The Evidence Base for School WASH
USAID’s Experience

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USAID Support of WASH-friendly Schools

What We Tracked (2006-2010):

• Hardware and technology:
  – presence and quality of water and sanitation infrastructure; operations and maintenance
  – hand washing station and soap
  – water treatment products and safe storage

• School-based hygiene promotion activities:
  – teachers trained
  – presence and use of WASH curriculum
  – active hygiene clubs

• School-to-community activities:
  – active PTA; hygiene outreach to the community
WASH in Schools Improves:

- School attendance
- Hygiene behaviors
- Uptake of WASH facilities and hygiene practices in the family and community
- Students’ health
- Learning outcomes
- Teacher deployment/retention
Filling in the Knowledge Gaps

WASH in Schools in Zambia:

– SPLASH (Schools Producing Learning Advancement through Sanitation and Hygiene)
  • 4-year, national WASH in Schools initiative in the MOE
  • Sponsored by USAID/Zambia, MOE
  • Overall objective to improve:
    – health, learning and educational performance of students
    – sustainable access to safe water, adequate sanitation
    – adoption of better hygiene and health practices through WASH in Schools
    – WASH coverage in 80 percent of basic schools by 2015
School Hygiene Improvement Framework

Access to Hardware
- Water supply
- Sanitation systems
- Simple enabling technologies and materials
- Deworming drugs

Hygiene Promotion
- Mass media
- School Led Total Sanitation
- Community participation
- School clubs/extracurricular
- Training
- Curriculum reform/supplements

Hygiene Improvement

Diarrheal Disease Prevention
Learning Improvement

Enabling Environment
- Policy improvement
- Institutional strengthening
- Financing and cost recovery
- Cross-sector coordination
- Partnerships
- Private sector involvement
The M&E Challenge

What will be tracked in Zambia:

• Infrastructure coverage, operation and maintenance
• Teacher performance outcomes
• Learning outcomes—near and long-term
• Behavioral outcomes
• School outcomes—attendance
• Menstrual management
What else would we like to know?

• Are students agents of change in their families and communities?
• Management approaches for O&M—What works?
• Effective approaches for maintaining soap at HW stations in schools
• Impact of content and teaching methodology on WASH learning outcomes
• Essential policy framework for WASH in Schools
• How do you engage the community—What works?
Would filling the gaps in impact data affect our ability to “sell” WASH in Schools?

• Challenge of promoting WASH in Schools at USAID:
  – not a area of focus for WASH investment

• Potential benefit of having a stronger, more easily accessible evidence base:
  – better ammunition for WINS advocates
  – better justification for decision-makers
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