



Supportive Environments for Healthy Communities

Issue 2 April 2011 | Focus on Sanitation

This is the first of many topic specific updates from the WASHplus Project. This issue highlights and includes links to abstracts for new journal articles related to sanitation, as well as recent reports from USAID, WHO, and others. Future issues will cover a range of water, sanitation, and hygiene topics as well as indoor air quality topics on a rotating basis.

JOURNAL ARTICLE ABSTRACTS

- **Scaling up diarrhea prevention and treatment interventions: a lives saved tool analysis.** IN: *PLoS Med.* 2011 Mar;8(3):e1000428. Walker CL, Friberg IK, Binkin N, Young M, Walker N, Fontaine O, Weissman E, Gupta A, Black RE.

[Link to Full-text](#)

METHODS AND FINDINGS: We use the Lives Saved Tool (LiST) to estimate the potential lives saved if two scale-up scenarios for key diarrhea interventions (oral rehydration salts [ORS], zinc, antibiotics for dysentery, rotavirus vaccine, vitamin A supplementation, basic water, sanitation, hygiene, and breastfeeding) were implemented in the 68 high child mortality countries. Under the ambitious and universal scale-up scenarios, we demonstrate that diarrhea mortality can be reduced by 78% and 92%. With universal coverage nearly 5 million diarrheal deaths could be averted during the 5-year scale-up period for an additional cost of US\$12.5 billion invested across 68 priority countries for individual-level prevention and treatment interventions, and an additional US\$84.8 billion would be required for the addition of all water and sanitation interventions. **CONCLUSION:** Using currently available interventions, we demonstrate that with improved coverage, diarrheal deaths can be drastically reduced.

- **Patterns and determinants of communal latrine usage in urban poverty pockets in Bhopal, India.** IN: *Trop Med Int Health.* 2011 Mar 17. Biran A, Jenkins MW, Dabrase P, Bhagwat I.

[Link to Complete Abstract](#)

METHODS AND FINDINGS: Six poverty pockets with communal latrine facilities representing two management models (Sulabh and municipal) were selected. Sampling was random and stratified by poverty pocket population size. Communal latrines differed in their facilities, conditions, management and operating characteristics, and rates of usage. Reported usage rates among non-latrines-owning households ranged from 15% to 100%. Households in pockets with Sulabh-managed communal facilities were significantly more likely to own a household latrine.

CONCLUSION: Provision of communal facilities reduces but does not end the problem of open defecation in poverty pockets. Women appear to be relatively poorly served by communal facilities and, cost is a barrier to use by poorer households.

RECENTLY PUBLISHED REPORTS

- [**The economic impacts of inadequate sanitation in India.**](#) (pdf) 2010. *Water and Sanitation Program* - The study estimates that the total economic impacts of inadequate sanitation in India amounts to Rs. 2.44 trillion (US\$53.8 billion) a year¹—this was the equivalent of 6.4 percent of India's GDP in 2006.
- [**Hygiene and sanitation software. An overview of approaches.**](#) (pdf, English & French) 2010. *Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council* - This publication takes an in-depth look at the various hygiene and sanitation software approaches that have been deployed over the last 40 years. The first section outlines the importance of Sanitation Software and describes the contextual factors that influenced the design of existing approaches as well as the importance of context when choosing an approach to follow. The second section is dedicated to detailed examinations of the most significant hygiene and sanitation software approaches.
- [**How to integrate water, sanitation and hygiene into HIV programmes.**](#) (pdf) 2010. *WHO, USAID*. - A joint effort from WHO and USAID and authored by the USAID Hygiene Improvement Project, this document is the first comprehensive guide to integrating water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) practices into HIV care. It was written in response to requests from countries and programs for clear instruction on how to develop care programmes at the national level. It contains guidance on implementing priority WASH practices, including WASH in global and national HIV/AIDS policy and guidance, and integrating WASH and HIV programs.
- [**Principles and practices for the inclusion of disabled people in access to safe sanitation: a case study from Ethiopia.**](#) (pdf) 2011. *WaterAid* - Disabled people represent the largest socially excluded group and most live without access to basic sanitary services, which can exacerbate impairments and poverty. Nevertheless, they are often excluded from development intervention and research. The key principle for development organizations is to mainstream inclusive development rather than implement projects that are targeted at the specific needs of disabled people.

- **[The political economy of sanitation: How can we increase investment and improve service for the poor?](#)** (pdf) 2011. *Water and Sanitation Program* - This global study on the political economy of sanitation in Brazil, India, Indonesia, and Senegal attempts to understand and help practitioners manage the political economy of pro-poor sanitation investments and service provision. It aims to provide practical advice to sanitation practitioners to help them better manage stakeholder relations and effectively maneuver within the complex institutional relationships of the sanitation sector in order to enhance the design, implementation, and effectiveness of operations that provide pro-poor sanitation investments and services.
- **[When are communal or public toilets an appropriate option?](#)** (pdf) 2011. *Water Services for the Urban Poor (WSUP)*. - In general, individual household toilets are preferable to communal or public toilets. However, communal or public toilets may be the most appropriate medium-term solution in some specific situations: notably in high-density slums with a high proportion of tenants and/or frequent flooding and water-logging. Nonetheless, the financing and sustainable management of communal/public toilets is very challenging, and requires extensive consultation and careful analysis at all stages.

WASHplus Updates will highlight topics such as Urban WASH, Indoor Air Quality, Innovation, Household Water Treatment and Storage, Handwashing, Integration, and more. If you would like to feature your organization's materials in upcoming issues, please send them to Dan Campbell, WASHplus Knowledge Resources Specialist, at dacampbell@aed.org.



About WASHplus - WASHplus, a five-year project funded through USAID's Bureau for Global Health, creates supportive environments for healthy households and communities by delivering high-impact interventions in water, sanitation, hygiene (WASH) and indoor air quality (IAQ). WASHplus uses proven, at-scale interventions to reduce diarrheal diseases and acute respiratory infections, the two top killers of children under five years of age globally. For information, visit www.washplus.org or contact: washplus@aed.org.

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