USAID-WASHplus Activity to Integrate WASH and NTDs

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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
Engaged WASH presence

Bangladesh
Mozambique
Ghana
Senegal
Senegal
Niger
Ghana
Bulgarian
Tanzania
Mozambique
Burkina Faso

Good policy context / high political will for integration

Functioning coordination mechanisms
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 – ≥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
Bangladesh – Challenges/Gaps

- 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 2\textsuperscript{nd} 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

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