

# BRIEFING NOTE

## Stockholm World Water Week 2015

(23rd - 28th August 2015, Sweden)



### Acknowledgements

We are very grateful for the contribution of:

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Joanna Esteves Mills<sup>3</sup>  
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Archana Patkar<sup>5</sup>  
Sweta Patnaik<sup>6</sup> and  
Lauren Yamagata<sup>7</sup>.

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**Photo:**  
LSHTM/Joanna Esteves Mills

### Summary

SHARE has had another great World Water Week at Stockholm this year. The Consortium partnered with a number of research and practitioner institutions to co-convene three sessions that shone the spotlight on research, as well as examples from policy and programming, that are helping characterise and overcome sector barriers. The three events were:

1. Water, gender and distress: social equity in the post-Millennium Development Goal (MDG) landscape
2. WASH in nutrition: strategic and operational solutions to fight undernutrition
3. Scaling-up sanitation microfinance: what will it take?

In addition, Elijah Wanda of the [Mzuzu Centre for Excellence in Sanitation Water](#), a SHARE Malawi partner, presented the Centre's work on private sector involvement on sanitation provision.

Read more about the three side events below. To read Elijah Wanda's blog, visit: <http://www.shareresearch.org/NewsAndEvents/Detail/Elijah-Blog-SWWW-2015>

## Water, gender and distress: social equity in the post-MDG landscape

Compromised access to water and sanitation has profound [psychosocial impacts for women and girls across the life course](#) and far reaching implications for social justice and social equity. While these impacts remain largely unaddressed in development research and programming, [emerging research](#) has helped draw attention to the lived experiences of women and girls globally. Equally, research has shown the significant opportunity water and sanitation programmes can offer to shift gender norms. Existing development approaches can place water and sanitation into independent silos, while findings from Asia and Africa highlight the interdependence of water and sanitation resources in daily life for women and girls. The experiences women and girls have accessing these resources, and those that put them at greatest risk for negative psychosocial outcomes, are shaped by socially constructed gendered roles and behaviours they are expected to perform.

[This session](#), which took place on 26<sup>th</sup> August, looked at **how** the availability of water and sanitation resources and the physical and social challenges associated with accessing those resources can negatively impact women and girls, and **what** can be done through gender-sensitive policies and programming to mitigate those impacts and empower women and transform existing gender norms. Despite the early start, the event was very well attended, with participants from government agencies, donors, multilaterals, research organisations, civil society, and the private sector present.

Catarina de Albuquerque, the Vice-Chair of the [Sanitation and Water for All](#) Partnership, opened the session. The former UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Water and Sanitation stressed her belief that development efforts to improve access to water and sanitation must go hand in hand with efforts to ensure that women and girls gain opportunities that benefit their lives directly. She closed by highlighting the vital contribution that research can make in both enabling us to better understand the challenges we face in ensuring gender equity and dignity for all and develop and test solutions to these.

The session was divided into three sub-sections and was chaired by SHARE. The first of these set the scene by providing an overview of the various aspects of psychosocial stress associated with inadequate WASH access. Robert Dreibelbis of the University of Oklahoma presented on [a family of research projects in India](#), including [SHARE-WSSCC-funded research](#), to offer insights into the complex and often overlapping physical, social and gender-based violence vulnerabilities that women face with respect to sanitation and how these vulnerabilities are shaped by access to resources, life stage and contextual factors. For example, shared sanitation can create new social stressors for women due to lack of privacy and the need to perform often-private behaviours in a public setting. Shared sanitation can also compound gender-based violence vulnerabilities associated with the real or perceived threat of peeping or sexual violence.

The second sub-section looked more specifically at menstrual hygiene management as a source of distress for women. Contributions from Sue Cavill of UNICEF, Archana Patkar of Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) and Lauren Yamagata of Plan International USA helped convey the extent of the challenges faced by women as they try to manage their menstrual hygiene in environments with inadequate or, worse, no water or sanitation access. In discussing how to mitigate these challenges, the presenters highlighted the need for a three-pronged approach, comprising the provision of adequate **WASH facilities and materials**, along with the necessary **knowledge and skills**. They also shared their work, which, through research, policy influencing and programming is helping to address this issue within the WASH sector. This work included WSSCC's collaboration with the Government of India to incorporate a gender dimension into the Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan Guidelines, the UNICEF collaboration with Emory and Columbia Universities on the [WASH in Schools for Girls \(WinS\)](#) Research Project, the ['Girl's Puberty Book' initiative](#) by Columbia University, and highlights from Plan International's experience partnering with AFRIPads, a Ugandan social business, to facilitate community level demand for reusable sanitary pads, and Be Girl, a social enterprise focused on applying participatory design techniques to develop reusable sanitary pads that not only improve girls' lives, but that they aspire to wear.

Gender-based violence in WASH was the next topic of discussion. Juliet Willetts of University of Technology Sydney, shared [a practitioner's toolkit on violence, gender and WASH](#), produced through SHARE by a multitude of development partners, and launched in 2014. This toolkit was designed in response to demand among practitioners for a greater understanding of the nature of this problem as well as practical solutions for addressing it. By bringing together the available evidence, it consolidates sector knowledge of the scale and specific nature of this problem, and provides guidance on what practitioners can do to reduce these vulnerabilities to violence. Sweta Patnaik of WaterAid India followed by offering a concrete example of how this toolkit has helped to impact practices in India.

A stimulating audience discussion in plenary followed. Amongst other things, the need to engage men and boys in these issues of gender, violence and distress in WASH was highlighted as a crucial step towards breaking down detrimental gendered norms. The high societal but also economic cost of not acting was also emphasised as a complement to the human rights perspective that has traditionally guided demands for urgent change in this area.

This session was a collaboration between SHARE and Columbia University, Emory University, Plan International USA, SOPPECOM, Texas A&M University, UNICEF, University of Oklahoma, University of Technology of Sydney, WaterAid, and the WSSCC.

Presentations from the session can be viewed here:

[http://www.shareresearch.org/LocalResources/SWWW\\_2015\\_Water\\_gender\\_and\\_distress\\_session.pdf](http://www.shareresearch.org/LocalResources/SWWW_2015_Water_gender_and_distress_session.pdf)

### **WASH in nutrition: strategic and operational solutions to fight undernutrition**

A number of recently published scientific reviews, including the [SHARE-led Cochrane Review](#) have highlighted the impacts of WASH activities on nutritional status of individuals, encouraging different academic, development and humanitarian actors to take a closer look at the connection and dependence of these two sectors. [This session](#) provided an overview

of the latest field experiences and research projects linking poor WASH status, infection and undernutrition as well as boosting the advocacy efforts determined to increase global knowledge and awareness about this issue.

SHARE researcher Oliver Cumming, Senior Lecturer at LSH TM, presented the state of the evidence on the impacts of WASH on nutritional status and interventions to tackle this. Two speakers then provided insights into the policy and strategy dimension of this important issue. Christine Hieronymus, Head of Division Special Unit “One World No Hunger” of the German Government then presented a donor perspective on linking WASH and nutrition, followed by a presentation of the Sahel “WASH in Nutrition” strategy by Dr Francois Lompo, Minister for Hydrology for Burkina Faso. To illustrate the current operational approach to linking efforts to combat inadequate WASH access with those to combat undernutrition, Action Contre la Faim (ACF) presented on the organisation’s operational field experiences of in Burkina Faso.

The event advocated for more rigorous research, policy coherence and stronger cooperation among different sectors in order to ensure that WASH aspects are acknowledged and implemented as an integral part of nutrition interventions. Furthermore, a dynamic session of group discussion resulted in 9 concrete recommendations, across the research, policy & strategy, and operational & technical areas, which will be fed into the Sustainable Sanitation Alliance (SuSanA) Working Group on WASH and nutrition.

This session was a collaboration between SHARE with ACF, the German WASH Network, SuSanA, the European Commission and the German Government

Presentations from the session can be found here:

<https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/16507450/swww2015%20wg12%20presentations.zip>

### **Scaling up sanitation microfinance: what will it take?**

Governments and donors are currently expecting households to fund the bulk of the investments required for expanding the reach of sanitation services in a sustainable manner. This is particularly the case in countries where on-site sanitation is the norm and where the public sector has de facto withdrawn from service provision. However, household investments rarely materialise at the pace or at the scale that would be needed to make a significant difference in terms of public health and well-being. The slow progress towards the MDG for sanitation urges to think at innovative sources of finance for the sector. In recent years, a number of initiatives and research activities have taken place to explore the potential of microfinance for leveraging household investments, but also to support the development of a complete range of sanitation services, including latrine emptying.

This session highlighted the findings from these initiatives as well as their successes, but also drew out the remaining challenges for scaling-up existing experiences. The session also took a very practical look at options available for governments, donors or non-governmental organisations looking to embed sanitation in their programmes.

## Participant List for the Water, Gender and Distress Session

Name	Organisation
Lakech Abera	Ministry of Water Irrigation and Energy
Priscilla Achakpa	Women Environmental Programme
A. A. Adenopo	Federal Ministry of Water Resources
Patrick Alubbe	Water.org
José Luis Álvarez	Departamento General de Irrigación
Sabahat Ambreen	UNICEF
Karolin Andersson	University of Copenhagen
Rachelle Arpin	Unilever
Siri Axelson	
Betsy Baldwin	The Salvation Army
Radu Ban	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Anne Bangasser	Treehouse Investments, LLC
Morgan Benson	Results for Development
Peter Blair	Results for Development Institute
Sarah Borger	Food for the Hungry
Joshua Briemberg	WaterAid
Erik Brockwell	Stockholm International Water Institute
Ariette Brouwer	Simavi
Sue Cavill	UNICEF
Chaitali Chattopadhyay	wsscc
Thiam Cheik Ahmed Fadel	Fondazione ACRA
Ron Clemmer	FHI360
Moa Cortobius	Stockholm International Water Institute
Ibrahim Daibes	WaterAid Canada
Susan Davis	Improve International
Catarina De Albuquerque	Sanitation and Water for All
María Del Socorro Gómez Vargas	Bonafont
Dorina Derwanz	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
Emily Endres	Results for Development Institute (R4D)
Jonas Erhardt	arche noVa e.V.
Marc Faux	Plan UK
Tim Foster	Oxford University
Fabrice Fotso Kengne	UNICEF
Sara Gabrielsson	Lund University
Lynne Gollither	Ellenville Public Library and Museum
Hannah Greig	WaterAid
Sara Gräslund	Sida
Sarah Hayman	Civil Engineer
Maren Heuvels	BORDA
Marcus Howard	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade- Australia
Lotten Hubendick	Stockholm International Water Institute
Andrés Hueso	WaterAid
Lorraine Hutchison	WYG International
Jukka Ilomäki	Embassy of Finland in Kathmandu
Muhammad Irfan Saeed Alrai	UNICEF

Kyungmee Kim	Uppsala University
Laura Kirkvold	Lund University
Maria Lahore	CAF - Dvlmpt bank of Latin America
Serena Levy	The Coca Cola Company
Lorelei Logel_ Demoulin	Danone
Mathew Luckose	WaterAid
Maapea Odette Makobe	Sedibeng Water
Brenda Mcilwraith	WaterAid
Isabella Montgomery	ICTC
Beatrice Mosello	Overseas Development Institute
Moses Mphahlele Mthombeni	Sedibeng Water
Sandra Muzzolini	Isis Magrini Marchetti
Jamie Myers	Institute of Development Studies
Hannah Neumeyer	WASH United gGmbH
Moses Odhiambo	Linköping University
Bhanu Prakash Pandey	Naandi
Archana Patkar	WSSCC
Simon Pickard	Waterloo Foundation
Adrienne Rabemanantsoa	GSF Programa Madagascar
Ganesh Ramakrishnan	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Josea Ratsarison	GSF Programa Madagascar
Megan Ritchie	SNV
Katharine Robb	The Center for Global Safe Water at Emory University
Cecilia Rodrigues	GIZ
Barbara Ryl	UNILEVER
Alexis Sánchez	Secretaría del Agua
Georgina Sandford	None
Kgalalelo Sereko	Sedibeng Water
Christopher Seremet	Catholic Relief Services
Anna Shepherd	Wtr & Sanitation Rotarian Act. Grp
Marietta Shimizu-Larenas	Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Reuben Sipuma	WSUP
Mekala Snehalatha	Splash
Cathy Stephen	Plan International UK
Johan Sundberg	SIDA
Suheir Talab	WSSCC
David Trouba	Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council
Beata Wajsowicz	iDE Canada
Ewout Van Galen	Simavi
Vidya Venkataramanan	The Water Institute at UNC
Sian White	London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
Alexander Wolf	BORDA
Elias von Hildebrand	Thomson Reuters
Lauren Yamagata	Plan International USA
Salman Yusuf	Government of Punjab, Pakistan
Jo Zeevi-Green	UNICEF



## Research for sanitation and hygiene solutions

The SHARE Research Consortium comprises eight organisations that have come together to generate rigorous and relevant research for use in the field of sanitation and hygiene. The purpose is to join together the energy and resources of the five partners in order to make a real difference to the lives of people all over the world who struggle with the realities of poor sanitation and hygiene.

SHARE is led by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) and includes the following partners:

- Centre for Infectious Disease Research, Zambia
- Great Lakes University of Kisumu, Kenya (GLUK)
- International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B)
- International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)
- Mwanza Interventions Trial Unit, Tanzania
- Shack/Slum Dwellers International (SDI)
- University of Malawi (College of Medicine and Polytechnic)
- WaterAid

The SHARE core team work from LSHTM.

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