WASH Away NTDs

Contact: http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/global/programs/wash-away-ntd.html

National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases (proposed)
Division of Foodborne, Waterborne, and Environmental Diseases (proposed)
Waterborne Disease Prevention Branch

Year Program Began
2009

Dedicated Staff
New program with one FTE, leveraging staff across the agency.

Where We Work
Guatemala

Our Program

CDC’s WASH Away NTDs Activity focuses on the impacts that improved water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) have on various diseases, including neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) such as soil-transmitted helminthiasis (STH), schistosomiasis, trachoma, and Guinea worm disease.

Many of the NTD programs focus on mass drug administration. However, with limited resources, the long-term sustainability of such treatment programs would be improved by placing a greater emphasis on prevention in addition to treatment. Improved integration of WASH interventions with these programs is a first step in reducing the burden of WASH-related diseases, including diarrheal illness. WASH infrastructure is already available in some areas where these diseases are common. However, such infrastructure is often not sustainable.

CDC’s WASH Away NTDs Activity is leveraging the agency’s relationships with other organizations and ministries of health to evaluate:

• WASH effectiveness in reducing disease.
• Enabling factors and barriers to WASH delivery and integration with disease programs.
• Sustainability of WASH interventions.

These findings will be used to develop evidence-based recommendations to successfully and sustainability integrate WASH into NTD programs.

Integration Across CDC Programs

CDF’s WASH Away NTDs Activity is beginning its work in Guatemala in partnership with the Universidad del Valle de Guatemala and the Ministerio de Salud Publica y Asistencia Social. A cross-agency team from the Waterborne Disease Prevention Branch (DFWED, NCEZID), the Parasitic Diseases Branch (DPDM, CGH), the International Emerging Infections Program (CGH), and the Environmental Global WASH Activity in the Environmental Health Services Branch (DEEHS, NCEH) is working with our partners in Guatemala to pilot test a toolkit of questionnaires and protocols that will assess disease prevalence (STH, diarrhea, respiratory illness) and WASH status using a variety of epidemiologic, laboratory, and environmental assessment methods. This toolkit will then be used in other settings and situations to assess disease impact and WASH sustainability. It will also form the basic platform on which to add future modules for other WASH-related NTDs (e.g., schistosomiasis, trachoma).