

Why we need to scale up hygiene

Katie Greenland, LSHTM



Why does hygiene matter?

Katie Greenland

Environmental Heath Group London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine

AfricaSan Conference Wed 27th May

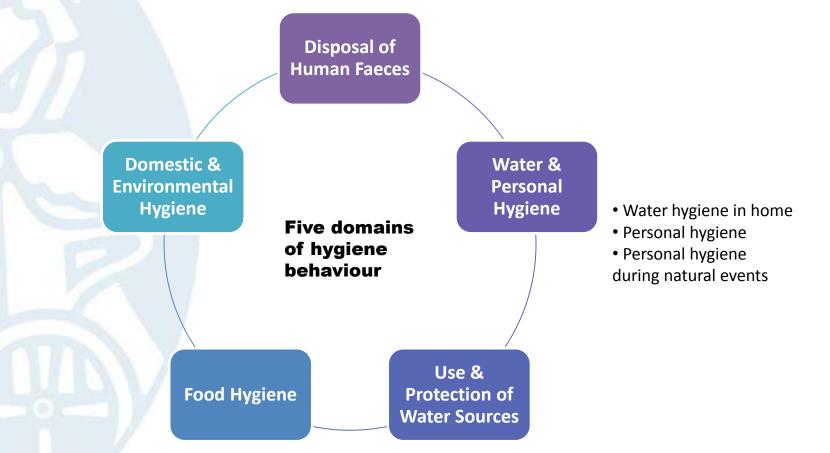


Improving health worldwide

www.lshtm.ac.uk



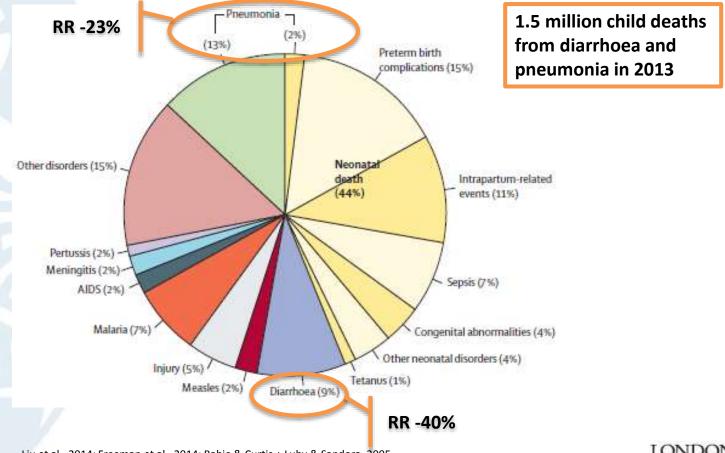
What is hygiene?



from Actions Speak, Edited by M Boot & S Cairncross, 1993



Why handwashing?





Liu et al., 2014; Freeman et al., 2014; Rabie & Curtis + Luby & Sandora, 2005

Health impacts:

- Diarrhoea (including cholera)
- Respiratory infections
- Neonatal infections
- Health-care associated infections
- Puerperal sepsis / infections (maternal morbidity & mortality)
- Co-infections among PLWHA

Other impacts:

- Under-nutrition
- Child growth & development
- Deemed a very cost effective intervention (WHO)



Where is handwashing important?

Post-2015 targets: universal <u>adequate</u> and <u>equitable</u> handwashing (and MHM) Health care settings

Households

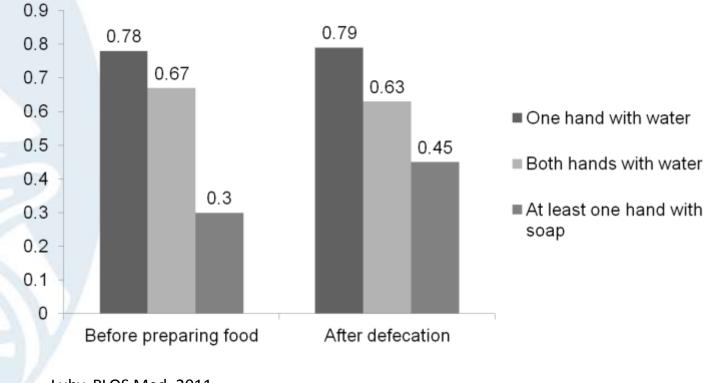
Schools



Water & sanitation **infrastructure** and its active **management** is needed for all three hygiene issues



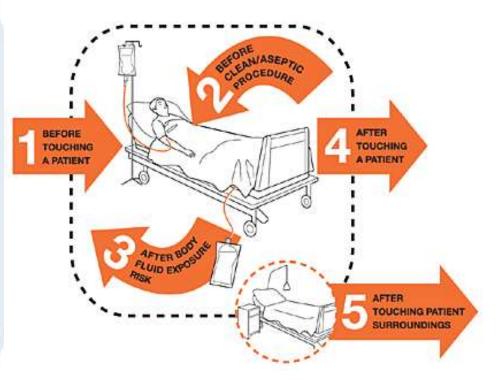
When is handwashing important?





Luby, PLOS Med, 2011

What about in a health care setting?



WHO – My Five Moments for Hand Hygiene



Why do we (still) need to intervene?

- Hands are rarely washed after defecation....
- WASH facilities in health centres are poor....



Global prevalence = 19%



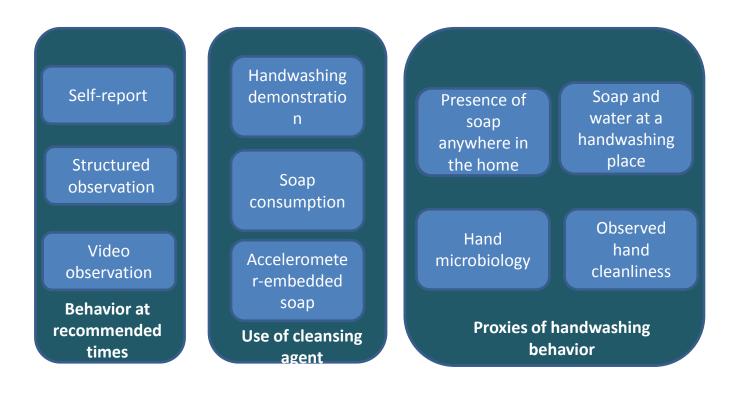
66,000 facilities in 54 countries:

- No water = 38%
- No soap = 35%
- No latrine = 19%

Bartram et al, WHO Bulletin, 2015

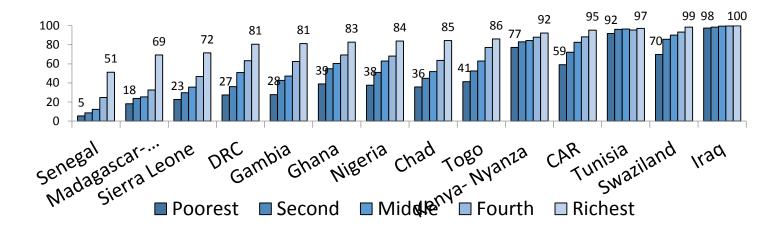
Freeman, TMIH, 2014

How can we measure what we do?



Slide credit: Layla McCay

Variations in prevalence by wealth quintile - household



Percentage of households observed to have soap for handwashing anywhere in the dwelling, by wealth quintile, MICS, 2009-2013, Africa and the Middle East

Slide credit: Layla McCay

Improving measurement

- How well does presence of soap correlate with handwashing?
- Triangulate with:
 - Knowledge assessment?
 - Observation data?
 - Correlation issues?
- Measuring sustained changes?

Biran et al 2008, Luby et al 2011, Ram et al (various)

Improving our interventions

Achieving sustained behaviour change on a large scale is difficult

We need:

- formative research to better understand the drivers of behaviour in each setting
- to continue to develop and rigorously test innovative interventions that are grounded in theory
- to contribute to the evidence-base about what works by channeling what we learn back into the design process
- to improve systems to support service delivery





