

## EVALUATION OF BASIC HYGIENE AND BEHAVIOR KNOWLEDGE WITH AN EMPHASIS ON HAND WASHING IN BURKINA FASO

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The multiple use services (MUS) activity implemented under USAID WA-WASH aims to enable rural households to improve sustainable and fair access to water, income, health, hygiene and food security through the introduction of viable services for the multiple uses of water. To understand the dynamics of the environment we work in, a study was conducted in three regions of Burkina Faso.

This study is a knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) analysis of hygiene conditions in order to develop a health promotion strategy for the MUS communities. The specific objectives of the study were to: (1) identify recurring health problems related to water and sanitation in the villages; (2) determine the knowledge, attitudes and practices of people in terms of water use, sanitation practices and health issues in the villages; (3) identify the determinants of risk behavior and poor hygiene practices; (4) define a hygiene promotion approach adapted to the local context; and (5) define the monitoring and evaluation indicators of the approach.

The study was conducted between February and March 2013 in the villages of Koudiéré, Vilpalogo and Weglega in the province of Kadiogo; Koukouldi in the province of Sanguié; Tiogo-Mossi in the province of Boulkiemdé; Moko Oullo and Yaro in the province of Ballé, and Nana in the province of Mouhoun.

This participatory study involved stakeholders directly or indirectly affected by issues of hygiene and health in the target villages. Non-statistical methods were used to collect qualitative data to complete the quantitative data of the MUS baseline survey conducted in 2012. The main findings of the study include:

1. The diseases caused by poor body hygiene and lack of hygiene in general are mostly the reason for consultations in health centers. The data shows that people understand the link between unsafe drinking water, poor hygiene and common diseases. However, malaria was identified as the primary disease affecting people in the target communities.
2. The main source of drinking water is traditional wells. Although people are aware of the water bad quality, most do not treat it before drinking
3. The hand-washing habits of most people do not meet basic requirements. Although people knew the key moments of hand-washing with soap, most do not wash their hands at any of these moments. In some schools and health centers which have been equipped with hand-washing facilities, these facilities are not functional, do not have soap or are not used.

There is a good knowledge of hygiene practices but very few households meet basic hygiene requirements to improve their health. A community based participatory approach for the promotion of hygiene will therefore be adopted by USAID WA-WASH to induce behavioral change, encourage households to adopt good hygiene practices relating to hand-washing with soap and promote safe drinking water.

Communication will be a major component of this strategy. It will focus on training/capacity building, information education communication (IEC), behavior change and communication (BCC) and monitoring and evaluation (M&E). Because domestic hygiene and health in the household are the responsibility of women in the target communities, the USAID WA-WASH hygiene promotion strategy will be gender sensitive.

*This is an executive summary of a report dated May 2013. The full report (in English) is available for download on our website under the publications section at: <http://hexa.fiu.edu/drr/index.htm?id=WAWASH>. For more details about our program activities and other reports please visit <http://wawash.fiu.edu/>*

This publication was funded by the people of the United States through the Agency for International Development (USAID) within the framework of the West Africa Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (USAID WA-WASH) Program. The views and opinions of authors expressed herein do not necessarily state or reflect those of the United States Agency for International Development of the United States Government.