



WASHing Away Worms and Other Neglected Tropical Diseases

More than 1 billion people worldwide suffer from one or more painful, debilitating neglected tropical diseases (NTDs). These diseases disproportionately impact poor and rural populations, causing severe sickness and disability, compromising mental and physical development, contributing to childhood malnutrition, reducing school enrollment, and hindering economic productivity. Soil-transmitted helminths (STH), including round worm, whip worm, and hook worm, as well as schistosomiasis (bilharzia) and trachoma, are all clearly linked to inadequate sanitation and poor hygiene, indicating a need for water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) interventions to battle these NTDs.

Although mass drug administration is key to reducing NTDs, reinfection will remain a problem if WASH behaviors are not addressed. WASHplus is documenting the links between WASH and NTDs and exploring ways to integrate WASH into NTD programs. WASHplus has conducted a global desk review that highlights integration in eight countries. The team assessed the possibilities for integrating WASH into NTDs in two countries: Bangladesh and Burkina Faso, and ultimately chose the latter in which to implement a pilot program. Globally, WASHplus is collaborating with organizations already engaged in WASH-NTD integration such as the International Coalition for Trachoma Control and the SHARE consortium, which are developing tools and indicators to facilitate WASH-NTDs integration.

Pilot Integration Program for WASH and NTD Interventions

WASHplus's ongoing pilot program in Burkina Faso is designed to develop an integrated WASH-NTD model that can be scaled up in-country and replicated elsewhere. Burkina Faso is a country with very little latrine coverage, relatively poor hygiene practices, and pockets of high burden of disease related to water, sanitation, and hygiene. Without a serious focus on face washing and environmental cleanliness,



A young girl in Burkina Faso finishes taking medicine to prevent trachoma during a mass drug administration event.

WASHplus's NTD activities can be found on the project website

<http://www.washplus.org/wash-ntds>

The WASHplus website also hosts information on the collaborative work FHI 360 is doing with the END in Africa and END in Asia programs.



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areas of high trachoma prevalence will persist. Further, schistosomiasis and STH will also continue to surge with little hope of control much less elimination.

WASHplus is working in Burkina Faso to partner with stakeholders at district and provincial levels to implement a comprehensive WASH-NTD integrated program in one district. We will then document and disseminate the learnings gained through this pilot program. WASHplus will also engage multiple stakeholders inside and outside of government, including working with existing government structures at multiple levels, such as local government that has the mandate for water and sanitation at the local level. Typically, WASH and NTD programs have not worked together in Burkina Faso, though some precedence exists for inter-sectoral collaboration through the WASH-Nutrition group that has been spearheaded by UNICEF and embraced by government stakeholders. WASHplus



School girls in Bangladesh demonstrate how they use the water pump to fill water bottles and wash hands. In spite of enormous strides in sanitation and hygiene in the country, Bangladesh claims some of the highest STH infection rates in the world.

will bring together the ministries of health; agriculture, water and food security; and education at the commune level to promote coordination and collaborative activities for integrating NTD and WASH programming.

WASHplus will develop a comprehensive behavior change activity that targets women but includes the whole community as a part of the integrated WASH-NTD implementation model. Training may focus on women, but activities will also include commune leaders, school leaders, and ongoing mass drug administration activities that will reinforce knowledge and introduce a component of behavior change.

Please look for results of this pilot program on WASHplus's website at: <http://www.washplus.org/wash-ntds>. For more information on what WASHplus is doing regarding integration of WASH and NTD programming, please contact Renuka Bery rbery@fhi360.org or Ron Clemmer rclemmer@fhi360.org.



A brother and sister in Burkina Faso transport water back to their home. Access to clean water is just one challenge to combating NTDs in the country.

About WASHplus

The WASHplus project supports healthy households and communities by creating and delivering interventions that lead to improvements in water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) and household air pollution (HAP). This multi-year project (2010-2016), funded through USAID's Bureau for Global Health and led by FHI 360 in partnership with CARE and Winrock International, uses at-scale programming approaches to reduce diarrheal diseases and acute respiratory infections, the two top killers of children under age 5 globally.

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