



## Community-led Total Sanitation

Dear friends and colleagues in CLTS and sanitation,

Apologies that this July newsletter only arrives now in the first days of August but we were waiting for some contributions fresh in from WEDC.

We hope you will find something of relevance to you amidst the resources below. Do [get in touch](#) with your own news and materials for the website. We love receiving your contributions and your feedback.

### **Thematic focus: Children, child faeces and child health**



Child health and development are clearly a central focus in sanitation and hygiene. In recent years, the links between sanitation, nutrition and stunting have deservedly received much attention. The following new resources add to the knowledge base in this area.

The study [The effect of young children's faeces disposal practices on child growth: Evidence from 34 countries](#) by Valerie Bauza and Jeremy S. Guest looked at the relationship between child faeces disposal and child growth in low- and middle-income countries. You can read a more detailed abstract [here](#). It was published in the Journal of Tropical Medicine and International Health is available for purchase from the Wiley Online Library via the link above.

Indiscriminate defecation among young children and the unsafe disposal of their feces increases fecal contamination in the household environment and the risk of diarrheal disease transmission. Improved sanitary technology for children too young to use a latrine may facilitate safe feces disposal and reduce fecal contamination in the household environment. This study offers an [Assessment of the Acceptability and Feasibility of Child Potties for Safe Child Feces Disposal in Rural Bangladesh](#)

In the paper [Associations between Household Latrines and the Prevalence of Diarrhea in Idiofa, Democratic Republic of the Congo: A Cross-Sectional Study](#) the researchers assess the relations between latrine coverage and the prevalence of diarrhea in children under 4 years of age. The study analyzed the baseline data obtained as part of a longitudinal survey targeting 720 households in Idiofa, Bandundu, Democratic Republic of the Congo.

### **Thematic focus: Handwashing**



Regular handwashing with soap is believed to have substantial impacts on child health in the developing world. Most handwashing campaigns have failed, however, to establish and maintain a regular practice of handwashing. Motivated by scholarship that suggests handwashing is habitual, a study entitled [Habit Formation and Rational Addiction: A Field Experiment in Handwashing](#) designed, implemented and analyzed a randomized field experiment aimed to test the main predictions of the [rational addiction model](#). To reliably measure handwashing, the researchers developed and produced a novel soap dispenser, within which a time-stamped sensor is embedded. They randomized distribution of these soap dispensers as well as provision of monitoring (feedback reports) or monitoring and incentives for daily handwashing. Relative to a control arm in which households receive no dispenser, the study found that all treatments generate substantial improvements in child health as measured by child weight and height.

Another study [Handwashing in 51 Countries: Analysis of Proxy Measures of Handwashing Behavior](#) describes global handwashing patterns using two proxy indicators for handwashing behavior from 51 DHS and MICS surveys conducted in 2010–2013: availability of soap anywhere in the dwelling and access to a handwashing place with soap and water. Data were also examined across geographic regions, wealth quintiles, and rural versus urban settings.

Asking how children can be motivated for regular handwashing with soap, group of Indian industrial designers from the Parson's School of Design in New York City came up with the [SOAPEN - Could this innovation encourage handwashing and thereby reduce child deaths?](#)

## Reporting back from WEDC



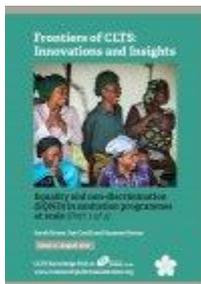
At the end of July, several members of the CLTS Knowledge Hub attended the 40th WEDC Conference in Loughborough, UK. As per our tradition, the Hub hosted a CLTS Sharing and Learning workshop on the day before the main WEDC Conference. Participants came from a wide range of countries including Cambodia, Indonesia, Nigeria, UK, Ghana, Afghanistan, Nepal, Uganda, Palestine, Ghana, Bangladesh and India and included representatives from UNICEF, Plan International, Society for Sustainable Development of Afghanistan, Department of Health Promotion and Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (Afghanistan), Lagos State Ministry of Local Government and Community Affairs, WSSCC, Tearfund, AMREF, Oxfam, Population Services International (PSI) and WaterAid. The Hub also convened a side session on Supporting the poorest and most vulnerable throughout the CLTS process which was based on discussions at the recent workshop in the Philippines and presented some of the findings captured in this [Learning Brief](#)

You can also read more about this session in Sue Cavill's blog [All for one and one for all: Supporting the poorest through the CLTS process](#)

Sarah House similarly reflects on learning about inclusion and equity issues at the conference, focusing on gender, the issue of incontinence and the hope that we are seeing an increase in awareness and work on ensuring that all voices are heard. You can read her reflections in the blog [Moving through the generations taking forward WASH... no longer just for the majority and those with the loudest voice.](#)

Two researchers who were sponsored by the Hub to attend the conference and present their papers also blogged about their experience and learning at the conference. Fikralem Mezgebu from Ethiopia writes about [going beyond building toilets](#) and Kalpana Dishwa shares her [learning and reflections from WEDC here](#).

## Upcoming events



The next event in the Hub's calendar is [Stockholm World Water Week](#). If you missed us at WEDC, you are warmly invited to join us for a side session on [Supporting the poorest and most vulnerable in CLTS process](#) which we are co-hosting with UNICEF at World Water Week. During this session we will summarise discussions from the recent workshop on the subject and present cutting edge thinking on financing for the poorest within CLTS programming. The event will be highly interactive and participants will be encouraged to ask questions, contribute from their own experiences and comment throughout. If you are attending the Stockholm event or considering it, take a look at the [full programme for World Water Week](#)

You can check out all other event listings including conferences [here](#)

---

This message is for the addressee only and may contain privileged or confidential information. If you have received it in error, please notify the sender immediately and delete the original. Any views or opinions expressed are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of IDS. Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex, Brighton BN1 9RE Tel: +44 (0)1273 606261; Fax: +44 (0)1273 621202 IDS, a charitable company limited by guarantee: Registered Charity No. 306371; Registered in England 877338; VAT No. GB 350 899914