

[View this email in your browser](#)

washplus News

Supportive Environments for Healthy Communities

Program Highlights



Girls take menstrual hygiene management into their own hands as they make reusable menstrual pads, one of the many small doable actions WASHplus helped to promote in Uganda.

Uganda—Project Transition to Local Actors

In November WASHplus concluded a busy year and a half of work in Uganda (May 2013–November 2014) to reduce diarrhea and improve the health and resilience of key populations in three districts—Kabale, Kisoro, and Kanungu.

January 2015

IN THIS ISSUE

Program Highlights

- Uganda
- Benin
- Mali
- Zambia

Global Partnerships and Fora

- UNC Conference
- Global Handwashing Day

Resource Partners

- Water.org
- IDEO.org
- Envirofit

New Resources

- Habit Webinar
- Cookstove Q&A
- Distance Learning
- WASH-Friendly Schools Guide
- WASHplus Blog
- WASH and Nutrition Webinar

LATEST UPDATES

[Household Drinking Water](#)

[Indoor Air Pollution](#)

[Innovation Exchange](#)

[Sanitation](#)

[Urban Health](#)

[WASH and Nutrition](#)

This multidisciplinary initiative focused on integrating water, sanitation, food hygiene, and hand washing into nutrition and Feed the Future activities as well as community and clinically based HIV activities. WASHplus also worked to strengthen the capacity of local districts to plan, budget, implement, and monitor water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH)-related activities. A WASH forum was held in collaboration with USAID implementing partners December 2 to celebrate project accomplishments and mark the official transition to district actors. The project produced a number of publications and materials for field use that are now available, including training and resource packages on [Integrating Safe Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene into HIV Programmes](#) and [Integrating Safe Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene into Infant and Child Nutrition Programmes](#), and job aids/assessment cards in [English](#) and two local languages—Rufumbira and Rukiga (available on the WASHplus website). Districts will reproduce these materials in even larger quantities using their USAID WASH grants. An end-of-project review is also available [here](#).

Benin—Launch of Peri-Urban Neighborhood Work



To take advantage of the buzz around Global Handwashing Day in October, WASHplus/Benin organized an official program launch in Enagnon, one of the peri-urban

neighborhoods where it is implementing a hygiene and water treatment activity. The event called together project community outreach workers, political and religious leadership, women's cooperatives, school children, USAID and its key sector partners, with animation by traditional music and theater groups, to mobilize for improving WASH in urban areas. The Ministry of Health served as the convener, as the program is closely tied to its efforts to produce an urban WASH strategy. Attendance was robust—400 people participated in the festivities. The culmination of the event was a visit to the demonstration stands where participants could learn how to make various models of tippy taps and correctly use Aquatabs to safeguard their drinking water.

Mali—CLTS in Tough Conditions

JOIN OUR COMMUNITIES

[Clean Cookstove Community on LinkedIn](#)

[WASH & Nutrition Community of Practice](#)

NEW RESOURCES

Webinar on Hand Washing and the Science of Habit

On December 4, WASHplus and PPPHW co-hosted a webinar with David Neal, PhD, from Catalyst Behavior Sciences and the University of Miami. Dr. Neal specializes in behavior change and the advanced measurement of human decision making. He emphasized ways to apply the basic science of habit and behavior change to real world health interventions and program delivery, with a focus on behavior change for hand washing with soap, but his ideas are relevant to anyone working on behavior change activities. Nearly 200 participants from 15 countries joined the webinar. A recording and slides are available [here](#).

What Have We Learned About Cookstoves Q&A

WASHplus Household Air Pollution Specialist Elisa Derby participated in a two-day online Q&A session hosted and facilitated by The World Bank's Clean Stove Initiative on September 30 and October 1. The Q&A session focused on lessons learned about



Before WASHplus, the national community-led total sanitation (CLTS) strategy in Mali suggested that implementers avoid areas with difficult soil conditions when applying the subsidy-free approach. Many of the

WASHplus target communities, selected because of their high rates of undernutrition (primarily stunting) in children under 5, are located in areas where construction of traditional pit latrines is difficult—rocky, sandy, and flooded areas. To address this constraint, the WASHplus project team, in partnership with other local stakeholders (district technical staff working for the Ministry of Health and local masons), developed innovations for the building of improved latrines in each of these challenging environments. Working through local masons to propagate the innovative construction techniques among communities, this initiative resulted in thousands of latrines being built in areas long seen as off limits for a subsidy-free approach.

UNICEF invited WASHplus to share these experiences with stakeholders during a national workshop on CLTS in September 2014. As a result of the workshop, the national guidelines for CLTS in Mali were revised to include WASHplus's solutions for building latrines on difficult soils.



Zambia's commemoration of Global Handwashing Day took on added significance in light of the concern

consumer preferences for improved cookstoves in Bangladesh through the WASHplus project, and in Indonesia through The World Bank's Indonesia Clean Stove Initiative. Key findings from the WASHplus consumer preferences study and related excerpts from the Q&A are provided in this WASHplus [blog](#) posting.

Distance Learning Modules on Hand Washing

In November and December 2014, the PPPHW hosted a distance learning course covering the design, delivery, and monitoring and evaluation of hand washing with soap programs. The purpose of this course is to provide practical guidance on how to design and implement hand washing with soap behavior change programs that target marginalized groups in communities, schools, health centers, and other institutions and bring them to scale. The two modules can be downloaded [here](#).

WASH-Friendly Schools Guide

WASHplus's SPLASH project in Zambia published a WASH-Friendly training guide geared toward educators, government officials, and communities that are interested in incorporating improved sanitation access, clean drinking water, and hand washing stations and materials to its students and teachers along with a complementary WASH curriculum and MHM. Though geared to the Zambian school context,

over Ebola transmission on the continent. The SPLASH project (Schools Promoting Learning Achievement through Sanitation and Hygiene) celebrated in schools in all four of its districts under the theme "Choose Handwashing, Choose Health." Hand washing was promoted as an easy-to-do and cost-effective way to prevent diseases. Pupils from many different schools came together in events filled with poems, skits, songs, dances, puppet shows, and hand washing demonstrations. Government officials, traditional chiefs and their head men, community members, and teachers also took part.

Zambia—MHM Study Launch

SPLASH launched its formative research on menstrual hygiene management (MHM) in schools in December. The study will take place in one urban and one rural school in each of SPLASH's four districts in Eastern Province, with the goal of determining the prevailing knowledge, attitudes, perceptions, norms, barriers, and practices related to MHM and to identify facilitators for improving MHM. As part of the launch SPLASH held an inception meeting that drew participants from cooperating partners such as UNICEF, CAMFED, the Ministry of Education, and the Ministry of Local Government and Housing to explain the study methodology and provide the rationale of the study and research design. The other overarching purpose was to learn from partners that already conducted similar research and get their insights into improving the research plan. Suggestions for areas to pursue included: eliciting the perceptions of boys about MHM; learning how best to diffuse MHM messages in the communities in light of the extremely sensitive and rarely discussed nature of the issue; and learning how best to strengthen synergies between teachers and communities to support MHM. The study is expected to be completed in March 2015.

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS AND FORA

University of North Carolina Water for Health Conference

WASHplus staff had a significant presence at this annual conference in October, participating in or leading panels on topics ranging from the theory and practice of habit formation as it relates to hand washing to HIV and MHM to integrating WASH into nutrition, along with a poster on

much of the material is applicable to any low-resource school setting. Read the guide [here](#).

New WASHplus Blog

WASHplus introduced its [blog](#) in 2013 as a platform for field and HQ staff to share highlights and perspectives about WASHplus activities and WASH topics from a more personal perspective. A recent blog post included WASHplus Benin Coordinator Armand Aguidi's observations of missed opportunities for engaging children in behavior change activities.

Upcoming WASH and Nutrition Webinar January 8, 10–11 am EST

WASHplus is collaborating with the CORE Group Nutrition and Social and Behavior Change working groups to host a one-hour webinar on Multisectoral Approaches to Improve Child Growth through WASH, Nutrition and Early Childhood Development. Ann Jimerson with Alive & Thrive and Renuka Bery with WASHplus will discuss the evidence for integrating these three sectors and the evolution of the Clean, Fed & Nurtured community of practice. Sign up for the webinar [here](#).

Are you receiving the WASHplus Weekly?

Each issue highlights new publications and resources on many different WASH and household air pollution topics. To subscribe, sign up at washplus.org, or [email](#). Past issues can be viewed [here](#).

collecting and curating WASH sector knowledge and information. Link to the all the UNC materials [here](#).

Global Handwashing Day

On October 15, 2014, hundreds of millions of people from around the world gathered together to celebrate a simple behavior that has big health impacts—hand washing with soap. Now in its seventh year, Global Handwashing Day was commemorated in India where a Guinness World Record was broken; in Washington, DC, at an [event on innovation](#); and in many, many countries in between. To explore events that were held around the globe, visit the interactive event map on the [Global Handwashing Day website](#). The founder of Global Handwashing Day, the Global Public-Private Partnership for Handwashing with Soap (PPPHW), will feature a different country's celebration each Thursday on the [Global Handwashing Day Facebook page](#), so be sure to follow along for inspiration and ideas for next year.

CONNECT WITH WASHPLUS



Subscribe to Newsletter



Follow us on Twitter



Follow us on Facebook



YouTube



Email us



Read our blog

Visit our website
washplus.org

RESOURCE PARTNER HIGHLIGHTS

Water.org Convened the Second East Africa

WaterCredit Forum in partnership with the MasterCard Foundation. The forum was part of Water.org's five-year collaboration with the foundation to bring safe water and sanitation to economically challenged communities in East Africa through an innovative approach called WaterCredit. Read [more](#).

IDEO.org Receives the 2014 Innovation in

Philanthropy Award, which recognizes an emerging nonprofit with an innovative approach to improving the quality of life for individuals, prompting long-term sustainable change, and addressing a critical societal issue. For more on IDEO.org's nonprofit design approach to empower the poor click [here](#).

Envirofit Launches New Fuel-Efficient Wood and

Charcoal Stoves. These stoves are designed to help save money and time, reducing fuel costs, reducing the time of collection of the fuel, and taking less time to get up to heat than traditional jikos. Read [more](#).



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 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.