Status of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Services in Health Facilities, Misungwi District, Northwestern Tanzania

1W. Mweteni, 2P. Ndaki, 2D. Matovelo, 1H. Swai, 4D. Buchner 2C. Amour, 2R. Bakalemwa, 2P. Shayo, 2B. Maendeleo, 1L. Subi, 2T. Kyomuhangi, 2J. Brenner

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1Bugando Medical Centre, Tanzania 2Catholic University of Health and Allied Sciences 3Regional Medical Officer, Mwanza, Tanzania 4University of Calgary, Alberta, Canada 5Healthy Child Uganda, Mbarara University of Science and Technology, Mbarara, Uganda.

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Introduction

• Adequate water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) critical in reducing infection and saving maternal and newborn lives
• WASH indicators include:
  • Water supply
  • Sanitation
  • Hand hygiene
  • Cleaning
  • Waste management
• Intervention planned to improve Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (MNCH), including WASH, at facilities throughout Misungwi District
• Objective: needs assessment conducted to understand MNCH-related WASH status in Misungwi pre-intervention

Methods

• Quantitative health facility survey (HFS) conducted
  • De novo, interviewer-administered questionnaire and checklist
  • Assess WASH at all district health facilities
  • Responses entered into REDCap, ‘R’ software
  • Descriptive analysis used to calculate key indicators
• Composite readiness scoring grid tabulated WASH indicator into a single percentage achievement score

Results

• Data was collected from all district health facilities (n=46) in July-Aug 2016
• WASH indicator data is illustrated below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Overall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improved Water Source (&lt;500m)</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Client Toilet (Latrine)</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Handwashing in delivery area</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safe final disposal of contaminated medical waste</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safe equipment processing</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safe final disposal of sharps</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three Bucket System for disposal of contaminated waste</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• WASH readiness:
  • All facilities: 61%
  • Hospitals: 86%
  • Dispensaries: 57%

Discussion

• Access to WASH services in Misungwi Health Facilities remains a challenge:
  • Poor final medical waste disposal in most health facilities
  • Lack of running water in the delivery area
  • Only half of facilities had proper equipment processing (disinfection and sterilization)
  • Leads to increased risk of infection for delivering women and newborns
• Based on these results, the MnM intervention works with health facilities to mobilize resources to improve WASH readiness scores and prioritize WASH issues

References

• Mama na Mtoto Project Baseline Report (2016)
• UNICEF – Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (2016)
  https://www.unicef.org/wash/

Fig. 1 Example of incinerator (left) and placenta pit (right) seen in Misungwi District

Fig. 2 Three bucket system of waste disposal seen in Misungwi Hospital during baseline HFS

Fig. 3 Autoclave seen at Misungwi Hospital

Fig. 4 Handwashing station at a health facility in Misungwi