

This item was submitted to Loughborough's Research Repository by the author. Items in Figshare are protected by copyright, with all rights reserved, unless otherwise indicated.

# Baby Wash approach study: Yobe state, Nigeria

PLEASE CITE THE PUBLISHED VERSION

**PUBLISHER** 

WEDC, Loughborough University

**VERSION** 

VoR (Version of Record)

LICENCE

CC BY-NC-ND 4.0

REPOSITORY RECORD

Banner, Brandie, Kanaganathan Rangaiya, Oke Patrcia, Makala Bako, and Tom Heath. 2021. "Baby Wash Approach Study: Yobe State, Nigeria". Loughborough University. https://hdl.handle.net/2134/16941250.v1.

#### **42nd WEDC International Conference**

**ONLINE: 13 – 15 September, 2021** 

# EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE WASH SERVICES: FUTURE CHALLENGES IN A RAPIDLY CHANGING WORLD

# Baby Wash approach study: Yobe state, Nigeria

Brandie Banner, Kanaganathan Rangaiya, Oke Patrcia, Makala Bako & Tom Heath

Nigeria

#### **REFERENCE NO. 3252**

#### Overview

Globally, it is estimated that 24% of children under 5 are stunted and regionally, Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa carry most of this burden. Linear growth failure is the most prevalent form of undernutrition. Chronic undernutrition, also called stunting, reveals a gradual, cumulative and chronic process starting from conception, especially developing during the first 2 years of life. Action Against Hunger (AAH) is operational in Nigeria since 2010 and has responded to different emergencies in Northern Nigeria through an integrated programming approach that addresses the Nutrition and health, WASH, social protection, and food security and livelihood concerns of internal displaced persons (IDPs), and host communities. To reduce and lactacting women, Action malnutrition pregnant Against the BabyWASH approach, a multi-sectorial approach for children within the first 1,000 days of life, or the window of opportunity for preventing malnutrition in a funded DFID project. Despite the harvests following the rain season the November 2019 cadre harmonise analysis of the state of food and nutrition security is likely to worsen in Yobe State as 950,000 individuals or 22% of the population are expected to face a state of crisis situation or worse during the June - August 2020 period. The Northeast Nutrition and Food Security Surveillance (NE-NFSS) conducted in Sep-Oct 2019, indicated high GAM rates in Yobe (11.5%). The state of nutrition is exacerbated by endemic issues including the weak management of health systems (with limited budget, systems of accountability and senior health staff) and prevailing malnutrition rates.

# **Baby WASH approach**

To reduce severe acute malnutrition among children of pregnant and lactacting women(PLWs), Action Against Hunger applied the BabyWASH approach, a multi-sectorial method for children within the first 1,000 days of life, or the window of opportunity for preventing malnutrition in a DFID funded project. AAH targeted 5,562 pregnant and lactating women with trainings, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) items for 18 months. PLWs attending antenatal care were eligible for interventions such as a monthly cash disbursement for child food items, food security and livelihood training and resources, and the BabyWASH intervention. PLWs used their beneficiary card and a fingerprint to pick up (13.8 USD) monthly, as well as BabyWASH items (tippy tap, jerrycan, soap, child play mat, a child cup with a lid, a child bowl with a lid, a child spoon, and a bucket for storage of the items). At ANC pregnant women were given hygiene talks and tippy tap and soap were distributed for proper hygiene. The cash distribution point was chosen as the implementation point for BabyWASH implementation for two reasons. First, PLWs spent several hours waiting to pick up their cash. Therefore, BabyWASH provided an opportunity to use this usually "dead time", without distracting PLWs from their normal domestic duties. Secondly, since PLWs were dispersed in 104 communities throughout Nangere, going from house-to-house with the BabyWASH intervention would have been difficult and resource-intensive. The BabyWASH approach had three parts: the provision of handwashing items, child WASH and nutrition training, and the provision of complementary feeding items.

# Methodology

The objective of the study was to assess the relevance, effectiveness, and sustainability of the BabyWASH intervention in Nangere Local Government Area, Yobe State by documenting operational challenges, barriers, achievements and good practices. It sought to address these research questionsA mixed methods approach to data collection was taken, including household knowledge, attitudes, and practices (KAP) surveys, community focus group discussions (FGDs), and key informant interviews (KIIs). Study materials were designed after a literature review of the BabyWASH approach with input from AAH WASH, nutrition, and monitoring and evaluation staff. Eight hundred (800) household surveys, eleven (11) key informant interviews, and nine (9) focus group discussions was conducted. Since there were 5,562 households targeted by BabyWASH, a minimum sample size of 360 households was calculated (for a 5% margin of error and a confidence level of 95%) using Raosoft (http://www.raosoft.com/samplesize.html). In order to account for incomplete surveys and non-response, a 25% buffer (90 households) was added to the sample. A simple random sample of 450 households was taken from the beneficiary list. An identical simple random sample of 450 households from control Local Government Area, Tarmua PLWs was used as a comparison group.

# **Key findings**

According to the household survey, 46% of intervention households had access to at least basic drinking water while 32% had sanitation. There was significant improvements in WASH conditions between baseline and endline survey. This includes; the amount of time it takes households to fetch water significantly decreased, water treatment practices significantly improved, and there was a significant reduction in open defecation. On observation, 90.4% percentage pregnant and lactating women (PLWs) washed their hands with soap and water when compared with PLWs from a non-intervention community (73.2%). However, there was low acceptability of the provided "tippy tap", with 3.95% of PLWs observed using it; instead traditional kettles were used for hand washing.

The children utensils provided for complementary feeding, which includes a bowl with a lid, a cup, and a spoon, as well as a play mat, were used on a daily basis by 90.9% of PLWs. We also found that PLWs in both communities had a low perceived risk of diarrhea for their children according to the WASH'Em risk perception index. The recalled prevalence (two weeks prior to the survey) of diarrhea in children under two years old was significantly lower in the intervention community (16.7%) than the non-intervention community (23.0%). When asked what causes diarrhea, PLWs from the intervention community showed better knowledge of the six transmission routes. However, less than half of PLWs from either community identified routes besides drinking dirty water and flies contaminating food. In addition, there was no significant difference between PLWs from the intervention community and the non-intervention community that identified child mouthing as a cause of diarrhea. In focus group discussions, diarrhea was largely identified as something that could not be prevented easily, since PLWs believed it was a natural outcome of teething and that "God sends it". Moreover, the interventions targeted PLWs who attended the same antenatal care center but were dispersed throughout many communities, this approach was unlikely to neither facilitate peer-to-peer learning nor have a large impact on securing a clean environment. Stakeholders felt that this Baby WASH approach reflected principles of relief, more than those of sustainable development.

# **Key words**

Nigeria, Baby WASH, Nutrition, Hygiene.

#### Thematic area 4

Rural Water Supply.

### **Contact details**

The study was initiated, supervised and validated by Rangaiya Kanaganathan, Head of Department of Water, sanitation and Hygiene for Action Against Hunger in Nigeria and, conducted by Brandie Banner Shackelford, an externa consultant. Kanaganathan Rangaiya is the WASH Head of Department for Action Against Hunger Nigeria.

Email: <a href="mailto:hodwash@ng-actionagainsthunger.org">hodwash@ng-actionagainsthunger.org</a>
Website: <a href="https://www.actioncontrelafaim.org/en/">https://www.actioncontrelafaim.org/en/</a>