

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



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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



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

Results

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

Indicator	Overall
Improved Water Source (<500m)	28%
Client Toilet (Latrine)	39%
Handwashing in delivery area	49%
Safe final disposal of contaminated medical waste	30%
Safe equipment processing	52%
Safe final disposal of sharps	29%
Three Bucket System for disposal of contaminated waste	83%



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

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



Fig. 3 Autoclave seen at Misungwi Hospital

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



Fig. 4 Handwashing station at a health facility in Misungwi

References

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

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