

Submitted by: jonny.crocker@emory.edu

Convening organizations: Emory, University of Washington, World Vision International, CARE, SNV, RGHI

Session format: Open Forum / Discussion

Level of engagement: High engagement

Side Event Title (15 word limit): Developing an evidence-based WASH implementation reporting guideline

Side Event Description (500 word limit):

Donors, governments, researchers, and global implementers often ask: “what WASH interventions are most effective at changing and sustaining behaviors and impacting health?” Program evaluations, case studies, and systematic reviews have attempted to answer this question in low- and middle-income settings; however, there are several challenges related to comparability, replicability, and generalizability of WASH intervention evaluations. WASH interventions include contextual considerations, infrastructure, behavior change, implementation strategies, and implementation fidelity that are not clearly or consistently reported. This limits accurate interpretation and the ability to draw conclusions with strong external validity. Inconsistencies in reporting could be remedied by the development and adoption of standardized reporting guidelines. Why is this work needed? Accurate and consistent reporting of hygiene interventions and implementation would facilitate comparisons of interventions effectiveness and impact, adaptation and scale, and cost-benefit analysis of public health investment strategies.

During this side event, we propose the following:

1. Scope of the issue. Present the results of a systematic review that characterizes how WASH implementation and context have been reported in the most highly cited publications.
2. What do we know? Plenary questions and feedback on a scoping review of implementation reporting guidelines derived from other sectors.
3. What should we do? Use these presentations to spark a structured small group discussion around what should be included in a WASH implementation reporting guideline.
4. Get buy-in and establish a clear set of next steps: participants interested will be engaged in a Delphi consensus process to arrive at a refined list of elements of implementation to be included in a reporting guideline.

Key Learning Objectives and Desired Outcomes (500 word limit):

This side event has three main objectives:

1. Refine a list of “elements of implementation” to include in our guidance document,
2. Increase awareness of the importance of adequate and consistent reporting of WASH implementation and context in evaluations, and
3. Identify potential partners and users of the WASH implementation guidance document.

Outcomes:

1. The main outcome for this session will be contributions towards a standard guidance document – and associated reporting checklist – with a complementary toolkit to provide definitional terms and guidance on how to complete the checklist. The structured discussion and Delphi process will provide a short list of elements of implementation to include in this guidance document and checklist.
2. The second outcome for this session will be attendees learning the current state of WASH context and implementation reporting in the literature, key gaps in that reporting, and how they can improve measurement and reporting in their research projects.
3. The third outcome will be to build a network of contributors and a target audience for dissemination of the eventual guidance document.

Side Event Categories (up to 3): Implementation science, Monitoring & Evaluation, Scale-Up