



About

Life of Project:

October 2016 – September 2021

Geographic Scope:

Global

Implementing Partners:

Tetra Tech in partnership with Aquaya Institute, FHI360, FSG, Iris Group

WASH PARTNERSHIPS AND LEARNING FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Partnerships and Learning for Sustainability (WASHPaLS) is a five-year project funded through the Global Health Bureau to support USAID’s goal of reducing morbidity and mortality in children under five by strengthening the evidence base for improved sanitation and hygiene interventions.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

WASHPaLS seeks to improve programming approaches for delivering high-impact WASH interventions by working with USAID, national and local governments, key sector donors and implementers to generate evidence and increase the sector’s understanding of 1) the effectiveness of behavioral and market-oriented approaches to sanitation; 2) measures to disrupt pathways of fecal exposure to infants and young children, and 3) promising innovations in the area of hygiene behavior change.

Through implementation research in up to seven countries, WASHPaLS will work with implementing partners to broaden the evidence base on the use and effectiveness of sanitation interventions, including Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS), market-based sanitation (MBS), and promoting safe hygiene environments (i.e., play spaces) for infants and young children. Additionally, the project will investigate innovative ideas in WASH behavior change programming such as habit science and gendered social norms through the management of a \$1.5 million small

“WASHPaLS strengthens USAID’s WASH programming at country level while enhancing global learning and promoting adoption of evidenced-based programmatic approaches needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.”

– Jesse Shapiro, Environmental Health Team Lead, USAID

grants program. WASHPaLS will engage with national and global actors to promote the use of WASHPaLS-generated evidence and emerging best practices by practitioners and policy makers, tapping into broad coalitions and dynamic partnerships.

Across all engagements, WASHPaLS will consider the differential circumstances and opportunities for men and women that influence sustainable access to sanitation and the adoption of hygienic behaviors. Implementation research will be couched in a deliberate process of local engagement to ensure that knowledge generated by the project is responsive to the needs of target end users— governments, donors and practitioners—and that this evidence has the greatest chance of being utilized to influence ongoing and future WASH programming, leading ultimately to better development outcomes.

WASHPaLS is led by Tetra Tech and implemented in collaboration with several NGOs and small-business partners: Aquaya Institute, FHI360, FSG and Iris Group with expertise in state-of-the-art WASH programming and research. Distinguished academics, practitioners and policy makers from across the WASH sector regularly provide expert perspectives to the project through an internal research committee and an external Advisory Board.

EXPECTED RESULTS

WASHPaLS results will include:

- Delivery of tailored short-term technical assistance to USAID missions in the areas of sanitation, hygiene behavior change, monitoring, and evaluation.
- Execution of a learning agenda that includes operational research in at least seven countries to address key evidence gaps related to CLTS, MBS and hygienic play spaces for young children.
- Use of country-specific engagement plans to embed implementation research within local networks.
- Active dissemination of research results through peer-reviewed publications, presentations, webinars, national working groups, strategic partnerships and policy-specific knowledge products.
- Disbursement of 10 small grants to investigate and generate evidence to support innovative ideas in WASH behavior change programming. Documenting and sharing the results of the grantees work to encourage uptake and scale-up of the successfully approaches.
- Application of the learning generated by WASHPaLS by USAID missions, national governments and implementing partners.

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