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Program Highlights



A sample of items on display as part of Menstrual Hygiene Day celebrations at a secondary school in Zambia included sewing supplies to make pads and the SPLASH Menstrual Hygiene Management Mini-Toolbox.

Zambia–MHM Toolbox and Celebrations

On May 28 the SPLASH (Schools Promoting Learning Achievement through Sanitation and Hygiene) project celebrated Menstrual Hygiene Day at Kabulonga Girls' Secondary School in Lusaka, Zambia, where private sector donors Yash Pharmaceuticals and Pharmanova Zambia distributed menstrual hygiene kits to 125 pupils, consisting of sanitary pads and cleaning products. USAID/Zambia's Mission Director Dr. Susan Brems provided the event keynote address and told girls in the audience, "I hope you view your monthly period as an expression of your womanhood and your special gift in bearing future life. I hope you take your menstruation in stride as a normal part of life. I hope you do not use it as an excuse to avoid your studies or other duties. In short, I hope you show up for life

June 2014

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LATEST UPDATES

[Household Drinking Water](#)

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and love your life as a woman.”

SPLASH also recently published its Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) Mini-Toolbox for Teachers and Schools in Zambia ([link](#)), which was designed to help school personnel in Zambian primary schools carry out MHM programs or activities. Considered a work in progress, it is hoped that schools will add tools to the kit as MHM becomes more established in schools.

Bangladesh WASH–Sand Envelopment Research

Leaky latrines as a source of ground and surface water contamination are a pervasive concern in the coastal areas of Bangladesh. Indeed, most latrines considered improved in the Coastal Belt are clearly discharging waste into surface water or interacting with the shallow aquifer. WASHplus designed a public call for proposals seeking Bangladeshi agencies (including NGOs, private sector entities, and research universities) to investigate the scientific validity and technical feasibility of sand/earthen envelopment to reduce pathogen loading from pit latrines in the context of the Coastal Belt. This will be done by designing and carrying out a series of field experiments at demonstration plots in project zones. The results of these tests are expected to lead to a series of small doable actions that households and service providers can adopt to modify latrines to make them less polluting. Awards are expected to be made by the end of June.



Read how WASHplus is addressing the issue of leaky pits in Bangladesh one small doable action at a time in this [story](#) from the field. Photo credit: Mustafa Kamal Sikder

Benin–Toolkits

[Innovation Exchange](#)

[Sanitation](#)

[Urban Health](#)

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JOIN OUR COMMUNITIES

Clean Cookstove Community on LinkedIn

WASHplus facilitates this community, which serves as a crowdsourcing platform to share information and collaborate on issues/problems that are faced by researchers and practitioners in the improved cookstove field.

Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves' Health Impacts Community

WASH & Nutrition Community of Practice

NEW RESOURCES

Behavior Change Approaches to Enable Uptake and Use of Clean Stoves and Fuels Webinar. This [webinar](#) (co-hosted by TRAction and WASHplus) highlights lessons learned from three TRAction projects to broaden and further our understanding of the potential of behavior change in the clean cooking sector.

Cooking Should Nurture, Not Kill. A [two-pager](#) that succinctly outlines the environmental and health challenges of



In partnership with Peace Corps/Benin WASHplus developed job aids and training packages on WASH in Schools, community-led total sanitation, and household water treatment and storage for use by Peace Corps volunteers and their counterparts. The goal is for all Benin volunteers to participate in WASH in-service and pre-service training to

incorporate these important concepts into their other program activities—education, health, or environment. The materials are currently available in [French](#) and will soon be available in English.

Burkina Faso–Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD) Assessment

WASHplus recently completed an assessment of potential integration opportunities for WASH and NTDs in Burkina Faso. The team visited a trachoma mass drug administration event in Po District and held a WASH-NTD integration meeting to bring together government and NGO actors from both sectors. The team will analyze the information gathered and present recommendations for a possible pilot activity. A WASHplus [desk review](#) on the topic explains the importance of WASH interventions to control and eliminate three neglected tropical diseases—schistosomiasis, soil-transmitted helminthes, and trachoma. A similar assessment was completed last year in Bangladesh. The assessment report is available [here](#).



Evelyn Makena, WASHplus Kenya country program manager, talks about the WASHplus program with Cabinet Secretary for Health James Macharia at the National Sanitation Conference in Kenya. Photo credit: George Obanyi/FHI 360.

Kenya–National Sanitation Conference






In April 2014, the Ministry of Health in conjunction with partners hosted the 1st National Sanitation Conference in Nairobi, “Accelerating Access to Improved Sanitation under

traditional cooking methods; the impact on women and children; and how behavioral, structural, and technological solutions can solve this problem.

Are you receiving the WASHplus Weekly?

Each issue highlights new publications and resources on many different WASH and IAP topics. Recent issues include: [The Future of Water, Clean Cookstoves and Behavior Change](#), and [Menstrual Hygiene Day](#). To subscribe, sign up at [washplus.org](#), or [email](#). Past issues can be viewed [here](#).

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Devolution: Making the Right a Reality.” More than 200 participants from 47 counties attended, including county health officials and NGO and development partners. As a key partner in the sector, and the national facilitator for the Hygiene Promotion Technical Working Group, WASHplus/Kenya played a major role in planning and preparing for the conference. WASHplus exhibited various products, including WASH-HIV integration training guides and [job aids, fact sheets, posters, banners, and success stories](#). Samples of improvised toilet seats created to improve sanitation access and tippy taps were also displayed. The small doable actions and inclusive sanitation concepts elicited a lot of interest; participants enquired about taking the concepts to scale in other counties. This conference marked a turning point for Kenya as the country seeks to make the right to sanitation a reality as stipulated in the constitution of Kenya 2010. Cabinet secretaries from each of the 47 counties have since committed to increased budgeting for sanitation.

Mali–CLTS Triggering and Local Adaptations



In Mali WASHplus uses community-led total sanitation (CLTS) “plus” to spur construction of improved latrines with hand washing stations in 18 communes within

three health districts in the Mopti Region. The plus component includes training local masons in advance of triggering to assist households to construct latrines through the promotion of low-cost yet robust latrine models that can withstand the rocky, high water table, or sandy conditions found in participating communities. CLTS triggering is now complete in all 180 communities in the region, resulting in 4,930 public commitments to build latrines. By late March, monitoring visits in 30 of these villages recorded 945 new latrines constructed and 557 rehabilitated, more than 95 percent of which now include hand washing stations. Local masons have begun to cut large sheets of rock into latrine slabs, which fit the Joint Monitoring Programme definition of a hygienic sanitation platform. Latrines are being constructed without the use of cement or any other nonlocal building material. Other local adaptations observed include a machinist’s design of a clever hand washing station made of iron rebar that has separate pedestals for a water dispenser and a washbowl to catch the rinse water.

Uganda–Assessing Opportunities for WASH Integration

WASHplus staff accompanied STAR-SW, a USAID implementing partner, during an HIV Quarterly Pediatric Campaign Day at a district hospital in Kanungu District to observe and then discuss specific options for integrating WASH into HIV and nutrition programming. During Campaign Days, HIV-affected families are invited for family health and nutrition counseling as well as refills of HIV medications. Families come early and spend the day, receiving tea and lunch. The day culminates with a health education session. Various opportunities were identified for WASH integration in formal and informal settings. The current lack of hand washing stations/supplies means that lunch and tea provide a prime opportunity to demonstrate tippy taps, model proper hand washing, and later follow-up with a hands-on session on "how to make a tippy tap" while families wait for their turn with clinicians. WASHplus proposed training volunteer peer educators to deliver short, interactive sessions (like the tippy tap sessions) throughout the day in addition to their health education session to take advantage of the captive audience awaiting their turn for services.

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS AND EVENTS

CORE Group Spring Conference

In May WASHplus staff facilitated "New Information Circuit Tables" on sanitation and clean cooking at the CORE Group Global Health Practitioners Conference. A handout from the sanitation session is available [here](#). WASHplus also presented two posters at the CORE poster session: [How Can We Keep More Girls in School](#) (MHM in Zambia) and [Cooking Should Nurture, Cooking Shouldn't Kill](#).

Menstrual Hygiene Day



WASHplus, FHI 360, Save the Children, CARE, Plan International, and WASH Advocates partnered to celebrate Menstrual Hygiene Day with a screening of a documentary on Menstrual Man, June 4, at FHI 360. The evening concluded with inspiring discussion and dialogue on the integration of menstrual hygiene management into global and national policies, programs, and projects. The documentary is available [online](#). To continue the conversation on social media follow #MenstruationMatters, and check out social medial highlights from the event [here](#). WASHplus also launched a [Pinterest](#) page with Menstrual Hygiene Day

related pins.

RESOURCE PARTNER HIGHLIGHTS

WSUP: Urban Programming Guide for Urban WASH Programs. This [guide](#) provides an introduction on how to design and implement a pro-poor urban WASH program.

IRC International Water and Sanitation Centre. IRC's new [website](#) provides updates to its blogs and newsletter and provides an overview of its work.

Water.org Announces its New Ventures Initiative. To accelerate the pace of progress Water.org launched a new philanthropic pool of capital to generate new ideas; develop hypotheses; and to pilot, monitor, and take solutions to scale. 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 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.