

EVENT REPORT

University of North Carolina Water & Health Conference 2015

(26th - 30th October 2015, USA)



Acknowledgements

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Photo (left)

*Credit:
LSHTM/Joanna
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Summary

Every year, global WASH experts descend on the Water Institute at the University of North Carolina (UNC) for its annual [Water & Health Conference: Where Science Meets Policy](#). This year, SHARE research featured in a number of sessions: three verbal presentations showcased findings from SHARE investments, and SHARE was involved in five side events on a variety of important topics, including maternal and newborn health, menstrual hygiene management, gender, neglected tropical diseases, and complementary food hygiene.

Verbal Presentations

When Pits Fill Up: sanitation technology adoption and adaptation in urban Malawi.

This presentation was delivered by Joe Brown on behalf of [Richard Chunga](#), SHARE PhD student at LSHTM. Demand for sanitation is often assessed through a survey whereby respondents are presented with hypothetical but realistic sanitation technology options to choose from (stated preference). In this study, demand for sanitation was assessed by observing actual sanitation technology choices that households demanding sanitation services would make (revealed preference). A sanitation marketing intervention was implemented in Blantyre and Lilongwe (Malawi). The intervention involved developing sanitation technology catalogues, recruiting sales agents and distributing catalogues to the sales agents. The role of the sales agents was to identify sanitation customers and link them with masons.

For more information, contact Richard Chunga: Richard.Chunga@lshtm.ac.uk

Sanitation-Related Psychosocial Distress: measuring the social, psychological and emotional impact of women's limited sanitation access in India.

Rachel Chase, John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, presented on a SHARE-funded study which developed a theoretically grounded tool to quantify sanitation-related psychosocial stress. The study found that access to a sanitation facility was an important determinant of sanitation-related stress, but, crucially, that improvements in quality of life due to sanitation infrastructure were indirect and mediated through the experience of access and using the facilities in question. This tool has the potential to make a huge contribution to the sector by enabling the measurement of an abstract but crucial concept for sector improvement.

The research forms part of a [larger SHARE-funded study in rural India](#), which documented the complex and often overlapping physical, social and gender-based violence vulnerabilities that women face with respect to sanitation and how these vulnerabilities are shaped by access to resources, life stage and contextual factors.

For more information, contact Robert Dreibelbis: rdreibe@ou.edu

Household and Compound Sanitation Conditions and Synanthropic Filth Fly Populations in a Peri-Urban Setting in Kenya.

John Anderson, University of Florida, presented on his PhD study which is part of the larger, SHARE-funded, [WASH Disparities project](#) between the Great Lakes University of Kisumu, the Kenya Medical Research Institute, LSHTM, and the University of Florida. This project aims to highlight some of the key issues associated with poor WASH in such informal settlements and how these might be overcome.

For more information, contact John Anderson: j5anders@epi.ufl.edu

Side Events

WASH and Maternal and Newborn Health – using the current evidence base to move from joint thinking to joint action.

This was a session co-convened by SHARE with the World Health Organization (WHO), the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) and WaterAid. The purpose was to bring together water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and maternal and newborn health (MNH) sector actors from research, policy and implementation backgrounds to consolidate [what we know on the impact of WASH on MNH](#) and discuss the implications for concrete action to accelerate WASH service provision at home and in healthcare facilities to improve MNH. Presentations covered: evidence of health impacts, practitioners/researchers' experience, and implications for action. This workshop was jointly conceived with an additional WHO/UNICEF-led session on WASH in health care facilities, and provided critical background to inform that session's discussion on proven, practical actions to improve WASH in health care facilities.

WASH's Invisible Women: expanding the WASH/Gender agenda.

This session was convened by CARE, the University of Oklahoma, Emory University, USAID, WaterAid and Millennium Water Alliance, and facilitated by SHARE. The long-term objective of the session was for gender to be an integrated component across the WASH sector. Therefore, it focused on sharing new data, new tools and new approaches that can be incorporated into existing WASH research and practice, and laid the groundwork for future collaborations and workshops focused on transitioning gender mainstreaming from a concept and a discussion into a reality. SHARE-funded research into the psychosocial impacts of inadequate sanitation on women and girls in India was presented, amongst other studies.

Menstrual Hygiene Management Training for Practitioners: from research into use.

This 'training of trainers' workshop, convened by WaterAid, UNICEF, Emory University, and Columbia University, sought to build the confidence and competence of practitioners to integrate menstrual hygiene management (MHM) into development initiatives and programmes. The workshop was geared towards developing a cadre that can replicate the training more widely and apply the learning in their own work to further integrate MHM into research, policy and practice; and to strengthen alliances and knowledge networks on MHM globally for improved MHM programming. Participants developed their knowledge and skills to take a programmatic approach to MHM that integrates research and analysis, implementation and advocacy. They also developed communication skills and confidence to address menstrual hygiene in their working contexts. The session was based on tested training tools and materials developed drawing on the SHARE-funded [Menstrual Hygiene Management Matters Guidelines](#).

No Longer a Pipe Dream – tools to make WASH-NTD integration a reality.

SHARE co-convened this session with USAID, WASHplus and CARE. Neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) affect the health, well-being, and livelihoods of more than a billion of the world's poorest people. Recently the NTD community has begun to recognise that the control and eventual elimination of many NTDs depend heavily on access to and use of improved

WASH in affected communities. WASH stakeholders also increasingly recognise that the populations most affected by NTDs are often the most vulnerable and marginalized groups - the same groups that should be targeted in efforts to achieve universal access to WASH by 2030. [SHARE has been involved in pushing forward this agenda for the last five years](#). It commissioned a number of important systematic reviews and convened a [European Roundtable in 2014](#) as a follow up to the 2012 Seattle WASH/NTD Roundtable discussion sponsored by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. This session shared an update on the most recent efforts to accelerate integration of WASH into NTD programmes, including the drive for integrated monitoring, which was a main outcome of the 2014 roundtable.

You Are What You Eat: behavioural approaches to addressing the neglected WASH area of food hygiene.

This event, co-convened by SHARE/LSHTM with WaterAid, the USAID Fanta project and USAID/WASHplus, presented the evidence base on the impact of WASH on food hygiene, and, through this transmission route, on child health. [Dr Om Prasad-Gautam](#), a former SHARE PhD student now leading programmatic work on hygiene at WaterAid, presented findings from his [food hygiene intervention in Nepal](#). Evidence gaps were also highlighted, but the session then moved on to providing concrete examples of action that can and should be taken given what we know already. WASHplus presented their approach to taking the WHO Five Keys to Safer Food and translating them into actionable approaches to address food hygiene in resource constrained settings.

All in all, the conference was a fantastic opportunity to communicate SHARE research, learn from others and strengthen or build new contacts with others in the WASH sector and beyond who are committed to building knowledge to improve sector performance.

Presentations for each of the sessions will be made available on the [UNC website](#).



Research for sanitation and hygiene solutions

The SHARE Research Consortium comprises eight organisations that have come together to generate rigorous and relevant research for use in the field of sanitation and hygiene. The purpose is to join together the energy and resources of these partners in order to make a real difference to the lives of people all over the world who struggle with the realities of poor sanitation and hygiene.

SHARE is led by the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) and includes the following partners:

- Centre for Infectious Disease Research, Zambia (CIDRZ)
- Great Lakes University of Kisumu, Kenya (GLUK)
- International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B)
- International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)
- Mwanza Interventions Trial Unit, Tanzania (MITU)
- Shack/Slum Dwellers International (SDI)
- University of Malawi (College of Medicine and Polytechnic)
- WaterAid

The SHARE core team work from LSHTM.

November 2015