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washplus News

Supportive Environments for Healthy Communities

Program Highlights



Ambassador Mozena and visiting dignitaries receive a tippy tap hand washing demonstration from members of a community development forum in Bangladesh that WASHplus helped establish. (Photo credit: Iqbal Azad)

Bangladesh–Ambassador Site Visit

Dan Mozena, U.S. Ambassador to Bangladesh, visited a WASHplus project site in Bhola District, February 24. He toured an open defecation free community, visited Osmangonj High School for a hand washing/tippy tap demonstration and program put on by the school's hygiene club, and met with the local community development forum to learn about its activities. WASHplus has been working in the district to install deep tube hand wells, with communities to put WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene) plans in place, and installing and rehabilitating household latrines. Having finalized its behavior change strategy

March 2014

IN THIS ISSUE

Program Highlights

- Bangladesh
- Benin
- Kenya
- Mali
- Uganda
- Zambia

Global Partnerships and Fora

- Handwashing Think Tank

Resource Partners

- IRC
- WaterAid
- Water.org

New Resources

- RWSN Blog
- Cookstove Technical Brief
- USAID Mini U
- ETHOS

LATEST UPDATES

[Household Drinking Water](#)

[Indoor Air Pollution](#)

[Innovation Exchange](#)

[Sanitation](#)

[Urban Health](#)

WASHplus also provided its partner NGOs with three-day trainings last month to orient them to the strategy and deliver technical refresher training on WASH topics.

Benin–Baseline Takeaways

More than 850 randomly selected households from eight peri-urban areas were surveyed as part of WASHplus's Benin baseline study in the larger urban area of Cotonou, Porto-Novo, Abomey-Calvi. The report dissemination will provide an opportunity to build interest in peri-urban WASH conditions among government, NGO, and other partners. Among the findings: most of the households visited have access to piped water (95 percent), but 30 percent do not have access to a latrine. Most households can cite at least one drinking water treatment method, yet only 6 percent reported treating drinking water at home. While 94 percent of visited households had soap in the home at the time of the interview, only 22 percent had a dedicated place for hand washing with needed supplies near food preparation areas, and about 4 percent near toilets. WASHplus will be working with local partner ABMS/PSI over the next year to implement hygiene solutions at the neighborhood level to address many of the shortcomings identified in the baseline.

Kenya–Learn at School, Practice at Home



The sooner children learn proper hand washing and toileting habits, the better. Young children under the age of 5 attending early childhood development centers were getting mixed messages at home and school in several WASHplus project districts in Maai Mahu Division, Kenya.

While at home, they were encouraged to use latrines, at school overcrowding sometimes necessitated that they resort to the bush. Hand washing behavior was not promoted and facilities/stations were found to be lacking or nonexistent. WASHplus identified this gap as part of a team verifying a village's open-defecation free status and set about to conduct WASH training for the centers. Read how teachers and the community embraced this new approach in [Learn at School, Practice at Home](#).

Mali–Nutrition Screening

JOIN OUR COMMUNITIES

Clean Cookstove Community on LinkedIn

WASHplus facilitates this new community, which will serve 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

Musings from Mopti

WASHplus Sanitation and Innovation Advisor Jonathan Annis blogged during his recent trip to Mali about the endurance and value of hand-dug wells in the Mopti region in "Musings from Mopti," posted on the Rural Water Supply Network's [blog](#).

What do Cooks Want? What Will They Pay?

This WASHplus technical [brief](#) summarizes WASHplus's work in Bangladesh to understand consumer preference and willingness to pay for improved cookstoves.

USAID Global Health Mini-University

WASHplus staff presented on a variety of topics at the March 7 event, including knowledge

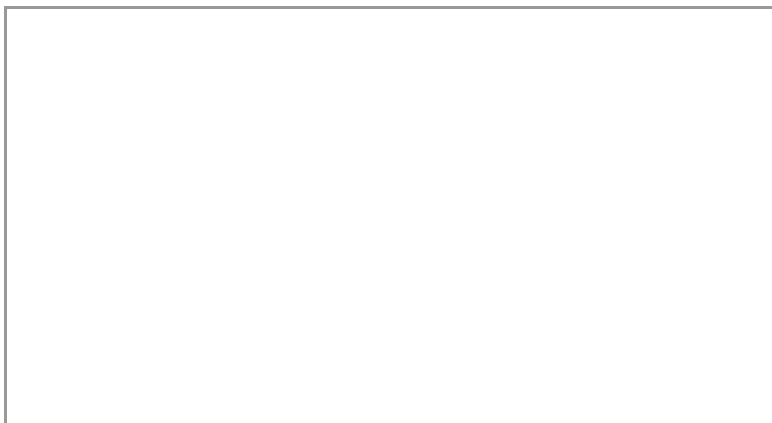


WASHplus’s WASH and nutrition integration activity in Mali has begun community screening and referrals for malnutrition. Local NGOs and staff from the District Nutrition Office trained community health volunteers, known

locally as *relais*, to use upper armbands to screen infants for malnutrition and refer at-risk children to commune or district-level rehabilitation centers for food supplements. A total of 349 relais participated in a series of three-day trainings organized in each commune. In a three-month period, the relais screened a total of 3,885 infants, of which 26 percent (1,043) were referred to local health clinics to receive dietary supplements. WASHplus is designing an integrated WASH/Nutrition training package for Relais and plans to incorporate cooking demonstrations and WASH/nutrition messages into outreach sessions for community support groups later this year.

Uganda–District WASH/Nutrition Training

In coordination with USAID’s Community Connector and SPRING projects, WASHplus brought together district personnel serving on the District Nutrition Coordinating Committees from five districts (Kabale, Kisoro, Kanungu, Ibanda, Ntungamo) to train them in “Why WASH Matters for Improved Child Health and Nutrition: A District Government Workshop Focusing on Behavior Change Approaches for Improving Water, Sanitation and Hygiene.” The three-day workshop focused on skills building and culminated with districts reviewing existing plans and identifying opportunities for integrating WASH into district nutrition work plans. The 32 participants also helped pretest training materials under development with other USAID implementing partners and the district government.



management, WASH and nutrition integration, and WASH and neglected tropical diseases. Presentations are available [here](#).






ETHOS Conference

WASHplus Indoor Air Pollution Specialist Elisa Derby presented results of the Bangladesh Cookstove Consumer Preference and Willingness to Pay study at the ETHOS (Engineers in Technical and Humanitarian Opportunities of Service) conference January in Seattle. Access the presentation [here](#).

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WASHplus is in the process of identifying local partners, like this women's self help group in Kichwamba Subcounty, Bushenyi District, to provide menstrual hygiene management supplies and training to communities in its target districts.

Zambia—Launching a New District

SPLASH successfully launched activities in its fourth district, Chadiza, with a mini-Indaba—a multi-stakeholder action planning workshop for school WASH. Representatives from SPLASH and the Ministry of Education, Science, Vocational Training, and Early Education also held introductory meetings with the local traditional leaders to request their support in encouraging school community involvement with upfront materials for latrines and other activities. In Chadiza, SPLASH works in partnership with UNICEF, which provides the latrines, while SPLASH provides water points, operations and maintenance training, and hygiene education. SPLASH continues to collaborate with the ministry to institutionalize school WASH. Recently released drafts of the new curriculum contain WASH themes and activities in a number of subject areas. SPLASH is also developing WASH Teachers' Guides to support teachers as they try out the new WASH-embedded curriculum.

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS AND FORA

Hand Washing Think Tank



On February 11–12, the Global Public-Private Partnership for Handwashing (PPPHW) hosted a Handwashing Behavior Change

Think Tank for hand washing experts. This event included

topics such as: the latest evidence around hand washing with soap; the role of technology in hand washing; hand washing and sanitation; hand washing advocacy; and tools to change hand washing social norms. Learning on social norms and sustainable behavior change included these takeaways:

- People perform the “right” behavior (norm) if they know people are watching. In fact, this impulse is so strong that even an illustration of someone watching works!
- Hand washing is a very difficult behavior to change in a sustainable fashion; we still haven't seen many large-scale hand washing programs that have changed behavior over a long period of time.

Read an overview of the buzz on [Twitter](#). Access the presentations [here](#). A webinar discussing outcomes and findings will tentatively be held on March 27. Please [email](#) for more information.

RESOURCE PARTNER HIGHLIGHTS

IRC Launches SanPack: A Reference Guide for Non-Sewered Sanitation. This collection of e-documents contains papers, materials, and tools that IRC and its partners developed on non-sewered household toilets developed over the past 30 years. Learn more and download [here](#).

WaterAid and H&M Conscious Foundation launch global program aimed at transforming the lives of over a quarter of a million of the world’s poorest schoolchildren. This new partnership will deliver safe water, sanitation, and hygiene to schools around the world. [Read more.](#)

Water.org launched its New Ventures Initiative and Fund. This is a philanthropic pool of capital generated by venture-minded philanthropists and problem-solvers eager to team with Water.org to search for and launch the next round of big ideas that will change the face of this crisis for those that live it every day. [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.

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