



Supportive Environments for Healthy Communities

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This *WASHplus Update* contains recently published journal articles and reports on urban water and sanitation issues. Included are studies on the management of solid wastes, land tenure and water access, health behavior in Kibera, etc. A March 2011 World Bank report estimates the mortality impact of improved water and sanitation access in order to evaluate the potential contribution of water and sanitation investment toward achieving the child mortality targets defined in Millennium Development Goal 4. Links to recent videos and selected websites are also provided.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

- **Assessing Users' Experience of Shared Sanitation Facilities: A Case Study of Community Ablution Blocks in Durban, South Africa**, IN: *Water SA (Online) vol.36 no.5 Pretoria Oct. 2010*. E. Roma, Centre for Water Science. ([Link to full-text](#))
The purpose of this study is to investigate users' experience with sanitation technologies in the early post-implementation phase, when opportunities for remedial intervention are still available. Fieldwork comprising semi-structured interviews was undertaken with users and potential recipients of three community abluion blocks (CABs) in informal settlements around Durban. Results suggest that non-technical aspects such as affordability or cleanliness of the facilities can affect acceptance among the investigated communities. A comparison between users and potential recipients of CABs shows that perceived health benefits, attitudes in case of problems, and trust are affected by use of the facilities.
- **The Impact of Secure Land Tenure on Water Access Levels in Sub-Saharan Africa: The Case of Botswana and Zambia**, IN: *Habitat International, Volume 35, Issue 1, January 2011*. M. Sjöstedt, University of Gothenburg. ([Link to full-text](#))
The argument developed and tested in this paper contends that the lack of success in past decades when it comes to increasing water coverage levels – particularly in sub-Saharan Africa – is attributable to the institutional arrangements under which land is managed. In short, the starting point is that if water coverage levels are to increase,

some form of investment in land, housing, water infrastructure, or wells needs to be undertaken – primarily by citizens themselves. However, in order for such investments to take place, citizens need some certainty that they will reap the rewards from their investments. This certainty is suggested to result from property rights to land, i.e., land tenure.

- **Mitigating the Impact of Solid Wastes in Urban Centres in Nigeria**, IN: *J Hum Ecol*, 34(2): (2011). N. Napoleon, Ambrose Alli University. ([Link to full-text](#))
Nigeria's major urban centers are today grappling with the problems caused by mounting heaps of solid wastes from their environments. This paper undertakes a study of the solid waste build up phenomenon with a view toward finding ameliorative measures that would help reduce their negative effects on urban beautification and sanitation.
- **Sanitation in Urban Slums: Perception, Attitude and Behavior: The Case of Kibera, Nairobi-Kenya**, IN: *Journal of Environmental Science and Engineering*, Mar. 2010, Volume 4, No.3 2010. A.N. Omambia, China University of Geosciences. ([Link to full-text](#)) (**NOTE: Article starts on page 70 of the journal issue**)
Over 60 percent of Kenya's urban dwellers live in slum settlements. In Kibera, Africa's second largest and Kenya's oldest and largest slum, poor sanitation and inadequate water supply is a daily challenge for the residents. Over 150 persons share one shallow pit latrine while 75 percent of the population uses sanitation practices that involve direct handling of human waste, increasing the spread of infectious diseases. Insecurity of tenure, inadequate socio-economic, infrastructural and physical entitlements all affect Kibera's residents' perception and attitude towards investing in better sanitation behavior.

REPORTS

- **Channels for Change: Private Water and the Urban Poor**, 2010. M. Lynch, Engineers Against Poverty. ([Link to full-text](#))
Two case studies of private sector involvement in water provision are presented: The Manila Water Company's Water for Poor Communities (TPSB) Programme and the Water & Sanitation for the Urban Poor (WSUP) Partnership. The two models share common elements of innovation: a multi-sector approach to service expansion and provision, including partnerships with local authorities; strong community involvement in option selection, design and operation; appropriate service levels to reduce costs and flexibility in the type of service provided. This paper proposes that these models could be replicated in other cities, whilst acknowledging that their success will depend upon strong regulatory frameworks, a cooperative government, and target populations that have sufficient income levels for business initiatives to be commercially viable.
- **Lessons in Urban Sanitation Development: Indonesia Sanitation Sector Development Program**, 2011. Water and Sanitation Program. ([Link to full-text](#))
While 73 percent of Indonesia's urban households have access to a private toilet

facility, severe under-investment in public sanitation infrastructure has resulted in one of the lowest sewerage coverage levels in Asia, with most excreta and wastewater discharged untreated or semi-treated into local drains or water bodies, causing massive environmental pollution. Against this backdrop of very limited progress, the Indonesia Sanitation Sector Development Program (ISSDP) operated from 2006 to 2010. By the time the program ended in January 2010, government commitment to urban sanitation had grown remarkably.

- **On the Delivery of Pro-Poor Innovations: Managerial Lessons from Sanitation Activists in India**, 2010. S. Ramani, UN University. ([Link to full-text](#))

There is an emerging body of literature that examines how pro-poor product innovations should be created and what business models should accompany them. However, there is little on actual implementation practices and the present paper attempts to fill this void by analyzing the findings of the literature and confronting them with the actual field practices of sanitation activists in India. It demonstrates that the common thread that unifies progressive sanitation activists is their adoption of a 'market based approach.'
- **Small Town Water and Sanitation Delivery: Taking a Wider View**, 2010. WaterAid/BPD. ([Link to full-text](#))

The predicted growth of small towns is a major development challenge which threatens to derail efforts to meet the Millennium Development Goals for water and sanitation. This report identifies promising approaches to service delivery and provides a framework for those planning water and sanitation services in small towns to make appropriate financial, technical and management decisions.
- **Solid Wastes, Poverty and the Environment in Developing Country Cities: Challenges and Opportunities**, 2010. M. Medina, UN University. ([Link to full-text](#))

Many cities in Africa, Asia, and Latin America face serious problems managing their wastes. Two of the major problems are the insufficient collection and inappropriate final disposal of wastes. Despite spending increasing resources, many cities – particularly in Africa and Asia – collect less than half of the waste generated. Most wastes are disposed of in open dumps, deposited on vacant land, or burned by residents in their backyards. Insufficient collection and inadequate disposal generate significant pollution problems and risks to human health and the environment. Over one billion people living in low income communities and slums lack appropriate waste management services. Given the rapid population growth and urbanization in many cities, the management of wastes tends to further deteriorate. This paper examines the challenges and opportunities.
- **Water and Sanitation to Reduce Child Mortality: the Impact and Cost of Water and Sanitation Infrastructure**, 2011. I. Gunther, World Bank. ([Link to full-text](#))

Using household survey data, this paper estimates the mortality impact of improved

water and sanitation access in order to evaluate the potential contribution of water and sanitation investment toward achieving the child mortality targets defined in Millennium Development Goal 4. According to the estimates, full household coverage with water and sanitation infrastructure could lead to a total reduction of 2.2 million child deaths per year in the developing world. Combining this analysis with cost data for water and sanitation infrastructure, the authors estimate that the average cost per life-year saved ranges between 65 and 80 percent of developing countries' annual gross domestic product per capita. The results suggest that investment in water and sanitation is a highly cost-effective policy option, even when only the mortality benefits are taken into consideration.

VIDEOS

- Pulitzer Center - **As Bangladesh's Population Grows, Slum Dwellers Struggle for Clean Water Access**, 2011. ([Link to video](#)) - This video reports on an innovative approach to deliver water to slum dwellers in Bangladesh.
- UN HABITAT - **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Intervention in Korogocho Slums, Nairobi, Kenya**, 2010. ([Link to video](#)) - This HABITAT initiative is being implemented in 11 primary schools. Water supply and handwashing have been completed and handed over to six of the respective schools.

WEBSITES

- **USAID Making Cities Work** - ([Link to website](#)) - This website provides information on USAID's Urban Programs and urban related events and resources.
- **Water and Sanitation for the Urban Poor (WSUP)** - ([Link to website](#)) - WSUP is a partnership between the private sector, civil society and academia focused on addressing the increasing global problem of inadequate access to water and sanitation for the urban poor.
- **World Bank Research – Urban Water Supply and Sanitation** - ([Link to website](#)) - A listing, by date, of research reports on urban water and sanitation.
- **World Health Organization Country Profiles on Urban Health** - ([Link to website](#)) - Each country profile provides key information on urban health with selected indicators of health outcomes, health system outputs, health risk factors, and health determinants.

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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