



BRIEFING NOTE

European WASH and NTDs Roundtable

18th-19th September 2014, London



This briefing note was written by:

Alexandra Chitty,
SHARE Research Consortium

Robyn Waite,
Consultant

Photo: Delegates discussing WASH and NTD collaboration.

Credit:
SHARE/Alexandra Chitty

WASH and NTDs

More than one billion people in the world are affected by neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), a group of infections which cause chronic illness, pain and disability. NTDs affect the world's poorest and, although not usually fatal, the great human suffering they cause adversely affects health outcomes and poverty reduction efforts globally. The stigma associated with the morbidity and disability that NTDs cause can result in social exclusion, with many NTD sufferers being unable to work, attend school, or fully take part in community life.

NTDs often occur in areas where access to improved water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities is limited. This is a huge obstacle to global efforts to prevent, control and eliminate NTDs as access to safe and improved WASH can assist in interrupting the transmission cycles of NTDs and facilitate NTD morbidity management and disability prevention (MMDP)

activities, such as the proper cleaning of NTD-related wounds and use of clean water during surgeries.

Fortunately, there is increasing global enthusiasm for and commitment to further collaboration between the WASH and NTD sectors, and it is in light of this growing momentum that SHARE convened the European WASH and NTDs Roundtable.

Purpose of the roundtable

In September 2014, the SHARE Consortium brought together nearly 40 WASH and NTDs experts from donor organisations, research institutions, and nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) to significantly progress collaboration, coordination, and cooperation between the WASH and NTDs sectors in the areas of mapping, data collection, monitoring, and research.

The roundtable specifically sought to:

- Propose a core set of indicators to support collaboration between the WASH and NTDs sectors
- Develop an actionable work plan for inter-sectoral collaboration

Background to the roundtable

The European WASH and NTD Roundtable was a follow-up to the 2012 Seattle Roundtable where delegates defined a common long-term vision for WASH and NTD sector collaboration: ‘Disease-free communities that have adequate and equitable access to water and sanitation, and that practice good hygiene.’ Delegates collectively identified four areas of collaboration:

1. Advocacy, policy and communications
2. Capacity building and training
3. Mapping, data collection and monitoring
4. Research

While progress, in terms of collaboration between the two sectors in areas identified in Seattle, has undoubtedly been made – systematic reviews have been published on the relationship between WASH and Trachoma and WASH and Soil-Transmitted Helminths, a Global Trachoma Mapping System which also captures WASH data has been launched, and a WASH and NTDs e-course has been established – WASH is still not adequately reflected in the targets and approaches of NTD programmes.

Day 1: Proposing Joint Measure and Indicators

Discussions, facilitated by Barbara Evans, Associate Professor in Water and Environmental Engineering at the University of Leeds and Chair of the UN JMP’s Strategic Advisory Group, centred on developing a core set of indicators that would support collaboration between the WASH and NTDs sectors.

The value of existing WASH and NTD indicators and gaps in current monitoring mechanisms and indicators were scrutinized, and delegates worked in small groups to consider what indicators would best fill these gaps.

The following conclusions were reached:

- Existing water and sanitation indicators offer sufficient potential for further collaboration between the WASH and NTDs sectors; the wheel does not need to be reinvented
- Water-related indicators should move beyond assessing access at the household level alone. They should also measure the use of water (e.g. for handwashing, bathing, wound treatment), the quality and quantity of this water, how far users must travel to reach their water source, and whether water is available to individuals throughout the day i.e. in schools, healthcare facilities, mosques etc...
- Sanitation-related indicators could measure faecal contamination of community environments and vector control around latrines
- Hygiene indicators are limited, if non-existent. They should include:
 - Proportion of people hand washing at key times with soap or ash
 - Proportion of children with clean faces through proper washing
 - Proportion of people regularly practicing personal hygiene in non-surface water
 - Proportion of people who wear appropriate footwear
 - Proportion of compounds that are clean, i.e., open defecation free
 - Proportion of people with sufficient knowledge about hygiene practices
- An NTD proxy could be used to measure the impact and sustainability of WASH programmes
- Knowledge of existing monitoring mechanisms is limited. Better communication across and within the two sectors is required

Day 2: Developing an Actionable Work Plan

Discussions articulated what successful WASH and NTDs sector collaboration might look like in five years' time. This vision included:

- Greater collaboration between the WASH and NTDs sectors globally leading to increased resourcing and support to countries and regions.
- Greater collaboration at the national level in terms of planning, resources and monitoring
 - National level NTD plans/planning incorporating WASH
 - Health information systems that collect joint indicators on WASH and NTDs
 - Good projects on the ground and increased financing for these
 - Increased success in control and elimination of NTDs

Having established the 5 year vision, delegates broke out into smaller groups to determine what actions would need to be taken and by whom to attain this vision. Broadly, four specific areas of focus emerged:

1. Monitoring and indicators

Actions suggested included: establishing core shared monitoring indicators – such as the hygiene indicators formulated yesterday – that could be recommended to the WHO Strategic and Technical Advisory Group on NTDs; and establishing an NTD proxy for measuring the impact of WASH programmes.

2. Leveraging financing

Actions suggested included: increasing donor coordination and advocacy around WASH/NTDs collaboration; investigating the possible use of multi-donor pooled funds to finance implementation on WASH/NTDs programmes; and getting WASH and NTDs on the Sanitation and Water for All High Level Meeting agenda.

3. Broadening common knowledge of WASH/NTDs

Actions suggested included: establishing training materials/sharing best practice on joint WASH and NTDs programming; scaling up the use of joint planning tools such as the F&E Toolkit and the WASH and NTDs Manual; and establishing an easily-accessible high-level repository for WASH/NTDs research.

4. London Declaration Scorecard

The principle action suggested was seeking to establish a united WASH voice within the Uniting to Combat NTDs coalition. It was envisaged that this would entail the inclusion of WASH progress (such as GLAAS measures) on the Scorecard, both as a standalone indicator and also embedded within each disease reporting.

Next Steps

At the close of the Roundtable, delegates were keen to move the collaborative agenda forward. It was determined that:

- The inaugural meeting of the NTD NGDO Network WASH Working Group on 22nd September 2014 in Paris presented the perfect opportunity for moving the work plan forward.
- A SHARE Consortium representative will present the main discussions, outcomes and proposed actions for the NNN WASH Working Group at this meeting.
- The preliminary work plan developed by delegates will assist in moving inter-sectoral collaboration forward.
- Two journal papers summarising progress since Seattle and the indicators Roundtable delegates propose govern collaboration between the WASH and NTDs sectors going forward will be published.

Participants List

Name	Position and Organisation	Email Address
Dr. David ADDIS	Director, Children Without Worms	daddiss@taskforce.org
Aparna BARUA	Advocacy Officer, Sabin Foundation Europe TSIC	aparna.barua@sabinfoundation.org.uk
Renuka BERY	Senior Program Manager, FHI 360	rbery@fhi360.org
Dr. Nana Kwadwo BIRITWUM	Director of Neglected Tropical Diseases, Ministry of Health, Ghana	nanakwadwo.biritwum@ghsmail.org
Prof. Sandy CAIRNCROSS	Research Director, SHARE Research Consortium and Professor of Environmental Health, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine	sandy.cairncross@lshtm.ac.uk
Kelly CALLAHAN	Director Trachoma Control Program, The Carter Center	ecallah@emory.edu
Edwina CHIN	Consultant, International Development, PWC	edwina.chin@uk.pwc.com
Susan DAVIS	Executive Director, Improve International	sdavis@improveinternational.org
Dr. Jeroen ENSINK	Capacity Building Manager, SHARE Research Consortium and Lecturer in Public Health Engineering, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine	Jeroen.Ensink@lshtm.ac.uk
Fiona FLEMING	Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Manager, Schistosomiasis Control Initiative, Imperial College	f.fleming@imperial.ac.uk
John GIBB	Policy Analyst (NTDs), Department for International Development	j-gibb@dfid.gov.uk

Bruce GORDON	Coordinator, Water, Sanitation, Hygiene and Health, Department of Public Health, Social and Environmental Determinants of Health, World Health Organization	gordonb@who.int
Jack GRIMES	PhD Candidate, Water & Sanitation, and Schistosomiasis, Imperial College	jack.grimes10@imperial.ac.uk
Helen HAMILTON	Policy Advisor (NTDs), Sightsavers	hhamilton@sightsavers.org
Dr. Wendy HARRISON	Managing Director, Schistosomiasis Control Initiative, School of Public Health, Imperial College	w.harrison@imperial.ac.uk
Dr. Deirdre HOLLINGWORTH	Assistant Professor, Mathematics Institute & School of Life Sciences, University of Warwick	Deirdre.Hollingsworth@warwick.ac.uk
Iain JONES	Economic Adviser, Health Services Team, Department for International Development	I-Jones@dfid.gov.uk
Michaela KELLY	Project Director, Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust, Sightsavers	mkelly@sightsavers.org
Seung LEE	Director of School Health and Nutrition, Save the Children	slee@savechildren.org
Cheryl LETTENMAIER	Regional Representative, The Johns Hopkins, Bloomberg School of Public Health, Center for Communication Programs	cheryll@jhuccpug.org
Aryc MOSHER	Program Officer, Neglected Infectious Diseases, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation	Aryc.Mosher@gatesfoundation.org
Dr. Abimbola ODUMOSU	Senior WASH Advisor, Save the Children	a.odumosu@savethechildren.org.uk

Karen PALACIO	Program Director, The End Fund	kpalacio@end.org
Joseph PEARCE	Programme Officer, Monitoring, IRCWASH	pearce@ircwash.org
James PENDER	Programmes & Advocacy Officer – Asia, The Leprosy Mission England & Wales	JamesP@tlmew.org.uk
Dr. Rachel PULLAN	Lecturer & Deputy Departmental Research Degree Co-ordinator for Department of Disease Control, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine	Rachel.Pullan@lshtm.ac.uk
Faith ROSE	Manager, Education Sector Team, Children’s Investment Fund Foundation	FRose@ciff.org
Angelia SANDERS	Associate Director, Trachoma Control Program, The Carter Center	angelia.sanders@emory.edu
Prof. Juerg Utzinger	Epidemiology and Public Health, Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute	Juerg.utzinger@unibas.ch
Dr. Yaobi ZHANG	Africa Regional Advisor, Neglected Tropical Diseases, Helen Keller International	y Zhang@hki.org

Roundtable Organizing Committee

Name	Position and Organisation	Email Address
Barbara EVANS (Facilitator)	Associate Professor, Water and Environmental Engineering, University of Leeds	b.e.evans@leeds.ac.uk

Alexandra CHITTY (SHARE Research Consortium Representative)	Research Uptake Officer, SHARE Research Consortium	Alexandra.Chitty@lshtm.ac.uk
Dr. Matthew FREEMAN	Assistant Professor of Environmental Health, Emory University	mcfreem@emory.edu
Kim KOPORC	Director of Program Implementation, Children Without Worms	KKoporc@taskforce.org
Stephanie OGDEN	Senior Water Policy Advisor, CARE Water Team	sogden@care.org
Nigel PEDLINGHAM	Project Officer - Trachoma, The Fred Hollows Foundation	npedlingham@hollows.org
Virginia SARAH	Global Partnership Executive, The Fred Hollows Foundation, and Vice Chair, International Coalition for Trachoma Control	vsarah@hollows.org
Yael VELLEMAN	Senior Policy Analyst Health & Sanitation, WaterAid	YaelVelleman@wateraid.org
Geordie WOODS	Technical Advisor, Neglected Tropical Diseases, Sightsavers	gwoods@sightsavers.org
Robyn WAITE (Event Coordinator)	Consultant, SHARE Research Consortium, and United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health. Accountability Assistant, WaterAid	robynchristinewaite@gmail.com / robynwaite@wateraid.org



Research for sanitation and hygiene solutions

The world is seriously off-track in meeting the Millennium Development Goal on sanitation and 2.6 billion people are still without a safe toilet.

SHARE aims to address these challenges by accelerating progress on sanitation and hygiene in developing countries by generating rigorous and relevant research, and ensuring new and existing solutions are adopted at scale.

The consortium conducts research across four pillars:

- Health
- Equity
- Urban
- Markets

SHARE's activities primarily take place in its focus countries:

- Bangladesh
- India
- Malawi
- Tanzania

The DFID-funded SHARE consortium is led by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Its other partners are the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh, International Institute for Environment and Development, Shack/Slum Dwellers International and WaterAid.