

# washplus News

Supportive Environments for Healthy Communities

## Program Highlights



### Nepal—Measuring Willingness to Pay and Preference for Clean Cookstoves

The WASHplus Nepal Cookstove Consumer Preferences study undertaken in Nawalparasi and Dang districts has concluded. The study demonstrated that the stoves trialed were well liked by consumers, who were willing to pay for them with appropriate financing options. Stove use monitoring system and kitchen performance test data demonstrated that households used the stoves consistently (albeit not exclusively) during the spring/summer months, and accrued significant fuel savings; usage and corresponding benefits did not exist during the winter months that the Dang residents used the stoves. In Nawalparasi participants had the option to purchase the stove at the end of the study and more than half did so. In Dang participants were given the stove as a gift, then offered a cash buy-out; 58 out of 66 study households chose to keep the stove. Even though participants in Dang stopped using their stoves during the winter months in which the buy-out assessment was conducted, the fact that 88 percent chose to keep their stove rather than a significant cash pay-out shows that they valued them for their utility the rest of the year.

## May 2016

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## Benin—Piloting Urban CLTS

Wedged between the Atlantic Ocean and lagoons, Cotonou, Benin, is flood prone and its slum neighborhoods experience cholera outbreaks during the rainy season.

After promoting handwashing with soap and chlorination of household drinking water through its hygiene and behavior change activity, WASHplus (with local implementing partner ABMS/PSI) faced the pressing issue of open defecation time and again. Most residents prefer open defecation to using the few public latrines—rickety structures built over lagoons. To address this problem WASHplus has worked with the Ministry of Health on a first-ever (for Benin) experiment in community-led total sanitation (CLTS) adapted for peri-urban settings. In May community triggering began in two target neighborhoods. Urban CLTS is different from rural settings; in this case, the group created a special task force to follow up the decision to destroy open defecation places and work with the rest of the community to improve public latrines. The residents expressed a desire for modern toilets and said they were prepared to pay for them. Read more about peri-urban CLTS in this [blog](#) posting.



## Burkina Faso—Validating WASH and Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD) Tools

In Burkina Faso WASHplus has built strong partnerships with several government

ministries (health, education, water and sanitation) and NGOs, such as Helen Keller International, REGIS-ER project, Programme Faso, and *Association Chant de Femme*, and always seeks their input. On April 5-6, WASHplus held a workshop with these stakeholders to validate project-designed WASH-NTD counseling cards. The Regional Ministry of Health director, emphasizing the cutting-edge nature of the activities, said, “WASHplus is bringing the missing piece to the puzzle to fight NTDs efficiently by mainstreaming NTD messages into WASH behavior change tools.” Meanwhile, in the villages, WASHplus partner Association Chant de Femme has been using these cards and other tools to sensitize household members to improve WASH practices. Animators spent one week in each target village conducting a participatory analysis and providing training on WASH to reduce trachoma, schistosomiasis, and soil-transmitted helminths. These activities are having an impact. In Boudangou, for example, villagers decided to pause the training and clean the surroundings of their water point and establish rules for use such as: “No one should go to the water point barefoot, no one should leave garbage or waste water at the water point.” The end of project event will be held in Fada

- [WASHplus in Mali](#)

### LATEST UPDATES

[Household Drinking Water](#)

[Indoor Air Pollution](#)

[Innovation Exchange](#)

[Sanitation](#)

[Urban Health](#)

[WASH and Nutrition](#)

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### NEW PUBLICATIONS AND RESOURCES

[The Power of Integration to Multiply Development Impact, learning brief](#)

[Good Governance: A Core Component of WASH Project Implementation, learning brief](#)

[Partnerships: A Key Strategy to Increase Impact and Results, learning brief](#)

[Behavior-Centered Approaches to Improve Health Outcomes, learning brief](#)

[WASHplus Country Snapshots and](#)

N’Gourma on June 7.

## Kenya—Protecting Against Cholera

In 2012, WASHplus worked with the Government of Kenya on a campaign to end open defecation. Using its CLTS-plus approach, WASHplus promoted behavior change to improve sanitation uptake and emphasized inclusive sanitation in Rongo, Naivasha, and Langat subcounties. Three years later in January 2015, a cholera epidemic raged through the region. While parts of Rongo subcounty were at the epicenter of the epidemic, two communities recorded no cholera cases. Representatives from the Ministry of Health followed up to find out why. Their conclusion—these two communities were among the first villages in Rongo to embrace CLTS and attain open defecation free status. Read more in this [story](#) from the field.

## Madagascar—Fecal Sludge Management Video

Improved sanitation options for households and communities will soon not be enough; increasingly, the entire system must be considered to keep fecal matter out of the environment. WASHplus tackled this issue in Madagascar with implementing partner Practica and created a [video](#) that explores how the project’s fecal sludge management pilot in Ambositra has been scaled up elsewhere in Madagascar to address a lack of effective waste management options. WASHplus’s fecal sludge management pilot focused on safer waste removal and disposal options along with making the removal of fecal sludge a profitable business model for entrepreneurs.



## Mali—Sharing Effective Strategies and Innovations with Partners

To celebrate accomplishments of its integrated WASH and nutrition project in Mali and to mark the activity’s

conclusion, WASHplus held a two-day results and dissemination workshop March 23–24, in Bamako. Attracting 80 participants from several ministries; local and regional technical services; elected officials; representatives of intervention villages; USAID; and other donors, projects, and NGOs, the workshop provided a platform to share project strategies, innovations, and lessons learned. Participants actively debated how these strategies and innovations should be adopted elsewhere in Mali. WASHplus developed an infographic poster, “What’s the Recipe for a Healthy Child in Mali?” in [French](#) and [English](#), to visually display the project’s significant results—decreased open defecation, improved minimum acceptable diet, increased water treatment and handwashing among caregivers, and decreased diarrhea for under twos—and to summarize project outputs and keys to success. Read the final reports: How WASHplus Integrates Nutrition in Mali (in [French](#)) and Innovative Strategies for WASH

## Results, brief

**WASHing Away Disease Two Hands at a Time**, a PPPHW and WASHplus [webinar](#)

**WASHplus in Mali: Integrating WASH and Nutrition for Healthy Communities**, printed in ENN’s [Field Exchange](#), Issue 51

## Are you receiving the WASHplus Weekly?

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in Mali (in [French](#)).



## Zambia—Tracking the Spillover of WASH Improvements in Schools

The WASHplus WASH in Schools activity in Zambia, SPLASH (Schools Promoting Learning Achievement through Sanitation and Hygiene), was intended to improve school outcomes such as attendance and

pupil-teacher contact time through installation and rehabilitation of school WASH infrastructure and the provision of hygiene education. The project outcomes are captured in an [infographic](#), “Making a SPLASH at Scale in Zambia,” developed for WASHplus’s end of project event. The installation of water points and improved latrines and washrooms on school campuses also had unintended, and surprising, spillover into the adjacent communities and the schools themselves. Read about SPLASH-inspired development projects such as household latrine construction in the community and at teachers’ houses and classroom block, washroom, and teachers’ house construction, all linked to the SPLASH intervention in an anecdotal way but entirely funded by communities and/or other partners, in a new publication [SPLASH Spillover Effect](#). The report showcases the stories of six representative schools from three districts of Zambia’s Eastern Province. Research conducted in conjunction with SPLASH in five Chipata District schools on the effects of hydration on cognitive function has been published in *PLOS One*. Access the article [here](#).



## WASHplus—Spreading the Word on Project Accomplishments

Featuring interactive sessions, a Knowledge Expo, live and video presentations, the WASHplus end of project event, held April 28, in Washington, DC, engaged stakeholders in a half-day program to share project accomplishments, lessons learned, and future implications for the water, sanitation, and



hygiene (WASH) and clean cooking sectors. Presentations focused on four themes: behavior change, integration, sanitation and innovation, and sustainable WASH systems and are available [here](#). For an overview of "What We Did and Why It Matters" at the country level, WASHplus published country profiles for ten of its most in-depth activities, available [here](#). A separate clean cooking end of project event will be held June 8, in Washington, DC. Register [here](#) for the in-person event, or tune into the webinar, June 15. Details will be forthcoming on [washplus.org](http://washplus.org).

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## GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS AND FORA



### Global Public-Private Partnership for Handwashing Think Tank

At the Handwashing Think Tank, held in London, April 12 and 13, experts came together to: explore current knowledge about handwashing with soap; spark collaborative thinking about handwashing; and drive the sector forward. Presenters shared their thoughts and work in each of the thematic areas of integration, settings, and scale/sustainability and participants engaged in robust discussions about the evidence, gaps, and how we should move forward. On the PPPHW [website](#) you can find:

- [Event summary](#)
- Full agenda and presentations (also available to [download here](#))
- [Day One Report](#)
- [Day Two Report](#)
- Social Media [Storify](#)
- Summary [Webinar Recording](#)



### Menstrual Hygiene Day is May 28

Show your support for this year's Menstrual Hygiene Day theme: Menstruation matters to everyone, everywhere. This year the DC Coalition for Menstrual Hygiene Day, including WASHplus, will raise awareness through a social media campaign about inclusion issues surrounding menstruation, how menstruation matters for girls' education, and menstruation should not be taxed. For more information, click [here](#). Show your support by tweeting:

We all have a stake in safe and dignified menstrual hygiene management. #MenstruationMatters to everyone, everywhere.

#LetGirlsLearn for #5MoreDays. Every day can be a good day if girls can attend school during their period.

#NoTaxForTampons. Period. Menstruation is a necessity, not a luxury.



### Women Deliver

WASHplus’s Julia Rosenbaum and PPPHW’s Hanna Woodburn were among the presenters at Women Deliver’s well-attended session “Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for Girls’ and Women’s Health, Dignity and Well-Being,” held on May 18.

The session identified how improved WASH conditions can help girls and women live healthier lives, stay in school longer, participate fully, and gain academic and economic achievement. Solutions were presented on inclusive sanitation menstrual hygiene management, and hygiene advocacy. Participants were asked to identify an “aha” moment and to reflect on small doable action takeaways from the session, among them, “WASH is a BIG DEAL for sustainable development—didn’t realize this before.” View the presentation [here](#).



WASHplus is a multi-year project funded through USAID’s Bureau for Global Health that supports healthy households and communities by developing and implementing interventions that lead to improvements in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and household air pollution (HAP) activities. 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.