs of interest
- Contributes to the global conversation of WASH inputs to reducing NTD prevalence
- Highlights
 - Countries with good policy context
 - Countries with engaged WASH presence
 - WASH-integration activities in countries

Desk Review Results



Purpose of Country Assessments

- Evaluate existing landscape of WASH activities, NTD control activities, and integrated WASH/NTD control efforts in a country
- Identify possible opportunities and partnerships
- Recommend feasible actions with current funding
- Apply lessons learned to refine global understanding about effective integrated programming for WASH/NTDs

Bangladesh: Context

- High population density; environmental conditions challenging for sanitation
- Soil-transmitted helminth (STH) infection countrywide – $\geq 15\%$ of all school-aged children infected (2013 study, MOHFW)
- Mass treatment 2x year; high reinfection rates
- One-third of children stunted, 48% moderately underweight (WHO Bangladesh)



Photo of *ascaris*
(roundworm): CDC

Bangladesh Assessment Process

- Multidisciplinary team
- Stakeholder interviews
- Field visits
- Opportunities identified
 - Used Gates meeting framework
 - WASH-nutrition nexus
 - WASH in schools links



Bangladesh - Findings

- Significant progress over past 25 years
- Strong LF/STH program with 2x/annual deworming
- High political will for WASH within GOB
- Stakeholders see WASH as critical component for continued development
- High knowledge of WASH practices at community level – particularly HW and fixed point defecation
- Integrated WASH-nutrition programming exists

- Knowledge vs. Practice
- Insufficient infrastructure – especially in schools
- Implementation of national hygiene strategy
- Diffusion of programs
- Coherence in learning – approaches/messaging
- Evidence base of WASH impact on STH



Recommendations for Bangladesh

1. Create and facilitate a national Hygiene Stakeholder Group

- Support operationalization of national hygiene strategy
- Elevate hygiene among national government priorities
- Coordination platform
- Identify gaps in hygiene approaches and harmonize messaging
- Joint advocacy for investment in BC / enabling infrastructure

Recommendations for Bangladesh

2. Develop a teacher-training strategy / innovation workshop on WASH to *emphasize behavior change* rather than knowledge creation.

- Provide practical, effective, innovative methods of teaching hygiene



Recommendations for Bangladesh

3. Conduct operational research to address WASH/STH knowledge gaps in the Bangladesh context.

- Monitoring of STH could be incorporated into existing WASH, nutrition programs
- Identify the most effective WASH interventions for STH prevention in Bangladesh
- Findings could inform global knowledge base

Next Steps

- Present Bangladesh findings to USAID
- Conduct 2nd country assessment – Burkina Faso
- Synthesize recommendations
- Develop and implement integrated project

Questions for Plenary Discussion

- What does the WASH sector need to do differently (if anything) to address NTDs?
- Can multiple NTDs be addressed by the WASH sector simultaneously?
- What research is necessary to expand the evidence base for WASH-NTD integration?
- Nutrition, WASH and NTDs
 - How to promote coordination, effective messaging/BC efforts, coverage?

Thank you

- Renuka Bery rbery@fhi360.org
- Kerry Gallo kgallo@taskforce.org
- Stephanie Ogden sogden@care.org