



Supportive Environments for Healthy Communities

### Issue 8 May 13, 2011 | Focus on Community-Led Total Sanitation

This *WASHplus Update* contains links to 15 of the most recently published articles and reports on Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS). The reports and articles discuss CLTS successes in Bangladesh, Sierra Leone, Vietnam, Zambia and elsewhere. Other studies discuss limitations in the CLTS approach and areas for further research. One review found that the community innovations resulting from CLTS are not always satisfactory in terms of hygiene and may restrict the pathway to sustainable sanitation. A USAID sponsored review of CLTS and Sanitation Marketing (SM) concludes that a combination of CLTS and SM can have even greater impact than implementing the two approaches separately.

#### JOURNAL ARTICLES

- **Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS): Addressing the Challenges of Scale and Sustainability in Rural Africa**, IN: *Desalination* 252 (2010). S. Sah, Health Unlimited and A. Negussie, Plan International. ([Link to full-text](#))  
This paper reviews experiences of promoting CLTS in Eastern and Southern African Countries. The potential of CLTS addressing the issue of scale and long term sustainability within the national planning framework is recognized and lessons learnt from ongoing programs in Ethiopia and Tanzania are shared. The challenges and some limitations of CLTS are critically assessed by this paper and issues needing more research and studies are presented.
- **Community-Led Total Sanitation, Zambia: Stick, Carrot or Balloon?** IN, *Waterlines*, Volume 30, Number 2, April 2011. P. Harvey, UNICEF. ([Link to abstract](#))  
CLTS has been criticized for 'shaming' communities and individuals, for using coercion, for providing unsustainable incentives or rewards, for neglecting the most vulnerable and for the lack of agreed standards. Using the example of Zambia, this paper responds to those criticisms. If implemented in accordance with 'pure' CLTS principles, the approach enables large-scale community mobilization which acts as a springboard for other development activities.

- **Revolutionising Sanitation in Zambia: Scaling up CLTS**, IN: *Participatory Learning and Action issue 61, November 2010*. G. Zulu, IIED. ([Link to full-text](#))

In this article, the authors discuss how CLTS is helping to revolutionize sanitation coverage in rural Zambia. Lessons from Zambia include ensuring flexibility in terms of structures, timescales and funding and adapting CLTS to local conditions. Multi-sectoral buy-in, mass media participation and the role of local traditional leadership have also been key to success.
- **Sanitation Marketing as an Emergent Application of Social Marketing: Experiences from East Java**, IN: *Cases in Public Health Communication & Marketing. 2010*. J. Devine, World Bank. ([Link to full-text](#))

There has yet to be agreement on what sanitation marketing is and where it should be headed. Some contend that CLTS is sufficient to trigger behavior change and that sanitation marketing should focus on supply. Some maintain that CLTS focuses on eradicating open defecation while sanitation marketing focuses on moving households up the sanitation ladder.
- **Scaling Up CLTS in Sub-Saharan Africa**, IN: *Participatory Learning and Action issue 61, November 2010*. S. Hickling, IIED. ([Link to full-text](#))

The authors describe how UNICEF has been working with partners to implement CLTS in several countries in sub-Saharan Africa. Community-led approaches to sanitation have been demonstrated to rapidly improve sanitation coverage in Asia and have recently been introduced in Africa.
- **Walking Down the Forbidden Lane: 'Shit Talk' Promotes Sanitation**, IN: *Participatory Learning and Action, Volume 61, Number 1, June 2010*. M. Zombo, PLAN International. ([Link to full-text](#))

This article explores the power of language in CLTS. The author discusses facilitators' experiences in talking about shit with communities in Sierra Leone and shows the hidden cultural blocks which can hinder total sanitation in communities - but which can also be turned into advantages.

## REPORTS

- **Adoption of Community-Led Total Sanitation Guidance for Programming of CLTS in Tearfund Supported Projects**, 2010. F. Greaves, Tearfund. ([Link to full-text](#))

This report captures some of the salient points of learning in Tearfund's early experience of CLTS. Out of these experiences, and through considering the experiences of other agencies and institutions which have implemented CLTS, guidelines are drafted to assist Tearfund partners in robust programming of CLTS, particularly in addressing the issues of environmentally and physically safe sanitation systems.
- **Application of Total Sanitation and Sanitation Marketing (TSSM) Approaches**

to USAID, 2010. USAID. ([Link to full-text](#))

USAID requested a review of experience with Total Sanitation and Sanitation Marketing (TSSM) approaches and their application to the USAID context. USAID sees the potential in using these approaches to achieve coverage at scale. This document describes approaches, assesses their application to rural and urban areas, provides guidance on what it takes to make them successful, and offers recommendations to USAID.

- **Building the Capacity of Local Government to Scale Up Community-Led Total Sanitation and Sanitation Marketing in Rural Areas**, 2010. Water and Sanitation Program. ([Link to full-text](#))

One of the central premises of TSSM is that local governments can provide the vehicle to scale up rural sanitation. In all three WSP TSSM countries—India, Indonesia, and Tanzania—local governments are at the center of the implementation arrangements.

- **Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) for people in vulnerable situations: Identifying and supporting the most disadvantaged people in CLTS . A case study of Bangladesh**, 2010. WaterAid. ([Link to full-text](#))

CLTS is having a positive impact on the lives of people in particularly vulnerable situations in Bangladesh. While not all disadvantaged people need or want support, improvements can be made to the CLTS process that would allow greater participation in activities and support in construction of latrines for disabled people and their caregivers in particular.

- **The Dynamics and Sustainability of Community-led Total Sanitation (CLTS): Mapping Challenges and Pathways**, 2010. S. Movik, STEPS Centre. ([Link to full-text](#))

CLTS still faces a number of challenges in terms of its scope and impact. There is a need to map out and understand the social, technological and ecological dynamics of CLTS implementation in order to better appreciate the long-term sustainability issues of CLTS and realize its full potential for improving people's lives and well-being.

- **Is There a Role for External Technical Support in the Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) Approach?** 2010. N. Papafilippou, Engineers without Borders. EWB-UK National Research Conference 2010. ([Link to full-text](#))

This report summarizes the CLTS approach, identifies innovative designs that have been implemented by CLTS communities and discusses the technical weaknesses of some of these designs. It is suggested that community innovations resulting from CLTS are not always satisfactory in terms of hygiene and quality of physical construction and may restrict the pathway to long-term sustainable improved sanitation.

- **Sanitation Demand Creation: A Strengths-based Review**, 2010. SNV Vietnam. ([Link to full-text](#))

This report describes a participatory review of SNV's Sanitation Demand and Behaviour Change activities in North-West Vietnam. The CLTS technique, widespread and successful in other parts of Asia and Africa, is relatively new to Vietnam.

- **School-Led Total Sanitation: Reflections on the Potential of the Shebedino Pilot**, 2011. R. Chambers, IDS. ([Link to full-text](#))

This note is based on two field visits to Ethiopia, in November 2010 and 23 February 2011. Chambers states that "this is the first time anywhere in the world that teachers have been systematically engaged in triggering CLTS." If it continues to work well, it may provide a means for going to scale faster with CLTS in Ethiopia.

- **Utilizing Community-Based Registers to Monitor Improved Access to Sanitation and Hygiene in Tanzania**, 2011. Water and Sanitation Program. ([Link to full-text](#))

To increase standardization and accuracy of data collection, WSP is working with local governments and CLTS committees to implement community-based and managed registers. The registers are designed to monitor progress toward improved hygiene and sanitation at the household level. The registers have been introduced by local government at the sub-village level during CLTS triggering and are the primary tool that the sub-village CLTS committee uses to monitor progress.

*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](mailto: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](http://www.washplus.org) or contact: [washplus@aed.org](mailto:washplus@aed.org).

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