

## Quick Facts

One of the leading causes of death amongst adolescent girls in developing countries is due to complications in childbirth.<sup>1</sup>

Around 1 in 4 mothers receive a postnatal visit within 48 hours after childbirth. This means that most mothers do not receive any help to prevent or manage complications after birth, instructions on cord care which will help prevent infection, or how to initiate and sustain breast feeding.<sup>2</sup>



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Reducing water collection time by 15 minutes would increase the number of girls going to school which would decrease the likelihood of them dying in childbirth in the future. Going to school would teach them to use clean water and hygienic birth equipment which can help prevent half of all infection-related maternal deaths.<sup>3</sup>

Around 358,000 women die every year due to complications in childbirth. 15% of these deaths are due to puerperal sepsis.<sup>4</sup>



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COLLABORATIVE

# Soap Matters

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... Saving a million lives with clean safe care at birth



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Welcome to the first 2014 edition of Soap Matters, Soapbox's quarterly newsletter.

The beginning of the year has been an exciting one for us as we held our second workshop for the WASH & CLEAN project which has now moved in to its Situation Analysis Phase.

While we have attended more local events, our Soapbox colleague, Giorgia Gon, will be taking the opportunity to

spread the word of Soapbox as she presents at the WASH 2014 Conference in Brisbane. In this edition we will take a look at The United Nation's World Water Day and its impact around the world.

We were also delighted to welcome our visitors from Nigeria and the Gambia who are taking part in the Commonwealth Fellowship Learning and Leadership Programme coordinated by Soapbox, NHS Grampian and the University of Aberdeen.

The Soapbox team will also be expanding shortly as we appoint four new posts in the coming month - more on our new recruits in the next edition of SoapMatters.

## Commonwealth Fellowship Leadership and Learning Programme in Aberdeen

Soapbox was delighted to recently welcome Dr Jibril Abdullahi Randawa from Nigeria and Kebba Manneh from the Gambia who are visiting Aberdeen to take part in the Commonwealth Fellowship Learning and Leadership Programme.

Dr Randawa has been supported by the Commonwealth Fellowship Fund to attend the Programme while Mr Manneh has been supported by the Soapbox Collaborative. The Programme, coordinated by Soapbox, NHS Grampian and the University of Aberdeen has the aim of "further strengthening the leadership, management and technical oversight skills of the professional Fellow in the area of quality improvements of maternal and newborn health services".

Dr Randawa is an Honorary Consultant/Senior Lecturer and Head of Department, Dept. of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Ahmadu Bello University Teaching

Hospital, Zaria in Nigeria. Dr Randawa oversees the academic and clinical services and activities in the Department at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

Mr Manneh is the Chief Executive of the Jammeh Foundation, a community hospital based in Banjul in the Gambia. Mr Manneh is a general nurse and midwife by background with 10 years' experience in these roles before he moved into administration. Mr Manneh has a particular interest in maternal and child health.

Dr Randawa and Mr Manneh will work with Soapbox, the University of Aberdeen and NHS staff to receive an orientation to the strategies and practical implementation of quality improvement (QI) for maternity care in the UK NHS, and specifically the new programme in Scotland - Maternity & Children Quality Improvement Collaborative (MCQIC). They will participate in relevant QI activities in the NHS Grampian area, particularly in relation to infection prevention and control on maternity units.



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This experience will then be used to devise and present for review during their time here a practical implementation plan for QI of maternity services in their host institutions. Opportunities will also be identified to contribute to wider QI awareness raising and capacity strengthening in Nigeria and the Gambia as part of the Maternity Cleanliness Champions Initiative (MCCI) co-ordinated by Soapbox working with the University of Aberdeen and NHS Grampian.

The Programme is an excellent example of collaboration between Soapbox, NHS Grampian and the University of Aberdeen and we look forward to the learning how the implementation plans are put in to action on our guests' return home.

## Engaging with Local Audiences



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The Soapbox trade stand proved to be a popular draw for delegates attending a conference at the University of Aberdeen to mark International Women's Day.

International Women's Day has been celebrated across the world since the early 1900's. Originally, its aim was to provide a forum for women to campaign for equality and women's rights. Over time it has evolved and now in March each year, thousands of events are held throughout the world to recognise the progress that has been made to inspire women and to celebrate their achievements.

As part of this worldwide celebration, the University of Aberdeen held a conference "Inspiring Women: It's a (Wo)man's World". The event was fully subscribed and the audience listened to a number of high profile speakers throughout the day, most notably Professor Anne Glover (Chief Scientific Adviser to the President, European Commission) and the musician Dame Evelyn Glennie.

## Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations (ACVO) Affiliates Seminar

Organisations Affiliates lunch on 18<sup>th</sup> March, Soapbox featured as one of the third sector case studies. Shelagh Barr was delighted to be given the opportunity to speak at the event and to raise awareness among local audiences about the work of the Soapbox Collaborative. The event was hosted by ACVO affiliate organisation Charity Careers Scotland.

### Successful Second WASH and CLEAN Workshop

The WASH & CLEAN project is full steam ahead following the successful completion of the formative phase data collection and second WASH & CLEAN workshop.

During the formative phase two health facilities in Gujarat, India and two health facilities in Dhaka, Bangladesh were involved in the piloting of the tools and methods developed for the WASH & CLEAN project to conduct a situation analysis of infection prevention and control (IPC) on the labour ward. The tools were spread over six individual modules targeting different stakeholders and elements of IPC.

Photo-prompted interviews were piloted with facility managers, healthcare providers and cleaning staff. Healthcare providers and cleaning staff were also involved in participatory photography workshops where they were provided with tuition on how to use a camera and asked to take photos of the barriers and facilitators they faced to maintaining IPC on the labour ward. Photo prompted semi-structured questionnaires and focus group discussion questions were piloted with women who had delivered at the facilities, regarding their perceptions and satisfaction with facility cleanliness and hygiene practices of staff. Relevant documents pertaining to IPC were collected from facilities for review, a Facility Needs Assessment questionnaire was



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completed by each facility's Head Nurse or equivalent and a Walkthrough Checklist was completed by the data collector. The Checklist included novel elements such as photographing the labour ward environment and analysis of swab samples of high risk surfaces.

Following the completion of the formative phase data collection a remote three day workshop was held at the end of January with participation from the teams from Gujarat, Dhaka and Aberdeen. The workshop was a great success with adjustments made to the tools based on the findings from the formative phase resulting in streamlined, shortened versions of the tools. These are now being applied in the current situation analysis phase in the eight facilities in Bangladesh and seven facilities in India.

Preliminary data analysis from the formative phase has provided fascinating results and undoubtedly proved the value of the WASH & CLEAN project. We eagerly await the data coming in from the current situation analysis phase and look forward to reporting back the results from this valuable piece of work.

### Soapbox presenting at Wash conference in Brisbane

Giorgia Gon, who has recently joined Soapbox as a Research Fellow, will be presenting at the WASH 2014 Conference which will be held in Brisbane, Australia, between the 23rd and 28th of March.

The conference brings together UN agencies, NGOs and academic partners to discuss new ways of working to ensure 'water, sanitation and hygiene for everyone, everywhere'. WaterAid will also be in attendance at the conference. WaterAid is an international charity that currently coordinates projects across 27 countries to improve access to water and sanitation at community level. Soapbox and WaterAid are currently working together on a WASH related project in Zanzibar.

Giorgia will be presenting her quantitative analysis findings assessing the contribution of poor household water and sanitation on pregnancy-related mortality in Afghanistan. While she is at conference Giorgia will also be taking the opportunity to highlight the work of the Soapbox Collaborative.



### World Water Day

The United Nations World Water Day was celebrated on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March reminding us of the crisis faced by many countries due to their lack of access to essential water, sanitation and hygiene.

780 million people lack access to clean drinking water and 2.5 billion people lack adequate sanitation. More than 3.4 million people die EVERY YEAR of diseases related to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). 99% of WASH related deaths occur in developing countries.

Events marking World Water Day included the Water Annual Conference in Zaragoza, Spain, celebrations at the UNU Headquarters in Tokyo and World Water Week which will take place in Stockholm at the end of August organised



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by the Stockholm International Water Institute.

The messages of World Water Day highlighted that **supplies are limited and demand is increasing** which will present big challenges and strain resources in nearly all regions, especially in developing and emerging economies and that the **"bottom billion" urgently needs access to both water and sanitation services, and electricity critical to poverty alleviation**. Lack of access to WASH resources in developing countries is not only limited to community settings; health facilities, including maternity units, also face a crisis in terms ensuring a reliable, clean water supply for sanitation and hygiene purposes. Without this, effective infection prevention and control is impossible resulting in women delivering in dirty environments, with dirty equipment and healthcare workers who do not have the simple resources necessary to wash their hands and keep them clean. The Soapbox Collaborative continues to work to improve the WASH conditions on maternity units and provide the necessary training to ensure facility staff maintain standards and effective infection prevention and control.