

WASH Away NTDs



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

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

Year Program Began
2009

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

Where We Work
Guatemala
Kenya

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 NTDs and 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 sustainably integrate WASH into NTD programs.

Integration Across CDC Programs

CDC's WASH Away NTDs Activity began its work in Guatemala in partnership with the Universidad del Valle de Guatemala and the Ministerio de Salud Pública y Asistencia Social. A cross-agency team from the **Waterborne Disease Prevention Branch (WDPB, DFWE, NCEZID)**, the **Parasitic Diseases Branch (PDB, DPDM, CGH)**, the **International Emerging Infections Program (IEIP, CGH)**, and the Environmental Global WASH Activity in the

Environmental Health Services Branch (EHHS, DEEHS, NCEH) worked with partners in Guatemala to pilot test a toolkit of questionnaires, laboratory methods, and environmental assessment protocols to evaluate disease prevalence (STH, diarrhea, respiratory illness) and WASH status. These data are being used to develop a WASH rapid assessment tool predictive of disease burden that could be used for WASH advocacy and infrastructure sustainability monitoring.

Components of this toolkit are now being used in Kenya by **WDPB, PDB, and IEIP** in collaboration with the Kenyan Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) to assess WASH impact on STH, diarrhea, respiratory illness in a different setting. These data will be compared to the Guatemala findings to further refine the WASH rapid assessment tool. The toolkit will also form a basic evaluation platform on which to add future modules for other WASH-related NTDs (e.g., schistosomiasis, trachoma).

