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The Evidence Base for School WASH USAID's Experience



Merri Weinger, USAID
Getting School WASH Right - December 6, 2011
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USAID Support of WASH-friendly Schools

What We Tracked (2006-2010):

- Hardware and technology:
 - presence and quality of water and sanitation infrastructure; operations and maintenance
 - hand washing station and soap
 - water treatment products and safe storage
- School-based hygiene promotion activities:
 - teachers trained
 - presence and use of WASH curriculum
 - active hygiene clubs
- School-to-community activities:
 - active PTA; hygiene outreach to the community



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What We Believe vs. What We Know

WASH in Schools Improves:

- School attendance
- Hygiene behaviors
- Uptake of WASH facilities and hygiene practices in the family and community
- Students' health
- Learning outcomes
- Teacher deployment/retention





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Filling in the Knowledge Gaps

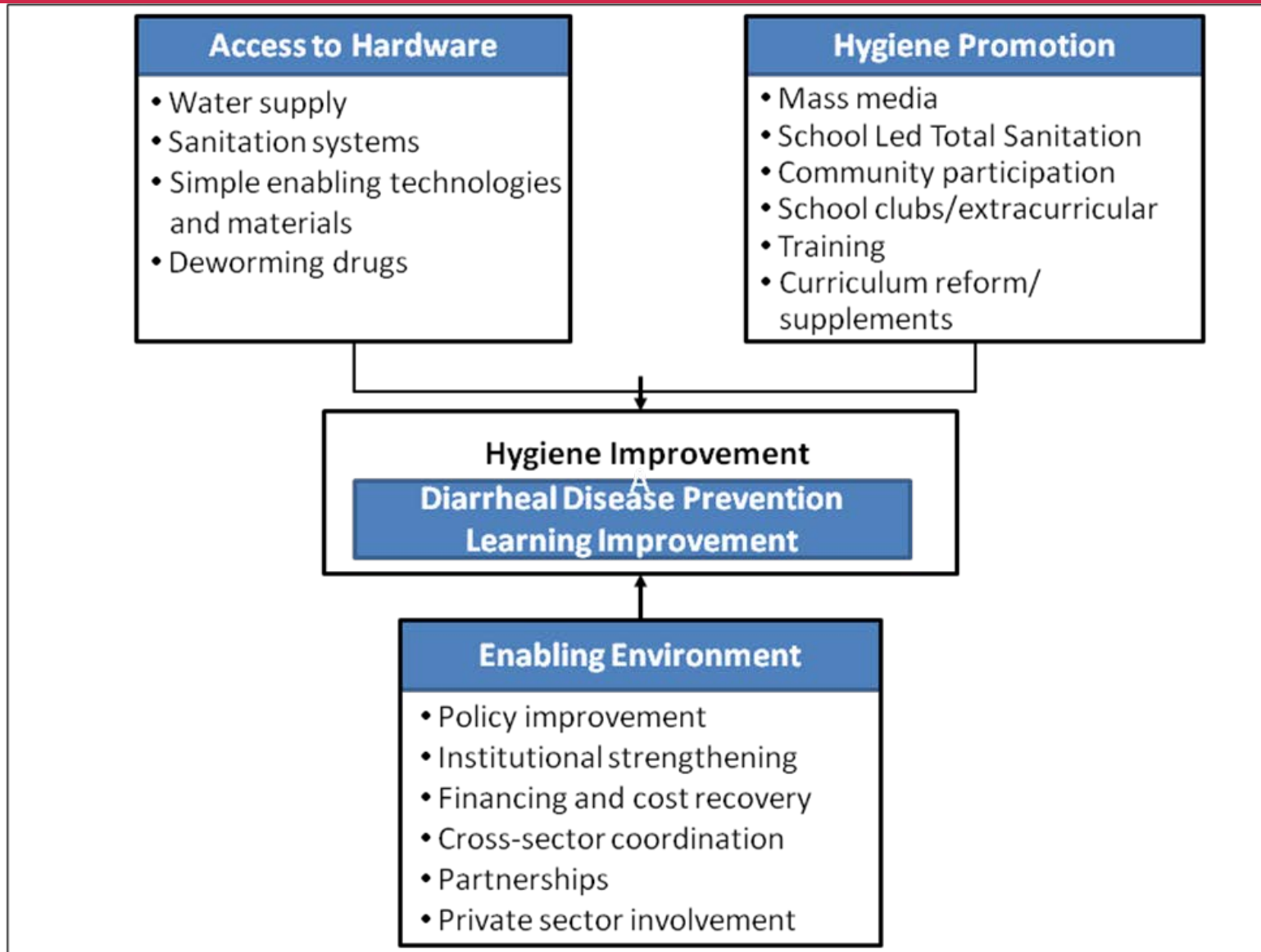
WASH in Schools in Zambia:

- **SPLASH (Schools Producing Learning Advancement through Sanitation and Hygiene)**
 - 4-year, national WASH in Schools initiative in the MOE
 - Sponsored by USAID/Zambia, MOE
 - Overall objective to improve:
 - health, learning and educational performance of students
 - sustainable access to safe water, adequate sanitation
 - adoption of better hygiene and health practices through WASH in Schools
 - WASH coverage in 80 percent of basic schools by 2015



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School Hygiene Improvement Framework



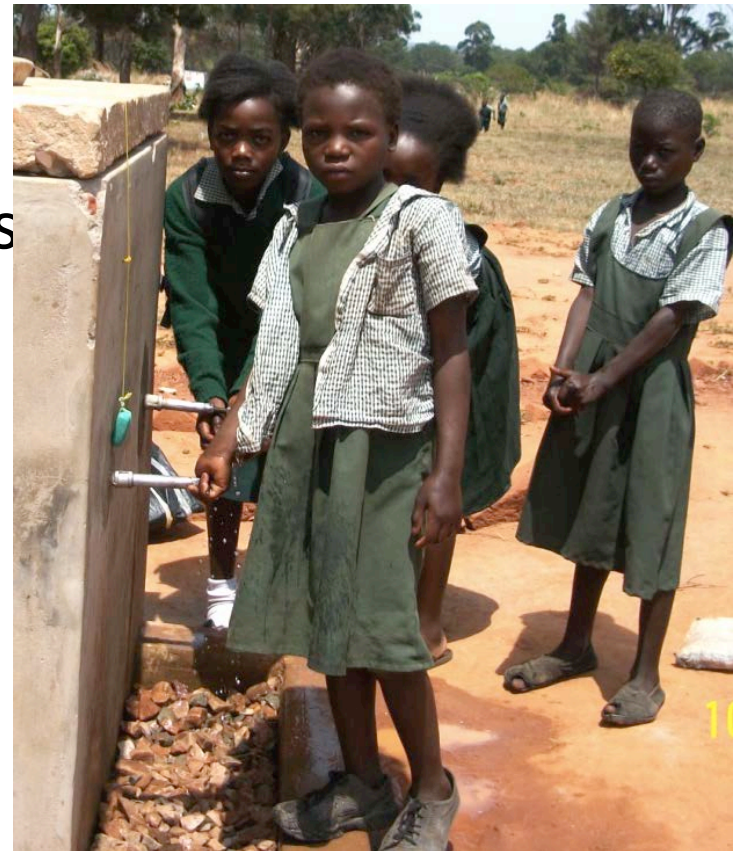


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The M&E Challenge

What will be tracked in Zambia:

- Infrastructure coverage, operation and maintenance
- Teacher performance outcomes
- Learning outcomes—near and long-term
- Behavioral outcomes
- School outcomes—attendance
- Menstrual management





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What else would we like to know?

- Are students agents of change in their families and communities?
- Management approaches for O&M—What works?
- Effective approaches for maintaining soap at HW stations in schools
- Impact of content and teaching methodology on WASH learning outcomes
- Essential policy framework for WASH in Schools
- How do you engage the community—What works?



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Would filling the gaps in impact data affect our ability to “sell” WASH in Schools?

- Challenge of promoting WASH in Schools at USAID:
 - not a area of focus for WASH investment
- Potential benefit of having a stronger, more easily accessible evidence base:
 - better ammunition for WINS advocates
 - better justification for decision-makers



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