

# Improving WASH Behaviors among School-age Children Outside of School





## **Agenda:**

- 1. Approaching school-aged Children as caregivers within child stunting reduction programs**
- 2. Innovations in emergencies:**
  - User-centered design for emergency sanitation**
  - Surprise soap**

# Approaching schoolchildren as caregivers within child stunting reduction programs



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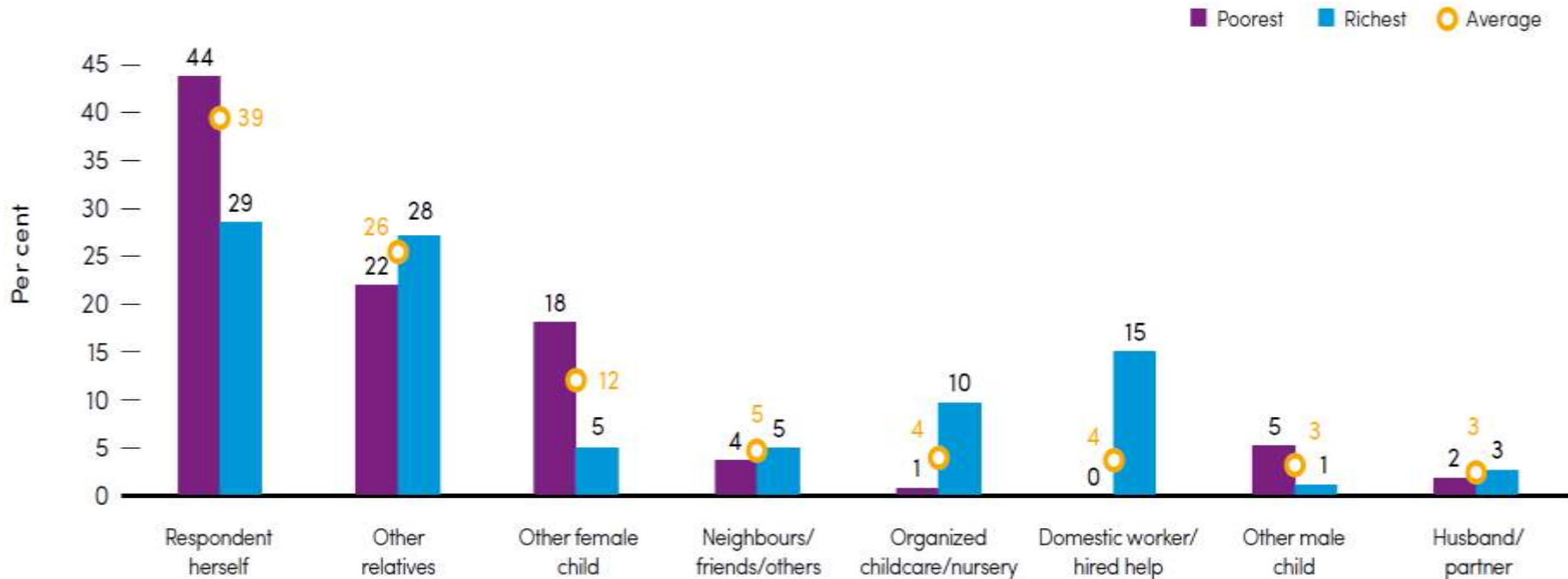
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# Mothers are not the only child caregivers

Typical childcare arrangement for employed women with children under age 6

→ *Very few employed women in developing countries have access to organized childcare or nurseries*



Source: UNW. Progress of the world's women 2015-2016: transforming economies, realizing rights. New York, NY: United Nations Women. ([progress.unwomen.org/en/2015/pdf/UNW\\_progressreport.pdf](http://progress.unwomen.org/en/2015/pdf/UNW_progressreport.pdf)).

# Common caregivers (other than parents)

- Organized care
- Grandmothers
- Children or siblings
- Paid caregivers



# Impacts of caregiving responsibilities on school-age children



- Female children are much more likely to be burdened with caregiving responsibilities
- Caregiving can be for elderly or sick family members or younger siblings
- School-age children with childcare responsibilities are less likely to attend school

# School-age children are influential

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# The importance of caregivers in child stunting reduction programs

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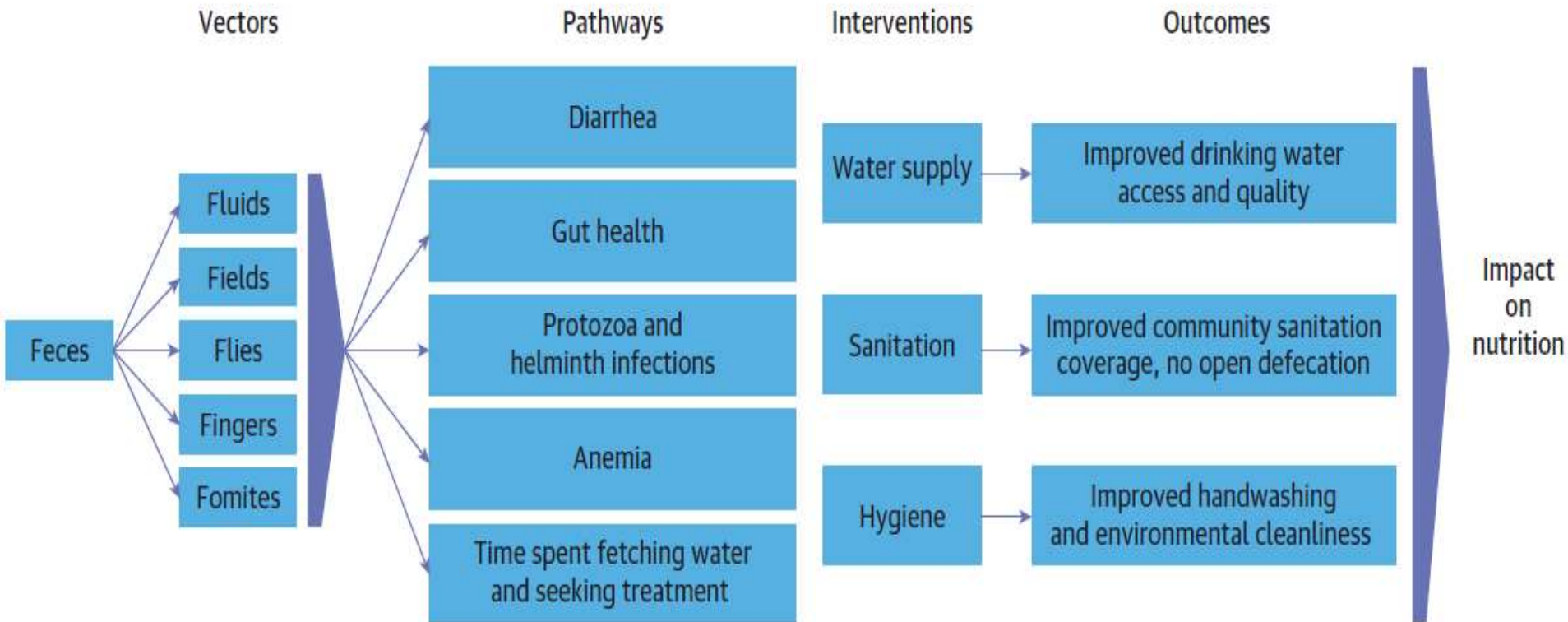


# What is stunting?:

- Chronic malnutrition (stunting): the impaired growth and development that children experience from poor nutrition, repeated infection, and inadequate psychosocial stimulation.
- After a child reaches two-years of age, stunting cannot be reversed, and impacts children for life



# Pathways linking WASH to nutrition outcomes



Source: World Bank. 2019. Nutrition-Sensitive Water Supply, Sanitation, and Hygiene (English). Washington, D.C. : World Bank Group. <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/598771553098171805/Nutrition-Sensitive-Water-Supply-Sanitation-and-Hygiene>

# Typical nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene services are not enough to see improvements in gut health and nutrition

## Potentially promising WASH interventions include:

- clean child play spaces
- Proper disposal of infant feces
- Improved food hygiene
- animal confinement, animal husbandry practices

## Nutrition Specific Interventions:

- Sufficient and diverse diet
- Maternal & adolescent nutrition



## Children who are providing or assisting with childcare are playing a critical role in the lives of their younger siblings



- Contact with soil, dirty toys
- Safe containment and disposal
- Hand hygiene after fecal contact
- Food management
- Hand hygiene (caregiver & child)
- Limit contact with animals and animal feces
- Sufficient and diverse diet (for themselves and their siblings)

# Some considerations for including children who are caregivers

## Design

- Protecting the rights of school children
- WASH infrastructure features
- Assessing knowledge, agency and involvement in childcare
- Exploring motivation and barriers related to best practices
- Layering with standard SHN interventions

## Implementation

- Target older children who are caregivers (12-18)
- Determine the best method for engagement/participation within each context/family (working through parents vs. working with children directly)

## M&E

- Assessing impacts on child education, mental health (of children who are providing care)
- Assessing impacts on outcomes of interest (e.g. child health and nutrition)
- Learning from children and their experiences



# Some remaining questions:

- How do we best engage school children as caregivers without discouraging school attendance & their rights to be children?
- Is supporting school-age caregivers effective? Does engagement provide additional benefits for target outcomes?
- How do we best engage school-children as caregivers in design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and learning





**Save the Children**

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# **Innovation in emergencies updates**

**Prob 1: slow/poor community engagement for sanitation**

**Prob 2: poor uptake of handwashing with soap**

Save the Children - Humanitarian WASH – Nov. 2019



# User-centred Emergency Sanitation Design

## The methodology



1. Building Interactive Survey



2. Deploying offline survey



3. One-click upload



4. Dashboard



5. Main pain points



6. Co-creation session



7. Alteration  
to sanitation



# User-centred Emergency Sanitation Design

## The pilots in contexts

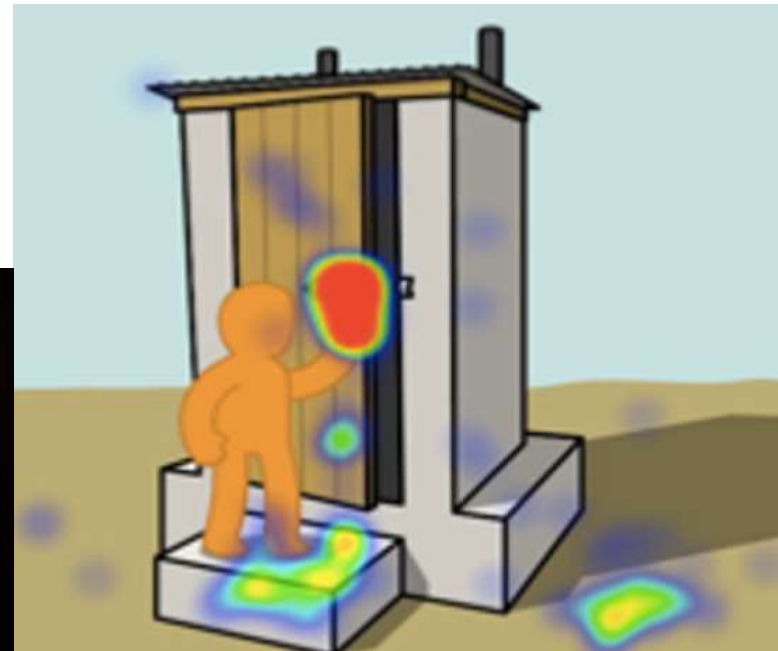


# User-centred Emergency Sanitation Design

How digital tool looks like?



Examples of digital tool options

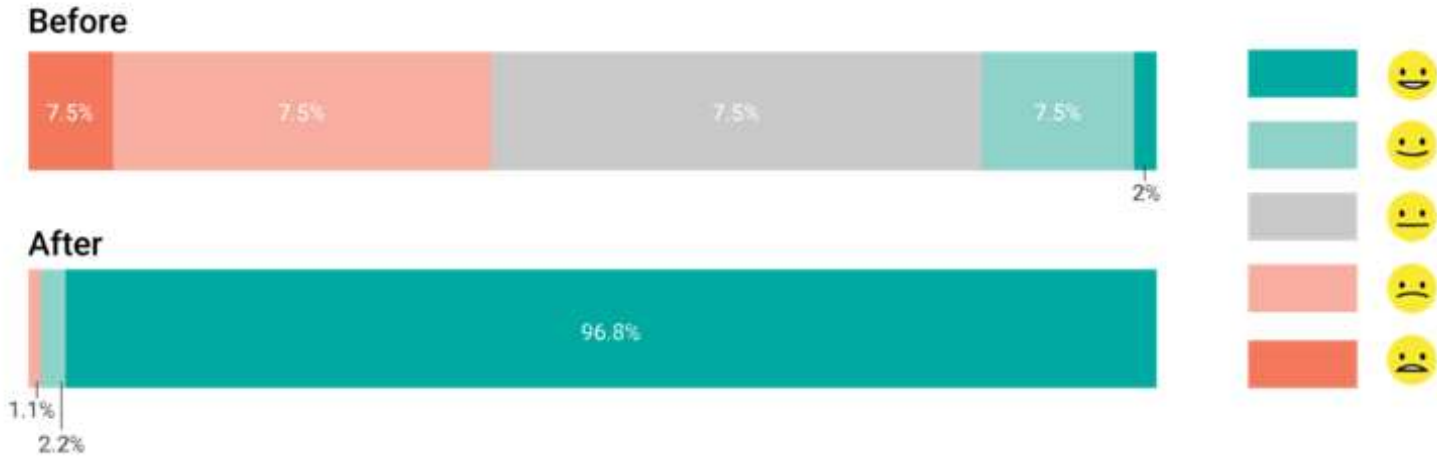


Example of "pain points"

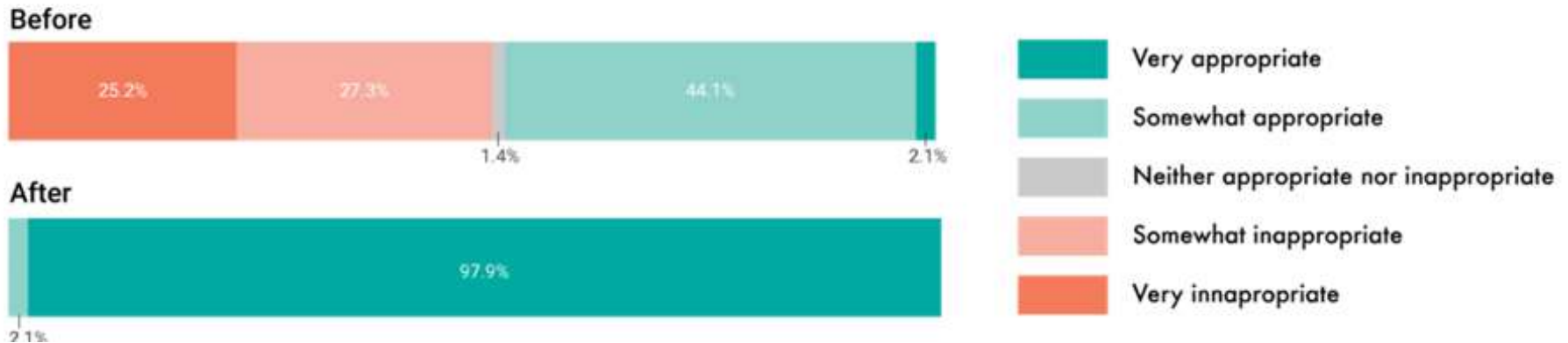
# User-centred Emergency Sanitation Design

## Piloted in Iraq and Bangladesh Findings 1/2

### Children's satisfaction with latrines



### Caregivers' perceptions of latrine appropriateness for children



# User-centred Emergency Sanitation Design

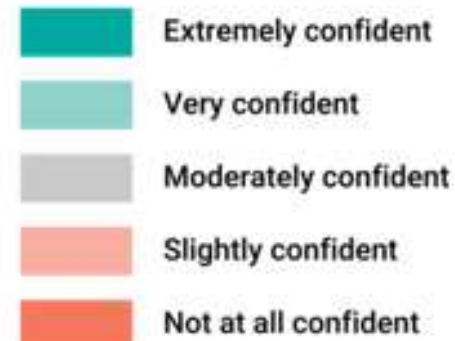
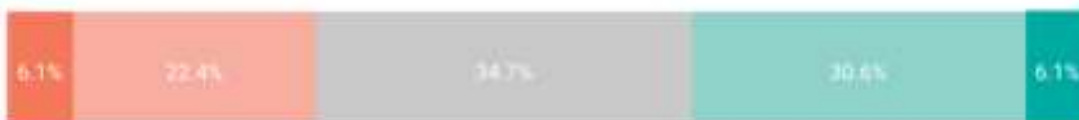
## Piloted in Iraq and Bangladesh Findings 2/2

Caregivers' confidence that Save the Children would listen and act on feedback

Before



After



**Take home so far:**

Rapid timely = Efficiency

Better child-friendly tailored interventions = Quality

Built mutual trust relation accountability = CHS / Grand Bargain

**Next :**

Development of Open-Source digital application and more pilots

<http://www.eclipse-experience.com/user-centred-community-engagement>



Save the Children

eclipse

# Hidden Incentive – Surprise soaps

## The idea

Locally produced soaps with 3D-printed surprises, tailored for targeted populations

Appealing  
shapes, colour



the idea



Hidden  
surprises



LONDON  
SCHOOL of  
HYGIENE  
& TROPICAL  
MEDICINE



# Hidden Incentive – Surprise soaps

Findings from pilot Iraq

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## Take home so far:

Control group = normal soap + Hygiene promotion

Intervention group = Surprise soaps – no Hygiene promotion



Intervention group 4 times more likely to wash hands in critical times

[International Journal of Hygiene and Environmental Health Paper](#)

## Next :

More pilots in acute phase emergency – Horn of Africa

After further evidence – Default items in StC Hygiene Kits