

Meeting Notes

# TOPS WASH - Implementing Partners Stakeholders Meeting

## *Washington DC, June 18, 2018*

## Participants

Ian Moise, CRS

Stephanie Ogden, CARE

Precious Sancho, World Vision

Buck Bradshaw, World Vision

Taiwo Adesina, Food for the Hungry

Lynne Cogswell, The Manoff Group

Kevin Boylan, ACDI/VOCA

Franky Li, Global Communities

Nicole Van Able, Food for Peace

Kyla Gregoire, Food for Peace

Sarah Titus, Save the Children

Steve Sara, Save the Children

Julia Crowley, TOPS / Save the Children

## Agenda

* The TOPS program
* The WASH Award
* The WASH strategy
* Discussion: Priorities/opportunities for FFP projects
* Brianstorm: Wash tools and resources; ideas for WASH Knowledge Sharing event
* Next steps and calendar of events


## Overview of TOPS and WASH, Sarah Titus

### TOPS

The TOPS Program is a knowledge sharing and learning mechanism funded by USAID Food for Peace. It was implemented for seven and a half years, starting in August of 2010 and the original award ended in the end of January 2018. However, TOPS will be continuing its core functions under TOPS Bridge Associate Award through January 2019.

Under the original TOPS award, there were five original consortium partners that focused on different technical areas, Mercy Corps focused on ANRM; Food for the Hungry on SBC; TANGO International on M&E, CORE Group on knowledge management; and Save the Children was the prime and focused on gender, nutrition, commodity management, and overall project management. TOPS aimed to improve food and nutrition security by improving ongoing programs, and it did so through several components. The first component was direct capacity strengthening, mainly done through trainings; the second was through the FSN Network website, which shares a variety of tools and resources; the third was through annual knowledge sharing meetings; the fourth was through the small grants program; and the last was through technical task forces. WASH was not a technical focal point under TOPS and with the growing portfolio in this sector, FFP recognized this as a gap and developed the TOPS WASH Associate Award to support the implementing community in this area.

The WASH Award, like the SCALE Award for ANRM, will continue after the TOPS Bridge award ends; it will coordinate closely with IDEAL (the TOPS follow-on program) and will coordinate with SCALE, arranging joint capacity building events where appropriate and streaming communication channels.

### WASH

* **Overview**: WASH is a new five-year associate award led by Save the Children. The initiative aims to strengthen the effectiveness and sustainability of WASH practices in FFP-funded development and emergency food security activities. Key aspects of the award are:
	+ Focus on both emergency and development
	+ Exploring both immediate and longer-term solutions
	+ Building a community of practice (Task Force under the TOPS model)
	+ Featuring small grants for applied research

The primary target audience is FFP implementers and FFP staff. Secondary targets include other USAID staff, other organizations and intuitions working in WASH in FFP countries, and other international stakeholders. The WASH Award will focus on identifying best practices while also highlighting innovations and technologies. To be sure, sustainability will be a key part of the work. We aim to develop systems for greater sustainability of capacity strengthening and knowledge management.

* **Strategy/Results Framework**: The results framework is modeled after the one for TOPS. There are four key pillars: knowledge capture; knowledge generation; knowledge application; and knowledge sharing. The anticipated key award activities fall into these categories, some of which clearly will overlap – for example, capturing best practices in existing or closed DFSAs will enable us to develop activity guidance documents or tools to share and use to build staff capacity. For now, capacity building is focused on development programs. Once needs are identified for emergencies (likely starting in year 2), we envisioned tailored capacity building for these issues as well. This “living” strategy will be annually assessed and updated by the award staff and with input from the Steering Committee and Task Force.

## Identifying Technical Priorities

In pairs or small groups, please take a few minutes to think of any key WASH priorities for either the programs you are involved in, or your agency as a whole and write one priority on each post it note. What are the key WASH issues, concerns and opportunities that you see as priorities for both development and emergency FFP activities? For example, partnerships with the private sector for sustainable models in water infrastructure and O&M; successful behavior change strategies for CLTS; or scalable WASH markets/services interventions. Please feel free to share multiple suggestions.

*The group replicated many of the priorities previously identified by the TOPS Program Advisory Committee and FFP Officers at the FFP Global Meeting (May 17, 2018). Below is the consolidated list that we then voted on. Participants selected their top three technical areas and were invited to highlight the specific topics within the areas if preferred. Red text denotes new clarifications/additions during this meeting. Bolded text denotes the specific topic within the technical area that participants stressed.*

#### Identified Priorities

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Votes 6/18 | Technical Area | Priority topic |
|  | Community | Water user committees – ensuring good management, youth engagement, conflict resolution |
| What have we learned from Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS)? |
| Looking at systems as well as household/community levels and linkages with shock/stress context |
| Assessing community priorities and role of water infrastructure |
|  | Emergency | Best practices for WASH in emergencies  |
|  | Hardware | Improved tippy taps |
| Affordable options/solutions for building latrines in coastal and other challenging contexts |
| I | Hygiene & Sanitation | Improving hygiene at community level (crossed out and made more specific: perspective of food handling etc. |
| More adaptive and responsive sanitation responses |
| Effective methods to strengthen/scale traditional sanitation approaches |
| Sanitation marketing coupled with CLTS/PHAST |
| II | Knowledge sharing | Gathering failures in WASH programs and assessing the key underlying common problems (especially CLTS) |
| Gathering best practices and successes from non-FFP programs and integrating. Making these available within the FFP programs/network. |
| Inventory of WASH interventions/best practices in existing FFP development and emergency programs |
| Sharing best practices (Essential WASH Actions, prerequisites, quality standards) |
| Knowledge sharing events with FFP WASH practitioners |
| Mapping WASH resources and making data available through online platforms |
| WASH case studies |
| III | Multi-sectoral linkages | **Capacity building in integrating WASH in multi-sectoral programs**  |
| **How WASH activities can be improved through linkages with other sectors** |
| **Integration of WASH and youth programming** |
| Linking FFP WASH with BFS and GH programming (in Missions) |
| Linkage between WASH & CLTS (West Africa) |
| Integrating handwashing |
| I | MUS | Multiple use water points (drinking, irrigation, livestock) |
| More on WASH integration improvement in multiple use water systems |
| IIII | NRM and WASH | Addressing water use in WASH through improvements in NRM and improving groundwater**How does water resource management impact WASH** |
| Water resource management for resilience  |
| III | Nutrition and WASH | Rational approach to targeting fecal-oral routes **enteric dysfunction including poultry feces** |
| Better understanding of interplay between WASH and stunting **soil pathways/animal dangers** |
| Expand evidence base – going beyond CLTS |
|  | Policy | Enabling environment and government involvement - public/private partnership |
| How to best influence policy? |
| Government level encompassing WASH strategy is [often] lacking  |
|  | Research | Applied studies on practices and capacities, barriers, opportunities |
| Applied research on questions coming out of FFP studies – multiple context studies and deep dives |
| Research funding to test new WASH approaches and tools |
| Internalizing the WASH-B and SHINE findings |
| **Curriculum/guidance for designing formative research for WASH** |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| IIII | Social and Behavior Change for WASH | How WASH behaviors link to underlying social norms and how to change these norms sustainably |
| Better tools for understanding behavior change barriers for WASH behaviors  |
| Successes of behavior change to improve sanitation, hygiene in rural areas |
| Use of SBC in WASH to address sustainability and uptake **with clear link to FFP** |
| **Measurement and monitoring** |
| IIIII | Sustainability | How to set up a sustainable and accountable community-based WASH system (successes and challenges) |
| Sustainability for infrastructure, **behavior**, management systems |
| What are the essential elements of sustainability in WASH programming (especially in hardware-based activities)? **Women’s engagement in water supply delivery** |
| **Cost effective ways of developing sanitation systems in villages** |
| **Linking WASH to private sector** |
| **Understanding and assessing WASH markets/services** |
| **More on sustaining community ownership and payment for WASH services – what has worked, where, why?** |
| Measuring sustainability |
|  | Water safety | Best practices, maintaining water safety |
| Increased emphasis on water quality testing |
| I | Other | Post-OFDA strategies **design of water supply projects that consider both emergency and development. E.g. rainwater harvesting** |

### Additional comments on WASH priorities

* While hardware was not selected as a top 3 priorities, “improved tippy taps” was circled with the comment: ‘Yes! And how do we move beyond the tippy taps?”
* Evaluating and benchmarking of FFP approaches against best practices in the larger WASH sector. How are FFP programs doing WASH governance, financing, systems strengthening etc. How can this be improved?
* Need to careful to not duplicate efforts between the initiatives of this award and other WASH activities (across USAID and other donors). For example, perhaps we do not prioritize CLTS because WASHPals is already conducting research in this area
* WASH areas/topics (hard and soft) not currently well integrated
* Question of governance is big – need to look at systems’ capacity for service provision
* There was a discussion about formative research, better quality and understanding the use of multiple forms (at a time!). *Seems like an area of capacity building need!*
* Opportunity with the multi-sectoral programming (DFSAs) to explore/assess the impact of WASH as part of an integrated activity (with health/nutrition or agriculture) vs. when it’s a standalone
* In the area of sustainability – what contributes to ODF relapse?
* Focus on local solutions
* We need to change the dialogue around indicators, particularly for ODF. Many of the programs are aiming to reduce stunting and those are the indicators but there are a number of factors that contribute to stunting, not just if community is ODF. Need learning on appropriate measures
* Many organizations have added components onto CLTS, for example, a governance piece, that are not part of the “official” model. We need to learn more about these add-ons and their impact
* Need to look at gender and WASH - research and practical tools for addressing gender considerations in WASH

## Tools, Resources and Ideas for Knowledge Sharing Event

The FSN Network will continue to be a resource bank for relevant guidance documents and tools for implementing partners. Currently the WASH materials are not extensive and the plan is to grow these resources significantly through the WASH award. Please review the initial list of resources and take a few minutes to think of additional ones that have been useful in your work.

#### Updated Resource List

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Tools, Reports, Guidance Documents** | **Organization** | **Pub Date** |
| Essential WASH Actions: A Training reference Pack to Supplement Essential Nutrition Actions | FHI360 | 2017 |
| Compendium of Sanitation Technologies in Emergencies | Washnetwork/EAWAG/WASH Cluster/sustainable sanitation alliance | 2018 |
| Behavior Change Manual (abridged version of the RANAS guidelines, for project managers) | SDC, HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation and Eawag | 2017 |
| Systematic Behavior Change in Water Sanitation and Hygiene A practical guide using the RANAS approach Version 1.0, August 2016 | SDC, HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation and Eawag | 2016 |
| Improving Nutrition Outcomes with Better Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: Practical Solutions for Policies and Programs | WHO, UNICEF, USAID | 2015 |
| WASH'NUTRITION A practical guidebook on increasing nutritional impactthrough integration of WASH and Nutrition programmes | ACF | 2017 |
| STRENGTHENING ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH) Guidance Note | UNICEF | 2016 |
| Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Bottleneck Analysis Tool | UNICEF | 2016 (v2 of manual, April 2018) |
| WASH 1,000 Approach Photo-Aid SPRING/Ghana | SPRING | 2017 |
| Engaging Community Members to Adopt Effective WASH Practices for Nutrition (BRIEF) | SPRING | 2017 |
| TIPS, CATs, and PWDs for WASH | The Manoff Group |  |

Helpful websites:

* <http://washcluster.net/>
* <https://www.globalwaters.org/>
* <http://www.communityledtotalsanitation.org/>
* <https://wash4work.org/>
* <http://www.rural-water-supply.net/en/>
* <https://sanitationupdates.wordpress.com/>
* <https://www.washbat.org/>
* <http://www.worldbank.org/en/results/2017/04/04/improving-rural-water-sanitation-information-systems-latinamerica>
* <https://acceleratorbehaviors.org/tools#priorities> (currently only available to USAID staff)

Please forward additional resources to Sarah Titus stitus@savechildren.org

### Ideas for WASH Knowledge Sharing Event

Participants noted topics that would be useful for the first WASH Knowledge Sharing event. These included:

* A review of approaches, successes and lessons learned in FFP WASH programming. *Kyla Gregoire noted that there has not been a comprehensive review/evaluation but that it is a great idea, they just have not had the staffing resources to do this to date.*
* How is WASH in FFP programming different from other programming? What is the comparative advantage of FFP? *Discussion about FFP being a significant investment in a country/local area and opportunity to become a leverage point for other development investments, commitments by governments etc.*
* Incorporating learning from the WASH sector as a whole into FFP programming.
* The issue of sustainability. FFP programming has tended to shy away from governance issues because the focus has been more on nutrition and targeting the mother and child. However, in order to ensure results are sustained, implementers need to look at ways to impact systems level changes.

Participants also had a brief discussion about thoughts on USAID’s Refine and Implement (R&I) program. R&I is the approach piloted in DRC where IPs are given 1 year before interventions start to conduct additional assessments/research and revise the activity’s Theory of Change and implementation strategies. How do we best use R&I for WASH? Challenges emerged in the first test of R&I in terms of WASH, likely because the formative research did not go deep enough. There is a need for more capacity building in using formative research for design.

*Note that the date for the WASH Knowledge Sharing Event remains to be determined. WASH award staff, FFP, and the Steering Committee will consider optimal timing given preparation time needed for suggested topics, as well as other related events. TOPS WASH will update stakeholders when the timing is confirmed.*

## Communication

We will be adding today’s participants to the WASH contact list. Please forward any additional names from your organizations who would like to be involved. The WASH Award is the process of setting up a webpage and will provide updates (including posting meeting notes) there. Eventually we hope to have field staff on our contact list and involved in the WASH Task Force.

## Next steps

* The WASH Award is currently recruiting for a permanent [Director](https://recruiting.ultipro.com/SAV1002STCF/JobBoard/7d92e82b-af74-464d-859b-c5b8cba6e92e/OpportunityDetail?opportunityId=ae926861-a285-4ba1-9f77-a14258c05bf9) and a [Capacity Building and Learning Senior Specialist](https://recruiting.ultipro.com/SAV1002STCF/JobBoard/7d92e82b-af74-464d-859b-c5b8cba6e92e/OpportunityDetail?opportunityId=5226b091-7aff-40ef-a779-58018ad07d4e). See postings on the Save the Children website and spread the word.
* There will be an introduction to TOPS-WASH with FFP Country Backstop Officers here in Washington in July or August.
* TOPS WASH is setting up a Steering Committee as well as the Task Force, more updates on that to come!
* WASH sessions will be included at the TOPS Knowledge Sharing Meeting in Bangkok, October 2-4 (dates to be confirmed).