WASH PARTNERSHIPS AND LEARNING FOR SUSTAINABILITY (WASHPaLS) #2: HYGIENIC BEHAVIORS AND ENVIRONMENTS

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USAID WASHPaLS #2 seeks to enhance global learning and adoption of the evidence-based development programming needed to achieve the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 6.2. WASHPaLS #2 partners with governments, the private sector, development partners, and other stakeholders to support learning and improvements in the WASH sector and address challenges to quality, equity, sustainability, and scale of sustainable sanitation services and adoption of sound hygienic practices. WASHPaLS #2 research will focus on three themes: area-wide sanitation, market-based sanitation, and hygienic behaviors and environments.

Within the theme of hygienic environments and social and behavior change, WASHPaLS #2 will conduct research on the three topics listed below, ***working in collaboration with local implementing partners.***

1. Improving the hygienic environment through a) improved flooring inside and/or outside homes, b) safe disposal of infant and young child's (IYC) feces, and c) reducing children's exposure to poultry and animal feces;
2. Nudging handwashing behaviors in the home setting; and
3. Improving food hygiene.

Life of Project:
October 2021 – September 2026

Geographic Scope:
Global

Implementing Partners:
Tetra Tech in partnership with FHI 360, FSG, IDinsight, and Iris Group

TOPIC 1: HYGIENIC ENVIRONMENTS

Questions	Study Design	Data Collection Process & Tools
What changes to the physical environment enable and sustain key hygienic behaviors (e.g. safe disposal of IYC feces) with or without behavior change communications (BCC)? 1. How does introducing ***improved flooring inside/outside homes*** influence human behavior? 2. What are promising interventions combining SBC and enabling technologies for scale up of ***safe management and disposal of child feces***? 3. What are feasible and (cost-) effective options for ***reducing IYC exposure to poultry and animal feces***?	We propose to complete a **realist evaluation** to identify impacts of layering the proposed interventions within a specified programmatic setting. • A mixed methods approach to interventions focusing on **"what works, for whom, and under what conditions"**	We plan to collect multi-level and longitudinal data on program activities, behavioral determinants, behavior change, and fecal contamination to conduct impact analysis from multiple potential data sources: • Project reports, project monitoring and evaluation data, public data on contextual factors • Surveys of ~1,200-2,000 households • 100-120 semi-structured interviews with Key Informants, stakeholders, and beneficiaries • Household observations • Environmental fecal contamination monitoring

TOPIC 2: HANDWASHING IN HOUSEHOLDS

Question	Design/Methods	Data Collection Process & Tools
What environmental nudges can be adapted from findings in institutional settings (e.g., schools, clinics) to promote ***handwashing (HW) in the home setting***? • What are the potential innovations for handwashing stations and other nudging interventions within the home? • What is the minimal amount of BCC required to support nudging HW behaviors in the home?	We propose a two-phased study using **human centered design (HCD) methods**[1] to develop and test nudges: • Brainstorming using HCD to identify handwashing nudges • Apply and test handwashing nudges in the household	We will use qualitative data methods that engage end-users in developing and implementing the intervention: • Iterative qualitative data collection and analysis across ideation, pilot, implement and evaluate phase • ~20-30 semi-structured interviews with Key Informants, stakeholders, and beneficiaries; 6-8 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) • Survey of participants to gather data on activities and impacts

TOPIC 3: FOOD HYGIENE

Question	Design/Methods	Data Collection Process & Tools
What are the ***most critical contamination points at the household level*** when preparing, consuming, and storing foods within a rural socio-cultural context? • What interventions can households adopt to mitigate contamination impacting child health and growth?	We propose to apply a **Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point approach** and **Trials in Improved Practices (TIPs)** to improve food hygiene: • HACCP identifies likely sources of contamination that can be feasibly controlled • TIPs engage participants in developing and testing possible improvements	We expect to collect/undertake: • Environmental data on level of fecal contaminants and pathogens present in critical food preparation processes • ~10 Household in-depth interviews for each intervention or target population pre- and post- TIPs interventions • Household surveys for the same sample during periodic visits to gather data on usability and successes

COLLABORATION WITH IMPLEMENTATION PARTNER THROUGHOUT THE PROJECT

- WASHPaLS #2 will provide funding for and lead research activities.
- Implementing partners will fund and support the interventions.
- WASHPaLS #2 will conclude stakeholder engagement by mid July 2022 to identify potential partnering programs for studies, and work to solidify collaboration across organizations.
- We will summarize input from implementing partners and stakeholders engaged and analyze how their input aligns with identified SBC research questions.
- WASHPaLS #2 will convene a meeting with USAID mid to late July to reach a decision on which study and partnerships to pursue.

For more information please contact: Jesse Shapiro, WASHPaLS #2 COR, jeshapiro@usaid.gov

[1]HCD: Process of integrating human perspectives in the problem-solving process