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washplus News

Supportive Environments for Healthy Communities

Program Highlights



Incremental steps can help peri-urban schools in Benin become more "WASH-Friendly," such as installing handwashing stations and emptying latrine pits so that children can rely on the provided sanitation facilities instead of resorting to open defecation.

Benin—Galvanizing Schools to Take Action

Over the past few months, WASHplus through implementing partner ABMS/PSI has stepped up advocacy for latrine improvement in several public schools. One school, with a student population of 1,500, had four latrine blocks that were unusable because they were full. Even though WASHplus/ABMS and school officials successfully lobbied the Ministry of Education for a \$200 line item for pit emptying, the urgency of the situation prompted the PTA to front the money and hire a pit emptying service soon thereafter. The head of the PTA explained that joint

February 2016

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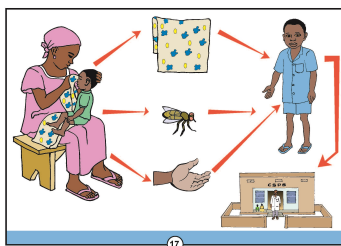
[Household Drinking Water](#)

meetings called by WASHplus/ABMS field staff to bring the group of teachers, the school director, and PTA members to the actual site of the latrine blocks and expose them to the extreme contamination “Woke us up.” WASHplus is supporting development of a sustainable usage and maintenance plan along with installation of handwashing facilities and possible additional latrine construction. Read the full story [here](#).

Bangladesh—Sending Poo to its Final Address

WASHplus continued pioneering work developing a menu of small doable actions for the safe disposal of infant feces. Working with program partners, the project team further refined doable behaviors for four cohorts of infant and young children, and worked with designers to develop a set of job aids to integrate Essential WASH Actions into Feed the Future nutrition implementing partner work. The materials all work around the theme “Poo’s Final Address,” highlighting that whether a child defecates in the courtyard, potty, or infant wrapper cloth, the poo needs to end up in the family latrine. This [poster](#) provides an overview of the WASHplus approach to infant feces disposal along with examples of small doable actions for several age groups.

Burkina Faso—Using WASH to Break Transmission Cycles of Neglected Tropical Diseases



Association Chant de Femme, WASHplus’s local implementing partner in Burkina Faso, trained local community-based trainers in Manni in early January. The two-day session explained the rationale of WASH and

neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) integration to community WASH trainers to empower them to deliver a comprehensive behavior change intervention with villagers. Trainers emphasized how hygienic behaviors are linked with Schistosomiasis, soil-transmitted helminth infections, and Trachoma, the three NTDs WASHplus is targeting. Counseling cards, such as the one above, were used to showcase positive feasible behaviors and actions that can break transmission cycles of NTDs. The participants were also trained to set up school hygiene and radio listener clubs. The participants reported that this was the first time a WASH training was designed and directed to tackle specific diseases and they found this approach valuable because it should make the rationale for improving behaviors easier to communicate.

[Indoor Air Pollution](#)

[Innovation Exchange](#)

[Sanitation](#)

[Urban Health](#)

[WASH and Nutrition](#)

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NEW PUBLICATIONS AND RESOURCES

The Usefulness of a Handwashing Proxy in Large Household Surveys [article](#) in the *Journal of Water Sanitation and Hygiene for Development*.

Improving Nutrition Outcomes with Better Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: Practical Solutions for Policy and Programmes, a WASHplus-supported joint [publication](#) of USAID, WHO, and UNICEF.

Market Research in the Clean Cooking Sectors: Tools and Tips, a joint Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves and WASHplus [publication](#).

Voices from Bangladesh: Reflections on SACOSAN VI [blog](#).

Sanitation and Nutrition: Let’s Break

Mali—Celebrating and Advocating on Global Days



WASHplus used Global Handwashing Day celebrations in October to promote tippy taps in Mali. A contest was held among intervention villages to make the best tippy tap, and the district prefect conducted a

public handwashing demonstration. The criteria for assessing the tippy taps focused on the accessibility of the materials used, the volume of water in the container, the mechanism used to keep the tap from touching the hand, the diameter of the hole (not too big or too small), whether the hole is equipped with another device (pen cap, motorcycle valve, fitting, etc.), and the aesthetic appeal of the tippy tap. Three of the 12 villages that entered the competition won, and first, second, and third prize were 20, 15, and 10 cartons of small soaps for the village (pictured), respectively. Village monitoring indicates that 1,458 tippy taps were built. The Regional Directorate of Sanitation in the Mopti Region (DRACPN) chose the WASHplus open defecation free (ODF) village of Allaye Daga to host Mali's World Toilet Day celebration, November 19. WASHplus and all regional sanitation partners contributed and, with the director of the Regional Governor's Cabinet, delivered sanitation kits to the 136 ODF-certified villages. The kits consisted of wheelbarrows, shovels, rakes, gloves, face masks, and brooms.

Nepal—Exploring Cookstove Preferences



Fieldwork for the improved cookstove consumer preferences and willingness-to-pay study in Nepal recently concluded. The study incorporated controlled cooking testing (CCT) with local cooks; in-home trials of five different imported and local improved cookstoves in 140 households; kitchen

performance tests; semi-structured interviews at baseline, one week, and at four to five months; stove use monitoring through temperature-logging sensors; market demonstrations; and willingness-to-pay assessments. Initial CCT results showed significant fuel savings over the traditional stove for all study stoves; and the study found high willingness to pay for the stoves among study

the Vicious Circle, a Generation Nutrition [video](#) translated into English with WASHplus funds.

Consumer Research Toolkit, an ETHOS [presentation](#).

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households through a mix of lump-sum cash purchases and installment payments. Both qualitative and quantitative data analysis is underway, and WASHplus will finalize reporting in the spring. The study was designed in collaboration with the Alternative Energy Promotion Center, the quasi-governmental agency responsible for renewable energy technology and expanding the selection of improved cookstoves offered to consumers in Nepal.



WASHplus Research Influences New Cookstove Model

WASHplus work with Greenway Appliances paved the way for the development of the Greenway JumboStove. Greenway's SmartStove was one of five stoves trialed in the

WASHplus consumer preference and willingness-to-pay study in Bangladesh in 2013. WASHplus shared consumer feedback with manufacturers of each of the study stoves, which were given the opportunity to make any appropriate modifications to the stoves. Greenway developed the JumboStove based on WASHplus consumer requests for a larger model of the SmartStove, and WASHplus recently trialed the JumboStove in a follow-on cookstove research study in Nepal (see story above). Neha Juneja, CEO of Greenway, recently thanked WASHplus for the impetus to develop the JumboStove, which is selling well in India and was well liked in the Nepal study; the company hadn't previously considered developing a larger stove.

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS AND FORA

PPPHW Year in Review

In many ways 2015 represented the culmination of years of work in the Global Public-Private Partnership for Handwashing's (PPPHW) two thematic areas: advocacy and knowledge leadership. From mobilizing major organizations to advocate for hygiene in the Sustainable Development Goals to sparking discussions about the latest thinking around behavior change at a regional Handwashing Behavior Change Think Tank, 2015 was a banner year for the PPPHW. Read about all of the PPPHW's accomplishments in its [annual report](#) and find all 2015 publications [here](#).

Upcoming Webinar on WASH and NTDs



Please join WASHplus and PPPHW for a webinar, "WASHing Away Diseases Two Hands at a Time," February 18, 9 a.m. EST. Learn about why WASH matters for combating NTDs and the need for new approaches to promote equity, poverty alleviation, health, and well-being.

Register [here](#).

RESOURCE PARTNER HIGHLIGHTS

Gaining Control: How Human Behavior Evolved. This new publication by Robert Aunger and Valerie Curtis of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) presents a short, accessible, and insightful theory for understanding how complex behavior evolved. Read [more](#).

WSSCC Photo Competition. Share a high resolution photo that represents a highlight of your work associated with WSSCC at some point over the past 25 years. Provide a photo caption that sums up the activity in no more than 40 words. Deadline: February 29. Read [more](#).

HappyTap is a finalist for the World Design Impact Prize. The biennial award is an initiative of the International Council of Societies of Industrial Design. HappyTap is the world's first purpose-built, affordable portable sink designed using an iterative human-centered process and sold through WaterSHED's social businesses to consumers in Vietnam and Cambodia. Read [more](#).



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.