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# washplus News

Supportive Environments for Healthy Communities

## Program Highlights



*A child washes her hands at a community nutrition center before receiving a daily ration of a nutritional supplement manufactured locally by WASHplus partner YAG-TU.*

### Mali—Putting the Plus in CLTS

The WASHplus WASH and Nutrition integration activity in Mali is working through local NGOs in 160 villages within 16 communes in three health districts of the Mopti Region. In the past few months the project collaborated with district-level trainers from the Ministry of Health to train 22 project staff in the national protocol for the treatment of severe malnutrition and community-led total sanitation (CLTS). As in other countries, WASHplus's CLTS approach includes a "plus" component that emphasizes construction and correct use of a hand washing facility outside the latrine. In Mali the plus component also signifies supply-side interventions to develop low-cost latrine models appropriate to the unique environmental conditions in each district coupled with

## December 2013

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training community-based masons to build robust latrines using local materials. To complement the CLTS-driven approach in rural areas, WASHplus will engage materials suppliers and local entrepreneurs to market a line of aspirational sanitation products in Mopti's densely populated urban areas.

### Bangladesh Conducting Community Situational Analyses



In hard-to-reach areas of southwestern Bangladesh WASHplus works to address the underlying causes of inadequate water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) conditions. WASHplus is

carrying out Community Situation Analysis (CSA) in four *upazilas* (subdistricts) of the Barisal Division. Through this participatory problem-identification process, WASHplus is helping target communities collectively identify their WASH needs, engage them to develop action plans, and form community groups to lead implementation activities. The CSA process also strengthens the decision making capacity, ownership, and self-efficacy of community members.

Ideally three sessions are conducted with 20 to 25 members of the community, including both males and females from all socio-economic levels. The first few sessions seek to understand the community composition and explore community ignition through consensus building. Participatory Rural Appraisal tools like the social map, Venn diagram, and wealth ranking are used to discuss open defecation spots and feces calculation. The goal of the third session is for the community to be motivated to change current WASH practices, develop an action plan, and establish Community Development Forums.

### Assessing Neglected Tropical Disease

Bangladesh has made enormous strides in the past 25 years in WASH, however, challenges still exist in managing fecal waste disposal. Despite annual deworming, current prevalence of soil transmitted helminthiasis (STH) among school-aged children is estimated to be 14.7 percent. Following up on a [desk review](#) conducted at USAID's behest on the intersection of WASH and Neglected Tropical

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## NEW RESOURCES

### Understanding Consumer Preference and Willingness to Pay for Improved Cookstoves in Bangladesh

The [final report](#) of WASHplus's research into consumer preference of five improved cookstove models, their kitchen performance, and participants' willingness to pay for them.

### Downstream of the Toilet: Turning Poo into Profit

This [Briefing Note](#) summarizes the key learnings and challenges gleaned from WASHplus's fecal sludge management activity in Madagascar through September 2013.

### WASHplus Year Three Annual Report

Link [here](#) for full report.

## Environmental



Diseases, WASHplus carried out a field assessment in Bangladesh of opportunities for integrating WASH and STH in September 2013. The assessment's team examined the existing WASH policy and

program, met with 20 different stakeholders, and visited eight sites in Dhaka and Barisal to identify potential points of intersection for WASH and STH that, with investment, could improve the potential for reduced worm reinfection. The assessment team recommended developing a Hygiene Task Force and innovative WASH teacher training materials that emphasize behavior change.

### Kenya—A String, a Jug, a Bucket

In Kenya, WASHplus and the Ministry of Health are training community health workers and recruiting natural leaders to advance sanitation among vulnerable households. Using a small doable action approach, trainees work with households to ensure all family members can access a latrine and a hand washing station. This often means that community health workers are improvising and innovating to help address the particular needs of a given family. Read a story about how simple innovations can make a profound impact on individuals' lives [here](#).



*Danson, who is blind, uses a nylon string to navigate his way from the house to his latrine.*

### Zambia—SPLASH Launch Event in Mambwe District

### Enteropathy Webinar

WASHplus supported this webinar in collaboration with the USAID TOPS project, which was sponsored by the USAID WASH & Nutrition COP, September 11, 2013. Recording available [here](#).

### WASH Sustainability Index Tool Webinar

Helen Petach (USAID), Ryan Schweitzer, and Harold Lockwood (Aquaconsult). November 20, 2013, hosted by WASHplus. Link [here](#) for recording.

### Self-Supply at Scale: Lessons from Rural Bangladesh

WASHplus's Jonathan Annis contributes his observations of Bangladesh's extensive self-supply service delivery model to the Rural Water Supply Network [Blog](#).

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In August, SPLASH hosted a high visibility launch of WASH in Schools at Mnkhanya Community School in Mambwe District where the project showcased the mechanized water supply and ablution

blocks. Representatives from the government, USAID, FHI 360, CARE, and NGOs attended the event, which was officially opened by the Ministry of Education, Science, Vocational Training, and Early Education's Deputy Minister Patrick Ngoma. As a result of this event, the province recognizes SPLASH as a leader among the major players in the WASH in Schools sector and the provincial minister has requested progress reports. A [video](#) of the event highlights the speeches of WASHplus, SPLASH, and key dignitaries; provides an overview of SPLASH; and captures the excitement and pride of the launch.

## GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS AND FORA

### Global Handwashing Day

For the sixth year in a row, Global Handwashing Day was celebrated around the world on October 15, with events in over 100 countries, (see this [interactive map](#)). As part of the celebration, the Global Public-Private Partnership for Handwashing (PPPHW) issued a call-to-action for the inclusion of hand washing as a target in the post-2015 development agenda. See this two-page advocacy [document](#) for more information. The PPPHW also hosted a virtual celebration via Google Hangout, which can be viewed [here](#). Just because Global Handwashing Day is over does not mean it is time to stop hand washing with soap. If you need some practice, join Elmo and friends and sing along with this fun hand washing [song](#).

### University of North Carolina Water for Health Conference

WASHplus staff presented keynote addresses, side events, and a poster on half a dozen topics, including WASH in schools, neglected tropical diseases and WASH integration, fecal sludge management, and environmental enteropathy. Link to the presentations [here](#).

## RESOURCE PARTNER HIGHLIGHTS

### **London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine–Don't Look, Don't Touch: The Science Behind Revulsion.**

This book by **Dr. Valerie Curtis** draws on the work of biologists and animal behaviorists to explain the evolutionary value of disgust and the reasons why it matters. Read [more](#).

### **University of California, Berkeley – Promoting Smoke-Free Homes: A Behavioral Intervention.**

**Dr. Kirk Smith's** study tested an intervention for promoting behavior change to reduce secondhand tobacco smoke levels. 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](#).

### **Building Partnerships for Development in Water and Sanitation (BPD)**

– launches research on WASH in Schools. Read [more](#).



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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 that lead to improvements in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and indoor air pollution (IAP) activities. WASHplus is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) under cooperative agreement AID-OAA-A10-00040. The information in this newsletter does not necessarily represent the views or positions of USAID or the U.S. government.

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