WASH: A STRATEGY TO ADVANCE MNCH
WHY WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE ARE INTEGRAL TO MATERNAL, NEWBORN, AND CHILD HEALTH

Access to WASH throughout a girl’s life yields positive impacts for generations

**Infant Mortality Rates** are reduced **7X** in countries with access to improved sanitation

**Child Handwashing** during the first **30 months** of age results in significant gains in global developmental quotients such as height, weight, and social skills

**Over 50%** of primary schools in developing countries lack adequate water facilities

**Over 40%** of diarrheal cases in school children result from transmission at school, not at home

**50 – 95%** of girls miss up to four days of school per month because of menstruation. 39% reported reduced performance

A **15 minute** reduction time in water collection can increase the proportion of girls attending school by **8-12%**

**44% reduction** in risks of child deaths if mothers WASH their hands with soap prior to handling their newborn children

Projects involving **WOMEN** are more likely to positively influence the **HEALTH & HYGIENE** of the next generation

Each **10%** increase in female literacy can increase a country’s economy by **0.3%**. Women who attend school are also less likely to die during childbirth.

---

**Quick Facts**

1,500,000

**Children die every year from** WATeR-Related Diseases

20kg/44lbs

**The weight of water containers carried by girls/women on heads, hips or backs, for an average of 6km each day**

5-7 years

**Effects from early childhood diarrhea due to inadequate WASH** last at least 5 to 7 years, hindering school readiness and school performance due to impaired cognitive function

---

**Access to WASH can reduce cases of:***

**Diarrhea**

As diarrhea causes dehydration, it creates a moister cycle of also requiring a higher dose of antibiotics to manage the infection. It leads to a 33% reduction in children’s growth. Every time a child is hospitalized, the effects can be worse. A reduction in WASH can lead to reduced hospital stays and improved growth in children.

**Neglected Tropical Diseases**

A combination of poor hygiene related to food management, including child feces contact, can result in a 33% reduction in helminth infections, and one of the key causes of water is a 45% reduction.

**Tropical Entropathies**

A reduction in WASH can lead to reduced hospital stays and improved growth in children.

**Anemia**

Adequate consumption of iron and vitamins affects kids over 130 million people worldwide, and this is linked to anemia. A reduction in WASH can reduce the effects.

**Malaria**

Better management of WASH reduces transmission of malaria, which is responsible for 1.2 billion deaths a year. The costs of WASH are $60 per child and $6 per adult.

---

**Cost-Effectiveness of WASH**

- **Every $1** spent on water and sanitation yields **$4** in increased productivity and decreased health care costs
- **Hygiene and sanitation promotion** are among the most **cost-effective** health interventions at **$5 - $10** per DALY averted
- GDP growth of poor countries **without** significant access to WASH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GDP Growth of Poor Countries</th>
<th>GDP Growth of Poor Countries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Without Significant Access to WASH</td>
<td>With Significant Access to WASH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Taking Action: Integrating WASH and MNCH**

- Integrate WASH policies into national MNCH strategies. Join coalitions such as the Partnership for Newborn & Maternal Health, which includes full WASH integration into MNCH.
- Link vaccine delivery programs and other primary health care initiatives with WASH promotion and implementation.
- Include WASH-related indicators in monitoring and evaluation. Research shows that ongoing presence reduces likelihood of recurrence of NTDs.
- Leverage WASH to achieve increased reductions in MNCH mortality and morbidity.