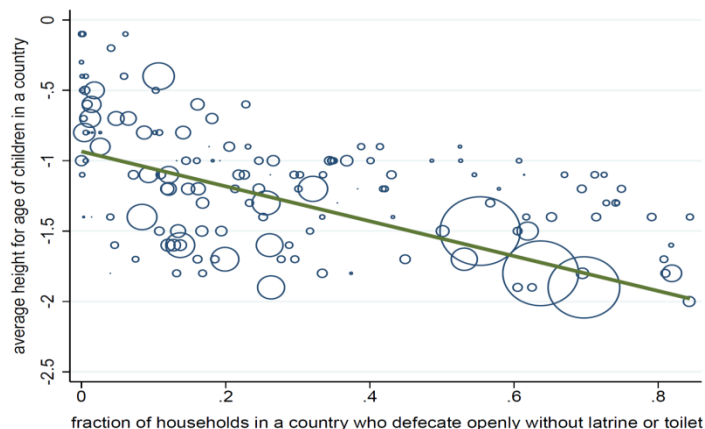


Comments/Questions from BabyWASH Call I June 2016

In an attempt to distil the key comments and questions from the BabyWASH WebEx, we have compiled this detailed list of comments and questions broken down by the sections of the presentation. For further discussion, please consider posting on the BabyWASH topics on the SuSanA website at: <http://forum.susana.org/forum/categories/248-babywash>

Evidence

- The reason there is little evidence for the effect of integrated programming is because it is harder and more expensive to do than siloed programme related research.
- We need to highlight the relationship between diarrhoea and death particularly in infants.
- It's also concerning that stunting is happening also 'in-utero' as the children are already born short-for-age
- Important to note that there is an association of unsafe water source with anemia, so not just the unhygienic environment but water source also
- Information from the SHINE trial will continue to elucidate the links between ECD, WASH and Nutrition: http://cid.oxfordjournals.org/content/61/suppl_7/S685.full
- **Q:** What is the evidence base for the promotion of a 'clean/hygienic' play environment for children? My understanding is that the evidence doesn't support a sterile play environment, and even that the Hygiene hypothesis is based on the idea that too clean prevents adequate immune establishment in early childhood. Can we clarify the evidence position on this?
A: It is impossible in a household environment to provide a completely sterile environment so it is unlikely the play space would be "too clean"
- **Q:** How does open defecation relate to stunting?
A: Diagram from Spears 2012 paper that didn't show in the slides during the presentation.



- **Q:** Homes with poor sanitation have lower health seeking behaviours surely – so is poor sanitation really linked with Maternal Mortality?
A: A very large study done by LSHTM showed clear associations between lack of household sanitation with maternal mortality: <http://ideas.lshtm.ac.uk/news/water-sanitation-environment-and-maternal-mortality-research-highlight>
As did this study: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24506558> - Although it is true that not enough studies address confounders.

Metrics

- Clean, Fed and Nurtured held a consultative meeting to get consensus on integration indicators. Here is the meeting report:
<https://cleanfednurtured.files.wordpress.com/2016/01/cfn-consultative-meeting-final-report-2015.pdf>
And the list of indicators for each sector:
http://www.coregroup.org/storage/documents/Indicators_CFN_05Oct2015v2.pdf
- There is no indicator in that list of responsive feeding which is a key behaviour to promote that spans across nutrition and ECD. SPRING is testing a composite indicator on responsive feeding that would be good to share.
- It would be good to talk with the group led by WHO that is working for the Every Women Every Child Global Strategy on a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework as it would be good to see how to get integration compound metrics for babyWASH related programmes.
- I still think we need to add /develop another category of integration indicator which probably has a few dimensions 1) 'to what degree' is an activity integrated, e.g. co-located, resource sharing, truly integrated; 2) have synergies, efficiencies, increased access, community involvement, etc been enhanced
- **Q:** Do we have harmonized indicators between DHS and MICS for these indicators or are there some key differences you would like to highlight?
A: Yes, (a) the MICS collect the child sanitation data for all children under 3 in the household, whereas the DHS collect it for the youngest child under 5 in the household. Also, (b) the person asked the question is different. These two things should be noted when using data from both sources, like we did in the country profiles: wsp.org/content/ensuring-safe-sanitation-children-0
- **Q:** Are there any metrics being discussed - on the child's household 'play' or living environment?
A: There are a number of other WASH access/explanatory indicators that are collected at the household or school level, and hence about the living/play environment. Those used at the global monitoring level include at the household level: availability of materials for appropriate handwashing; sanitation; drinking water; and WASH in schools.

Programme Guidance

- Immediate and exclusive breastfeeding is a key intervention that is so important linking newborn nutrition and WASH and preventing neonatal mortality. Should be highlighted as one of the hotspots.
- We should try to understand how ECD centres function with the very young infant as well as play spaces at the household
- WHO and UNICEF have developed a tool called WASH FIT that is used to improve WASH in Health care facilities. This tool is very complementary to BabyWASH
- There are current efforts on-going between the Global Nutrition Cluster, Global WASH cluster and Global Health cluster to improve integration of these sectors in humanitarian response. We should keep in mind, as a future opportunity. The BabyWASH concept very much applies and is needed, in emergencies.
- Save the Children UK will soon release a study "Sanitation for Infants and young children in emergencies" that could relate

Advocacy

- The hotspots infographic could make a great advocacy tool with some easy tweaks to the language
- Could be some good synergy with the healthy start initiative that WaterAid is spearheading: <http://www.wateraid.org/policy-practice-and-advocacy/healthy-start>
- We need to strategically think about the relationship with efforts to "re-package" the strengthening of Primary Health Care being spearheaded by WHO and Gates?
- DefeatDD.org/blog and the site more broadly is a great way to spread the word about integrated efforts.
- Feels like we need to have someone map the policy/global frameworks for the 4 sectors and then point out some intersections and points of integration where nutrition could add in some WASH sensitive calls or where WASH could be more ECD/nutrition sensitive, perhaps in a series of policy briefs