



BabyWASH: Learnings and Opportunities for Ensuring Health in the First 1,000 Days of Life

Peter Hynes, Emily Matos, Jeanette Selep,
Kristie Urich

World Vision, BabyWASH Coalition

International Focus



What is BabyWASH?

BabyWASH is the idea that an integrated approach is better than siloed programming for children in the first 1,000 days of life.

BabyWASH encourages key multi-sectoral actions between the sectors of:

- **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)**
- **Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (MNCH)**
- **Nutrition**
- **Early Childhood Development (ECD)**

43% of children under 5 in low- and middle-income countries are at risk of not reaching their full developmental potential due to stunting and poverty

*The Lancet. Early childhood development
coming of age: Science through the life course.*

What is BabyWASH?

BabyWASH specifically focuses on:

- 1) Environmental hygiene in the community and at the home to prevent environmental enteric dysfunction (EED)
- 2) Clean birth at health facilities to prevent maternal and neonatal death from sepsis



22% of child deaths in the first month of life are due to infection-related causes (pneumonia and sepsis)

World Health Organization (2015)



BabyWASH Matters

The effects of poor WASH during the first 1,000 days of life can determine whether a child will reach his or her full developmental potential.



Evidence Based Hotspots

From a review of over 30 sources, 5 hotspots were chosen to have the biggest impact on children's health in the first 1,000 days

Pregnancy



Labour & Delivery



Newborn Period



Onset of mobility and exploration



Introduction of complementary feeding



Addressing BabyWASH Gaps

BabyWASH is not an intervention package. It is a structural framework and lens to help discern where gaps may exist in proposed interventions.





Papua New Guinea

There are strong WASH and Health/Nutrition actors in Papua New Guinea that allow us to move towards a more integrated BabyWASH approach.

Co-Location:
Programs happen to occur in same area

Coordination:
Some program elements or messages are harmonized between co-located programs

Collaboration:
Field workers plan and strategize together

Synergy:
Partners are trained across disciplines and the program is carried out as one



***87% peri-urban and rural population are poorly served
33% access clean, safe drinking water (up from 24% in 1990)
13% access improved sanitation (unchanged from 1990)***

PNG National WASH Policy 2015-2030

Health and WASH Integration in PNG

Access to appropriate WASH facilities

- Software skills (management, facilitation, etc)
- Hardware skills (VIP latrine set-up, gravity fed system, water catchment facilities)

Health System Strengthening

- Improve capacity of health worker – Healthy Island Concept, IMCI, IYCF, Hospital care, EPI (new vaccines, etc.), strengthen monitoring (using smartsheets)

Home-based counselling/visits

- Improve knowledge of pregnant mother/caregiver

Vehicles towards behaviour change

- VHV (adapted ttC model) - Build on household visits
- Healthy Islands Concept (Yanuca Declaration, Mar 1995)

Health and WASH Integration in PNG

World Vision – Markham District, Morobe Province (2014-17)

- Gravity-fed and rainwater harvesting systems installed serving:
 - 6 communities
 - 4 health centres
 - 23 primary schools
- Health centre workers trained in HIC



Measuring Change

Baseline results

Malnutrition prevalence was;

- **Underweight (*weight for age*):**
16%
- **Stunting (*height for age*):**
24%
- **Wasting (*weight for height*):**
10%

Evaluation Results

Improvements have been made;

- **Underweight (*weight for age*):**
15.9%
- **Stunting (*height for age*):**
19.6%
- **Wasting (*weight for height*):**
2.3%

Learnings, Challenges and Innovations

Learnings

- Household visits and healthy island concept has been effective
- Communities rearranged houses, flower beds, gardens, as part of community initiative and drive to change
- Local government support (effective partnership from community and government)

Innovation and Challenges

- Integrating WASH and health/nutrition messages in savings groups helped improving hygiene, sanitation and nutrition
- Healthy Islands Concept – community engagement tool that has not been very successful in PNG

Key Learnings

World Vision recently held BabyWASH workshops (Cambodia, Kenya and Mali) in the last three months and the following key takeaways can help strengthen PNG's integrated programming:

1. Rallying around Sepsis (WASH safe births) and Environmental Hygiene (i.e. HIC) can be key catalysts for getting multiple sectors enthusiastic to work together
2. High-level leadership must buy-in to allow people the space to work on integrated programs
3. Hygiene messaging can more intentionally be placed into additional sector strategies to enhance overlap

“Early childhood development is so important, and the cost of our collective inaction is very high. A poor start in the early years can lead to poor health, nutrition, and learning – estimated to result in a loss of about a quarter of average adult income per year”

Every Woman, Every Child

The Way Forward

Asia-Pacific has a lot of high functioning development sectors in action. Therefore, BabyWASH could be implemented with a few minor tweaks:

- A pivot from MDG access focus to SDG quality focus (Children survive and thrive)
- Visionary leadership to take chances on more multi-sectoral models
- Collaboration within and between organizations
- Flexible funding and reporting that don't fit into siloed structures



Implementation Tools

WV has created a BabyWASH toolkit with key tools a team can use to implement. Tools include:

- Indicators to add into current surveys
- BabyWASH conceptual framework
- Guide for running a BabyWASH start-up workshop
- Summary of evidence
- Key messages for external audiences

There are other toolkits such as the ACF Multi-Sectoral monitoring and evaluation guidelines or WASH Nutrition guidebook.



BabyWASH Toolkit

World Vision International
Version I
May 2017

If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.

African Proverb

For more information about the BabyWASH Coalition, please e-mail:

admin@babywashcoalition.org

Or visit:

Babywashcoalition.org

For more information about the World Vision BabyWASH toolkit, please e-mail:

BabyWASH@wvi.org



Collaboration for Universal WASH

 #WASHFutures18

