

The following studies demonstrate the effectiveness and sustainability of World Vision's WASH programs.

World Vision Engages Communities to Keep Wells Running

World Vision focuses on building community capacity so water systems continue to function even after we have left.

We work with communities to create the management structure for each water point to take care of the water point as well as collect fees for well maintenance and repair. We train local people on well maintenance and, where necessary, work to create a supply chain for repair parts. A sustainability survey was conducted in 2003 in the Greater Afram Plains of Ghana by Peter A. Harvey, an external evaluator. The goal was to determine how many of the wells drilled by World Vision were still functioning, since some of them were constructed as early as 1995. Results showed that 92 percent of the 492 wells surveyed still had functioning hand pumps, and 87 percent of the wells were still providing an adequate supply of safe water. In contrast, according to previously published estimates, 40 to 50 percent of wells equipped with hand pumps in sub-Saharan Africa did not work at any given moment (Diwi Consult & BIDR, 1994). World Vision's high rate of functioning wells can be attributed to our effective well construction methods, our focus on community capacity building in pump maintenance and repair, and our multisectoral community development program framework, all of which combine to maximize sustainability. Best practices learned from the Ghana model are now incorporated in all of World Vision's Africa WASH programs.

World Vision's WASH Programs Improve Lives

In August 2011, an independent firm, Hydroconseil, published findings from its evaluation of World Vision's 2009 and 2010 water programs in Ghana, Mali, and Niger. Researchers used data from a 2011 field survey and measured progress against the baseline survey from 2008. The information included regions where World Vision does not work for comparison purposes.

Overall, the data illustrated a positive effect in terms of access to water and sanitation services for the communities in targeted program areas, "demonstrating a strong positive impact" of our WASH programs in Ghana, Mali, and Niger during 2009 and 2010.

The study found that year-round access to protected water in our program areas increased from:

- 72 percent to nearly 91 percent in Ghana
- 29 percent to more than 66 percent in Mali
- 35 percent to 76 percent in Niger

The findings also indicated "a very significant decrease in open air defecation between 2008 and 2011 in the project areas in all three countries." These communities showed a decrease in open defecation from:

- Nearly 97 percent to 45.8 percent in Ghana
- Nearly 47 percent to 16 percent in Mali
- Nearly 83 percent to 73.7 percent in Niger

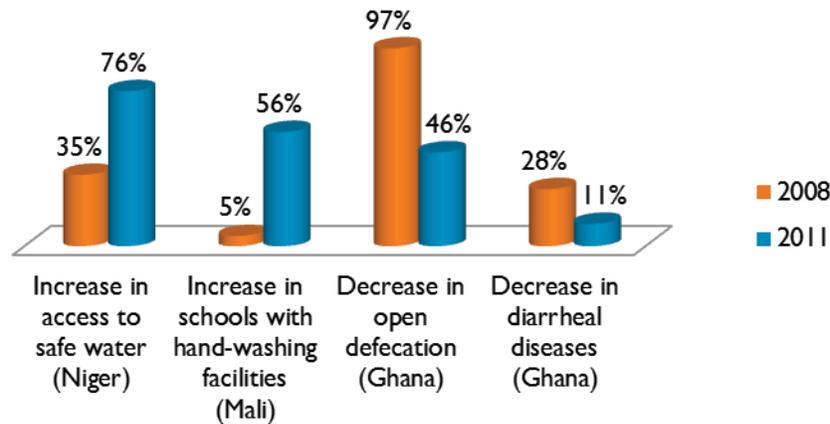
A dramatic increase in schools with hand-washing facilities in Ghana (from 44 percent to nearly 87 percent) and Mali (from 5 percent to 56 percent) has helped encourage the practice of handwashing in children.

As a result of these and other successful WASH interventions, "There was a remarkable decrease of diarrheal diseases in the project areas," according to the researchers. Households with at least one child younger than 3 who suffered from diarrhea during the two weeks prior to the survey decreased from:

- 28 percent to 11 percent in Ghana
- 42 percent to 26.7 percent in Mali
- 46 percent to 34.6 percent in Niger

All three countries experienced a significant reduction in the number of families with known incidence of trachoma. In relation to Guinea worm, researchers found, "zero households having suffered from the disease in the project areas in Ghana and Mali, showing a spectacular decrease since the 2008 situation."

World Vision WASH interventions are increasing access to clean water and hygiene facilities, and decreasing diseases like diarrhea, Guinea worm, and blindness-causing trachoma, according to the independent study by Hydroconseil (see graph below).



Ethiopia WASH Program Evaluation

In January 2012, the Civil and Water Resources Engineering at the Institute of Technology, Bahir Dar University in Ethiopia, and Cornell University in the U.S. conducted a three-month evaluation of World Vision WASH programs that were implemented between 2004 and 2011. Twenty-five individual project sites were evaluated, representing a diverse range of cultural, environmental, hydrologic, and socioeconomic conditions. Among the 25 projects visited, 56 percent were spring developments, 32 percent were boreholes, 8 percent were shallow wells, and 4 percent were hand-dug wells.

The purpose of the evaluation was to assess:

- Performance and outcomes of the program
- Effects of project implementation on the target beneficiaries
- Challenges encountered during program implementation
- Weaknesses and strengths of the program

A final purpose was to document the lessons learned for future programming.

The study found that:

- Access to WASH facilities significantly increased in the project implementation areas during the project implementation period. For example, more than 13,640 households gained access to clean water, and water supply coverage in the areas visited averaged 75 percent.
- Water consumption by each household increased an average of 70 percent, allowing families to access water not just for drinking, but also for cooking, bathing, and hygiene.
- The time required to fetch water was reduced from four hours in some cases to a maximum of approximately 30 minutes.
- Access to sanitation increased due to the construction of pit latrines at the household level after implementation of Community-Led Total Sanitation and Hygiene.
- In about 67 percent of WASH projects visited, the beneficiaries contributed locally available building materials such as sand, building stones, and fencing materials, thus contributing to community ownership of the WASH infrastructure.