

**Quotes from
Bangladesh
WASH & CLEAN
Study**

“It is our core responsibility to clean and keep the facility dirt free from morning to night.”
Cleaner

“I do not think we are knowledgeable enough to provide [IPC] training to others.”
Manager

“Enormous satisfaction comes when we are able to save a mother’s life.”
Manager

“It is not possible to monitor all IPC related activities by a person. Everyone should be responsible for it.”
Healthcare Provider



THE



COLLABORATIVE

Soap Matters

Issue 7

October 2014

Saving a million lives with clean, safe care at birth



Welcome to Soap Matters, the Soapbox quarterly newsletter.

We are pleased to bring you up to date with our latest news and share some of the highlights of our activity over the last three months.

We are delighted with the progress we have been able to make along with our colleagues in Zanzibar, Bangladesh and

The Gambia. We have also begun an exciting new partnership at Felege Hiwot Hospital in Ethiopia.

We have been privileged to have some committed and resourceful medical students as well as NHS colleagues working with us as volunteers. They have given their time and skills to support and encourage health professionals working in some of the most challenging environments in sub-Saharan Africa.

We hope you enjoy the read. For regular updates please remember to check our website or follow us on social media.

Ethiopia

We are delighted to have begun a new and exciting partnership with Felege Hiwot Hospital in Ethiopia. The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Soapbox and Felege Hiwot Hospital took place during a visit by Mr Alec Cumming, Soapbox Trustee and Dr Roelf Dijkhuizen, Medical Director of NHS Grampian. We have now been able to begin work with the staff at the hospital to strengthen infection prevention and control (IPC).

Felege Hiwot Hospital is situated in the Northern Region of Ethiopia and is a busy Referral Hospital serving seven million people and caring for around 15,000 patients every month. The hospital has 400 beds and an occupancy rate of 180% meaning many patients require to share

beds with some being treated on the floor.

Over the last few months we have supported two volunteers to work with the staff at the hospital to identify key areas for improvements in IPC, particularly within the Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Building.

During their visit it was established that only 10% of the sinks in this three floor hospital building had running water. Due to the tenacity of Lorna, our Country Liaison Officer, the maintenance staff at the hospital and Sam, our volunteer, we were able to restore running water in some of these areas. This caused much excitement at Felege Hiwot and back here in Aberdeen!

Sam and Jolene were also able to conduct hand hygiene audits and workshops. Staff at the hospital were helped by this and



are working to make improvements in this area.

It was also highlighted that the hospital laundry was out of commission and Soapbox are looking at ways of restoring it in order to reduce preventable infection (read more about the 'Make it Spin' campaign overleaf).

Some great work has been done but there is so much more to do, we are looking forward to continuing our involvement with the staff at this hospital.

The Gambia

The work of Soapbox in The Gambia has developed in the last few months with the start of an ongoing feasibility study of clean birth kits for facilities, and the completion of two projects related to maternal and newborn sepsis by Public Health Masters students.

The student projects were both based at Edward Francis Small Teaching Hospital in the capital, Banjul; the national tertiary referral centre for the whole country. A recent audit of sick newborns admitted to the hospital found nearly half (43%) had sepsis.

With this large burden of disease, Manon, one of the students, set out to estimate the cost to the public health sector of managing a baby with sepsis in the hospital. Her final results are not yet confirmed, but suggest that it costs £70 to treat one baby with sepsis, with over 60% of the cost going towards staff salaries. Managing all babies with sepsis during the year cost the public health sector an estimated £42,286.

Manon said, 'Overall it has been a very



interesting and challenging experience. The medical staff, nurses and pharmacists have been very helpful during my data collection.'

Augustina, carried out a clinical audit on the management of maternal sepsis using case notes and interviews. She commented, 'My results show a number of gaps in the management provided to patients, in particular a poor level of monitoring of patients' conditions during their stay. The most common reason for this highlighted by the staff was the low staff - patient ratio and the overwhelming patient numbers.

Some of my results also suggest that women who delivered in a health centre

were more likely to develop sepsis than those who delivered in the Teaching Hospital. There are limitations to the study so the results are not conclusive but they highlight the need for more research in this area.'

The feasibility study of birth kits is being conducted in collaboration with the Medical Research Council (MRC) in the Upper River Region. Clean Birth Kits have been given to women in the final months of their pregnancies. A preliminary look at the results shows that the kits are popular and well-used. From September, distribution of kits will be given to women when they arrive at a facility to give birth and comparisons will be drawn.

To better understand hygiene practices on the labour ward at the major Health Centre in Basse, a 5th year medical student, Alex, has observed hand washing, glove use and bed cleaning practices; whether they are performed at all the appropriate times, and how well they are conducted. Early results provide a fascinating insight into staff knowledge and priorities which will be explored further in October when interviews are conducted with the staff and women.

Saving a million lives with clean, safe care at birth

WASH & CLEAN

Dissemination Event & Toolkit Launch

This is an exciting time for the WASH & CLEAN study in the run up to the Indian Institute of Public Health, Gandhinagar's International Conference on *Reducing the Burden of Preventable Infections: Opportunities and Challenges for the 21st Century*. The conference will serve as the official dissemination event for the WASH & CLEAN study and the launch of the *WASH & CLEAN Toolkit: A Guide to Data Collection & Tools*.

The two day conference, to be held in Ahmedabad, Gujarat on the 15th and 16th of October 2014, will provide a platform from which to share the main findings of the WASH & CLEAN study to key academics, researchers, and policy makers as well as students and other professionals working in the field of maternal health and infection prevention and control.

The WASH & CLEAN study, the aim of which was to develop a range of data collection tools to perform an evaluation or 'situation analysis' of the state of maternity unit water, sanitation and hygiene and infection prevention and control, will feature heavily on the first day of the conference with the methods and findings from both India and Bangladesh presented.



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The *WASH & CLEAN Toolkit*, which contains the tools developed by the study such as interview guides and questionnaires, will be launched at the event and a CD based copy of the toolkit distributed to conference participants.

Speaking at the conference will be Soapbox's Professor Wendy Graham and Suzanne Cross along with other members of the WASH & CLEAN team from India and Bangladesh. Representatives of the World Health Organisation, the Quality Council of India, JHPIEGO, and the University of Bonn, Germany will also be present to discuss other areas relevant to the WASH & CLEAN findings such as antibiotic resistance, patient safety and quality improvement, and the relationship between WASH and infectious diseases.

Make it Spin

The Soapbox Collaborative has launched, Make it Spin, a campaign to raise funds to restore the laundry facilities at Felege Hiwot Hospital in Ethiopia.

The washing machine at the hospital is broken and soiled laundry piled high and some items even being reused unwashed, presents a serious challenge to providing good patient care and preventing infection.

Make it Spin was launched last month with a generous donation from Dr Dijkhuizen, NHS Grampian's Medical Director who donated the collection made by staff for his retirement.

Dr Dijkhuizen said,

'It gives me great pleasure to put this fund towards buying a vital piece of equipment needed at the very busy Felege Hiwot Hospital'.

Soapbox not only intend to purchase a washing machine but also train local maintenance staff to ensure it brings lasting benefits.

To find out more about Felege Hiwot Hospital and donate to the campaign visit our website .



www.soapboxcollaborative.org

The Soapbox Volunteer Series

The Soapbox 'Volunteer Series' is the latest addition to the website. The series gives a first hand insight into our volunteer's experiences during their time working in the field on behalf of Soapbox. Here we introduce some of our volunteers:



Alex Aulakh is a 5th year medical student at the University of Aberdeen. He has spent three months in The Gambia. He has been working on the Clean Birth Kit project at The Medical Research Council's (MRC) unit in Fajara, a coastal suburb of Bakau and at Basse Health Centre in the Upper River Region. He has also been assisting to facilitate links between the University of Aberdeen, the MRC and the University of Gambia Medical School.



Sam Tweed is a 4th year medical student at the University of Aberdeen with a keen interest in Global Health. He volunteered for Soapbox in Bahir Dar, Ethiopia over the summer period, developing links between the University of Aberdeen, Bahir Dar University and Felege Hiwot Referral Hospital. He was also able to conduct a project aiming to facilitate improvements in infection prevention and control at the hospital.

Dr Jolene Moore is an Anaesthesia StR, currently working as a Clinical Teaching Fellow at the University of Aberdeen. She has travelled to Bahir Dar, Ethiopia, on behalf of the University of Aberdeen and



Soapbox. She was instrumental in establishing links between Bahir Dar University, Felege Hiwot Hospital and the University of Aberdeen. She also reviewed infection control practices on behalf of Soapbox and reviewed anaesthesia and critical care services with a view to providing training in these areas.



Manon Haemmerli

Manon and Augustina, Public Health Masters students, both carried out research supported by Soapbox at Edward Francis Small Teaching Hospital, Banjul, The Gambia.



Augustina Esiovwa

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Annual Soapbox Showcase Event

An opportunity to hear more about our exciting projects, meet our team and celebrate as we make our annual Outstanding Achievement Awards. JOIN US on FRIDAY 5TH DECEMBER, contact us at info@soapboxcollaborative.org to find out more.