Water, Sanitation and Hygiene to accelerate and sustain progress on Neglected Tropical Diseases

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“NTDs thrive under conditions of poverty and filth. They tend to cluster together in places where housing is substandard, drinking water is unsafe, sanitation is poor, access to health care is limited or non-existent, and insect vectors are constant household and agricultural companions... This opens opportunities for integrated approaches, for simplification, cost-effectiveness, and streamlined efficiency”.

Margaret Chan, WHO Director General
Five key interventions to combat NTDs

- Preventive Chemotherapy
- Innovative and intensified disease management
- Vector control and pesticide management
- Safe drinking-water, basic sanitation and hygiene services
- Zoonotic-disease management
WASH is critical for:

**Prevention**
- Breaking the transmission cycle

**Treatment and care**
- Wound management and limb care, surgery, inpatient care
- Accessible WASH services for those with physical impairments
- Prevention of stigma-based exclusion from WASH services
Need to collaborate is obvious but...

- Two sectors with (seemingly) different focus
- Limited communication
- Limited evidence/guidance on *how* to deliver WASH alongside other NTDs intervention most effectively
- Consequently – focus on delivery of medical/treatment interventions, less progress on prevention through environmental and behavioural interventions
Opportunities

- Sustainability
- Cost-effective
- SDGs – maximizing healthy lives, UHC, universal access to WASH
- Examples
Water Sanitation & Hygiene
for accelerating and sustaining progress on Neglected Tropical Diseases

A GLOBAL STRATEGY
2015—2020
VISION

Accelerated and sustained achievement of the NTD roadmap milestones, particularly among the poorest and most vulnerable, through better targeted and joint WASH and NTD efforts.

- Improve awareness of the co-benefits of joint WASH and NTDs action by sharing experience and evidence from improved delivery.
- Use WASH and NTDs monitoring to highlight inequalities, target investment, and track progress.
- Strengthen evidence on how to deliver effective WASH interventions for NTD control and elimination and embed findings in guidance and practice.
- Plan, deliver and evaluate WASH and NTDs programmes with mutual inputs from WASH, health and NTDs stakeholders at all levels.
Examples

Documenting and sharing lessons learnt

Planning tools and training material on WASH for national NTD programme managers

Please send case studies to WASHandNTDs@who.int
Joint mapping and situation analysis exercise in Ethiopia
Examples

Community-led multisectoral intervention for elimination of schistosomiasis and soil-transmitted helminthiases (CL-SWASH) in Lao PDR and Cambodia
Implement risk assessment and management approach in schistosomiasis and STH-endemic communities

Task 1. Engage community and assemble a team

Task 2. Describe the community water supply and sanitation situation

Task 3. Identify and assess hazards and hazardous events, risks and existing control measures

Task 4. Develop and implement an incremental improvement plan

Task 5. Monitor control measures and verify effectiveness of the plan

Task 6. Document, review and improve all aspects of the plan implementation
Identifying health risks with water and sanitation

- people still practice open defecation, contaminating the river,
- most villagers are fishermen and many community members enter the river on a daily basis,
- hygiene practice is generally poor,
- although the snails live attached to the rocks, snail control is not applicable in this vast river.

Free-swimming schistosomes infect their human hosts by penetrating the skin. Children are directly exposed through contact with water. Eggs are released with human faeces or urine, and enter the water. Snails become infectious when larvae from eggs penetrate snail tissue. Once matured, snails shed infected larvae into the water. Life cycle of disease repeats.

Sanitation helps break the cycle: this includes access and use of safe sanitation facilities as well as safe management of faeces across the sanitation supply chain (faecal sludge management).
Implement measures to manage risks

- The efforts by the households to improve access to appropriate sanitary facilities and safe water supply are monitored and upheld by the members of the volunteer Water Safety Plan team, if necessary using a specific community fund.

- Intensive discussions with national, provincial and district-level officers responsible for NTD, water and sanitation, education and animal health on how to scale-up the CL SWASH, determining responsibilities.
In summary

- WASH is necessary to interrupt transmission

Opportunities for joint-action:
- Prioritization of WASH to areas of high endemicity
- Schools as a delivery platform for MDA and WASH (Hygiene promotion, coordination with WASH programmes for infrastructural improvements)
- Community engagement – risk based approaches (WSP, SSP)
- Documenting and sharing experiences and lessons learnt – experiences from your country?
Thank you

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