Measuring the Impact of WASH on Women's Well-being

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Background

- We know that women are negatively affected by lack of water and sanitation access

- We assume, therefore that improvements to WASH result in improvements to women's lives and wellbeing

- However, WASH programs rarely measure impacts on wider well-being

- Though access to and use of water and sanitation is inherently gendered, we don't often assess the particular impacts on the experience and impact on women and girls.

Impact of WASH on Women's Experience Tool (IWWT)

- A simple index to estimate:
  - Greater impact of improved WASH on women's well-being
  - Impact of WASH on particular realms of women's well-being

Direct : 7 questions	Indirect: 13 questions	Overall: 3 questions
Amount of water collected	Personal safety and security	Day to day life
Personal hygiene	Control over household resources	Financially
Respondent's health	The ability of women to make decisions and voice opinions	Empowerment

IWWT Questions

Ex: 'In comparison with before the WASH program was implemented,

Women's opportunities for education and training are...

	Score
Fewer than before	1
Not very different than before	2
A bit better than before	3
Significantly better than before	4

The IWWT in Mozambique

- Quantitative analysis

- 72 communities in Mozambique
- Focus group discussions with 3-5 women in each community
- Compared communities that had functioning water points to communities with broken water points

A few findings

- In total, women who live in communities with a functioning water point report significantly greater change than women who live in communities where the water point is no longer working
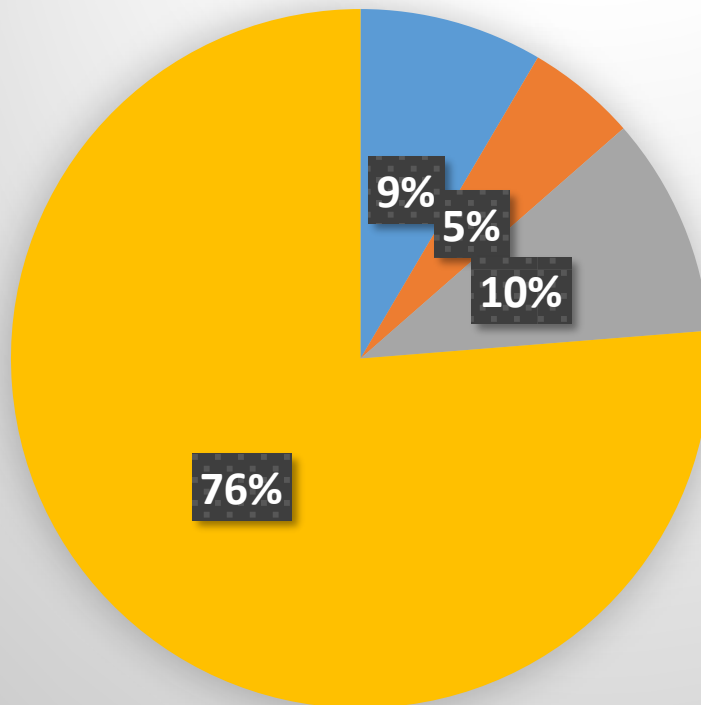
  - Reflected in overall scores

	Functioning	Non-functioning	P value
Total impact score (of 92 possible points)	79.9	62.7	.0008

  - Reflected in certain domains of women's experience

Example findings: direct impact

Compared with before ...

Amount of water collected

- less than before
- around the same
- a bit more
- double or more

9%
5%
10%
76%

A few findings: indirect impacts

- 86% of women felt their personal safety had significantly improved

- 84% of women felt they had significantly greater control over household resources after CARE's WASH program

- 79% felt that women's ability to make decisions and have their voices heard had significantly improved

- 76% felt that household production of vegetables, livestock, or goods for sale had significantly improved

- 71% of women felt their opportunities for education and training had improved (a bit or significantly)

A few findings

- Improved household relationships
  - In communities with a functioning water point, 85% of women feel that their household relationships have improved, and 68% say they have greatly improved.

Why do women feel this way?

- In 2014, used a qualitative approach
- Conducted IWWT with focus groups of women
- facilitated discussion around areas of significant change

- Two brief examples

Personal Safety and Security

- 53 of 59 focus groups responded that their personal safety and security when collecting water or going to the latrine is 'significantly better'

  - Decreased exposure to strange men

  - Decreased exposure to wild animals

  - Decreased suspicion and conflict at home that leads to domestic conflict and violence

"Men would climb trees to watch us take baths, but now we can bathe at home. It's much more private and safe."

-FGD participant in Balama District

Control over household resources

- 84% of women felt they had significantly greater control over household resources after CARE's WASH program

  - Increased water availability made some homes more financially secure (due to increased crop yields)

  - Decreased time spent collecting water allowed women more time to dedicate to agriculture and sale of crops

  - Women are more aware of their rights, and more secure in speaking up within the household and in the community

What next?

- Describing the nuance of improved WASH access:

  - Impact and experience among women and girls differs greatly at different stages of life, and in different situations

- How does this inform our WASH programs?

- How does this inform how we perceive of or measure impact of our programs?

  - What are we changing at the community level, and for whom?

Resources

Find the tool here:

http://water.care2share.wikispaces.net/file/view/IWWT_UserGuide.pdf

Other resources:

http://water.care2share.wikispaces.net/WOMEN+AND+WATER