



Issue 219 | Feb. 19, 2016 | Focus on Sustainability, Accountability, and Governance

This issue of the Weekly contains resources on sustainability, accountability, and governance related to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programs, including project reports and journal articles.

The next issue will focus on WASH and Nutrition. If you would like to feature your organization's materials in the next issue, please send them to Antonia Wolff, WASHplus Knowledge Management Advisor, at awolff@fhi360.org by February 26, 2016. More than 100 past issues of the Weekly are [archived](#) on the WASHplus website.

REPORTS AND BRIEFS

Concept Note: Towards Sustainable WASH: Strengthening WASH Governance through Accountability, 2014. UNICEF. [Link](#).

This concept note contains four parts. The first is on Water Governance, WASH, and Sustainability, which explains the importance of governance and accountability to achieve sustainable water and sanitation services. Part 2, on WASH and Accountability, describes the different dimensions of accountability in the WASH sector and how actions can strengthen accountability in public service delivery. Part 3, on Accountability Relations in WASH Services, provides an analysis of the main weaknesses in accountability of water and sanitation services, with the aim of helping WASH practitioners understand the context of accountability in their work. Part 4, Working with Accountability, explores the role of external support agencies in the promotion of accountability in WASH services and gives some insights on how to integrate accountability mechanisms in WASH interventions.

Sustainability and Scale-Up of Household Water Treatment and Safe Storage Practices: Enablers and Barriers to Effective Implementation. *International Journal of Hygiene and Environmental Health*, March 2015. E Ojomoa. [Link](#).

To conduct this study of enablers and barriers, interviews were carried out with 79 practitioners who had experience with household water treatment and safe storage (HWTS) programs in more than 25 countries. A total of 47 enablers and barriers were identified. Findings can assist governments, NGOs, and other organizations involved in HWTS to approach programs more effectively and efficiently.

Experiences with Sustainability Instruments: Clauses, Checks and Compacts for

Ensuring WASH Services, 2015. J Verhoeven, IRC. [Link](#).

This report, based on a desk review, describes experiences in the use of three sustainability instruments that are used in WASH projects. The report concludes with a summary of the main features of each instrument followed by a discussion on how they contributed to sustainable projects and their shortcomings.

Mapping of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Sustainability Tools, 2014. R Schweitzer, IRC. [Link](#).

This paper contains the findings of a mapping of WASH sustainability tools currently in use, as well as the outcomes of a survey looking into demand: in short assessing the current state of the market for sustainability tools and identifying the gaps. The assessment included a review of over 220 tools and presents the 25 tools with clear content and a methodology for understanding, measuring, or predicting sustainability in short practical summary sheets.

Accountability in WASH: Explaining the Concept, 2015. UNDP Water Governance Facility/UNICEF. [Link](#).

This introduction of accountability in WASH provides water practitioners with a toolbox of concepts to help identify which accountability factors affect the sustainability of water and sanitation service delivery and match this diagnosis to different solutions and options for action.

Accountability in WASH: A Reference Guide for Programming, 2015. UNDP Water Governance Facility/UNICEF. [Link](#).

This document contains guidance on existing mechanisms promoting accountability, illustrated by examples of how they are currently being applied in different contexts. The aim of the document is to provide external support agencies with structured and concise information that can help support accountability-related programming.

Strengthening the Role of Civil Society in Water Sector Governance towards Climate Change Adaptation in African Cities—Durban, Maputo, Nairobi: Final Technical Report, 2013. P. Perkins. [Link](#).

Water resources management is one of the most important climate change-related issues on international, national, and urban public policy agendas. Climate Justice and Water Management developed practical strategies for strengthening urban governments in planning investments in climate change adaptation. The major research outcome of the project is its contribution to understanding effective ways of strengthening local governments, NGOs, and civil society organizations involved in environmental education and organizing for improved public participation in watershed governance and climate change adaptation in African urban areas.

Enabling Environment through Public Policies: Achieving Universal and Sustainable Access to “Adequate” Sanitation in Guyana and the Wider Caribbean, 2014. D Shako, School of Civil Engineering and Geosciences, Newcastle University. [Link](#).

This report states that creating an environment where stakeholders at all levels have the ability, authority, and resources to take action is considered one of the best ways to achieve universal and sustainable access to adequate sanitation.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Sustainability of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Interventions in Central America,

2014. *Journal of Water Sanitation and Hygiene for Development*. R Sabogal. [Link](#). The American Red Cross and U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention collaborated on a sustainability evaluation of post-hurricane WASH interventions in Central America. Researchers revisited six study areas in rural El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua to assess sustainability of WASH interventions finalized after Hurricane Mitch. Regional sustainability indicator results showed a statistically significant decline in access to water. The presence of sanitation facilities had not changed since the beginning of the project; however, maintenance and use of latrines declined but continued to meet the goal of 75 percent use after seven years. Sanitation facilities were still present and sometimes used even though they reached or surpassed their original design life. Changes in hygiene practices appeared related to ongoing hygiene promotion from outside organizations.

Good Governance as Managerialism: Rationalization and International Donors in Vietnam's Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Sector, 2016. *Development Policy Review*. N Reis. [Link](#).

Drawing on Rural Water Supply and Sanitation policy, this article argues that the success of donor collaboration with Vietnam is based on Vietnamese political culture aligning with a managerialist "world culture." The article shows that Vietnam "delivers" rationalized development policy to international donors through its system of state administration and planning, the implementation of target-oriented planning, and the role of statistics in the policy process.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Interventions in the Pacific: Defining, Assessing and Improving 'Sustainability,' 2014. *European Journal of Development Research*. M Clarke. [Link](#).

Through the conduct of ex post evaluations, this article examines the impact of aid projects and programs beyond the funding period in the water and sanitation sector. The evaluations were conducted in rural areas of three Pacific countries: Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu. This article argues that in assessing the lasting impact of WASH-related community development projects the term "benefit persistence" better captures the wider scope of impact that a project might have on a community extending beyond the stated project goals and objectives. These additional or unstated impacts can extend the benefit that aid projects can have. A number of areas that strengthen the likelihood of benefit persistence are also identified.

Analysis of Water Governance in Malawi: Towards a Favorable Enabling Environment? 2014. *Journal of Water Sanitation and Hygiene for Development*. W Quinex. [Link](#).

This paper examines the enabling environment for effective water governance in Malawi by specifically determining the extent to which the water acts and policies of Malawi reflect international water governance principles of participation, accountability, and transparency. It is argued that governance issues determine the extent to which sound and equitable water sharing is achieved among competing uses.

Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats Analysis on Integrating Safe Water Supply and Sustainable Sanitation Systems, 2014. *Journal of Water Sanitation and Hygiene for Development*. S Uddin. [Link](#).

This paper applies a comprehensive strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats analysis to compare the before and after scenarios of integrating a safe water supply (SWS) into a sustainable sanitation system (SSS) in the peri-urban Ger areas of Ulaanbaatar. The before-

implementation scenario identifies the use of pit latrines and the lack of political will as the primary threats, whereas the after-implementation scenario identifies technology innovations for the extreme cold as a primary threat. The application of the SWS-SSS integration in other cases must be investigated further.

Sustainability Check: Five-Year Annual Sustainability Audits of the Water Supply and Open Defecation Free Status in the 'One Million Initiative,' Mozambique, 2014.

Journal of Water Sanitation and Hygiene for Development. S Godfrey. [Link](#).

UNICEF, the Government of Mozambique, and the Government of the Netherlands co-financed a US \$48 million rural water supply and sanitation intervention termed the One Million Initiative between 2007 and 2013. This paper presents the methods applied and the results obtained from the annual audits carried out in the program using a Sustainability Check tool. The paper notes a trend toward increased sustainability of both open defecation free communities and rural water supplies during the course of the five-year period. The study concluded that an 80 percent sustainability score provides the greatest statistical probability of achieving 90 percent of functioning water supplies.

TOOLS

WASH Sustainability Assessment Tool, 2015. IRC. [Link](#).

This tool makes it possible to test where sectorwide WASH policies and practices are strong and where improvements can be made. It has been developed by the Triple-S program of the IRC International Water and Sanitation Centre. The tool allows the user to assess WASH sector performance in eight categories: policy, legislation, and instructions; financing for full life-cycle costs; planning, transparency, and accountability; capacity; sector learning and knowledge management; harmonization and alignment; and environment.

WASH Sustainability Index Tool, USAID-Rotary International H2O Collaboration. [Link](#).

This tool can be used to assess the likely sustainability of WASH interventions using a range of qualitative and quantitative indicators. Guiding documents have step-by-step instructions on how to apply the Sustainability Index Tool.

Enabling Environment Assessment Tool, 2014. R Schweitzer. [Link](#).

This tool is one of 25 tools for WASH sustainability reviewed as part of the Triple-S project and further elaborated on in the working paper [Mapping of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Sustainability Tools](#) mentioned above. The one-pagers describe sustainability assessment tools for WASH interventions.

PRESENTATIONS AND EVENTS

WASH Sustainability Forum: Initial Concepts, 2014, IRC. [Link](#).

This pre-read to the 2014 WASH Sustainability Forum was prepared by the Forum Track Leads and Organizing Committee. It provides three short overviews of WASH sustainability tools as they apply to water, sanitation, and hygiene. While presented from diverse perspectives, these sections each address the meaning of sustainability for that subsector; the current state of tools; and the challenges, gaps, and opportunities moving forward. Additionally, they provide a framework for each track during the 2014 WASH Sustainability Forum, contextualizing the presentations and framing the starting point for discussions.

2014 WASH Sustainability Forum, IRC. [Link](#).

This was the fifth in the series of WASH Sustainability Forums, which was held in June 2014 in Amsterdam. Organized as a mix of hands-on sessions, small group discussions, and plenary presentations, the forum exposed participants to practical tools and approaches that can be applied within the context of their own work.

WASHplus Weeklies highlight topics such as Urban WASH, Household Air Pollution, Innovation, Household Water Treatment and Storage, Handwashing, Integration, and more.



About WASHplus - WASHplus, a multi-year project funded through USAID's Bureau for Global Health, supports healthy households and communities by creating and delivering interventions that lead to improvements in access, practice and health outcomes related to water, sanitation, hygiene (WASH) and household air pollution (HAP). WASHplus uses at-scale, targeted as well as integrated approaches 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 email: contact@washplus.org.