



ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019

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Our Partners & Stakeholders



From the Trustees

We are pleased to share with you now our Annual Report for 2018-19. In this period we celebrate the global launch of our Training in Environmental Hygiene and Cleaning in Healthcare (TEACH CLEAN) package. TEACH CLEAN's launch helps to address the lack of formal training for those who clean and promote infection prevention control (IPC) and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) standards for a safer environment - underpinning health for all.

2018-19 has also been a year of reflection. When Soapbox was established in March 2012, the burden of healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) in maternity units and the associated focus on WASH and IPC were relatively neglected topics – both programmatically and in terms of research. We set out to lead the way on redressing this – working collaboratively, of course – hence the name.

Seven years on, there are many more actors, and WASH in healthcare facilities, IPC and indeed antimicrobial resistance (AMR) are now clear priorities for a large number of agencies. Soapbox was created to play a catalytic role and has played its part by developing tools to illuminate the scope and determinants of poor hygiene at birth, and by identifying

major opportunities to intervene in terms of both hand hygiene and the training of facility cleaners, so bringing benefits within and beyond maternity units.

After much deliberation we recognise that June 2019 is the right time to formally close the charity. We have had the enormous privilege of working with partners in eight countries, with our three hub institutions in the UK and with many international agencies and large NGOs.

With environmental cleaning now included in the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme and the proposed high level resolution on WASH at the 2019 World Health Assembly, we can be optimistic that real improvements at scale for mothers and newborns will continue to happen.

We are ending Soapbox on a high note and we look forward to celebrating Soapbox's achievements and legacy over the coming months. Our work will continue to reach far and wide, with ongoing dissemination aimed at those who can continue to build on the legacy we leave, adapting our products as they go on to build safer environments, quality health care for all and stronger communities.

Mr Alec Cumming, Trustee

Communication and Advocacy

Soapbox had several opportunities to engage with the next generation of healthcare providers in 2018-2019. We attended the International Day of the Midwife Conference, at Robert Gordon University, where midwifery students came together to celebrate global midwifery. The theme was *'Midwives; leading the way with quality care'* and the incredible progress which midwifery has made in the past few decades to strengthen quality care for mothers and their newborns.

Professor Graham presented at the 2018 Student Midwives' Conference in Brighton which focussed on empowering midwives and women. Professor Graham's presentation "Leaving no one behind: clean birth for every mother and newborn" aimed to raise awareness of the basic human right – clean birth – which is still denied to both thousands of women every day and to the midwives who attend them.

There were also a number of opportunities to engage with global maternal and newborn health researchers & policy makers in this reporting period. Susannah Woodd

presented the results from the HANDS study in Zanzibar at the 2018 GLOW Conference (Global Women's Research Society). Professor Graham was part of a small group of experts invited to attend a WHO consultation in Delhi on *"Promoting cleaner and safer facilities in the South East Asia region"*. And Dr Alex Aiken attended the Infection Control Africa Network Conference, which featured a wide range of sessions with high-profile speakers and interesting presentations on practical advice on hospital cleaning methodologies and methods for measuring cleaning outcomes in hospitals.



Joanna MacQueen & Emma Morrison, International Day of the Midwife, Robert Gordon University

Soapbox also engaged with local clinicians and service users in Aberdeen. At NHS Grampian's Monitoring of Cleaning Services Public Involvement Group, Emma Morrison shared Soapbox's lessons on supporting improvements in infection prevention and control to reduce HAIs in mothers and babies delivered in hospitals in low-income countries.

There were also plenty of opportunities to disseminate the TEACH CLEAN training package following its launch in 2018. Professor Graham, Emma Morrison & Claire Kilpatrick were invited to present a webinar on 'The Role of Cleaners: Neglected Frontline WASH Workers in Healthcare Facilities'. A recording of the webinar is available on the WASH in HCF YouTube channel.

The banner features a dark blue background with white and red text and icons. At the top left is the WASH in Healthcare Facilities Initiative logo (a water drop with an 'H'). To its right, it says 'MONTHLY WEBINAR SERIES'. The main title is 'The Role of Cleaners: Neglected Frontline WASH Workers in Healthcare Facilities'. Below the title is a row of six icons: a house with a red cross, a water drop, a toilet, a hand sanitizer bottle, a broom, and a trash bin. At the bottom, it lists the presenters: 'Presented by: Wendy Graham, Emma Morrison and Claire Kilpatrick from the Soapbox Collaborative' and the date: 'Wednesday March 13, 2019'. The time slots are: '9-10 AM EST (New York) 1-2 PM BST (London) 4-5 PM EAT (Nairobi)'.

Publications

The Water@Birth Study: an exploratory study on the requirements of water for hand hygiene during labour and delivery in low-income countries.

I. Adekunle-Olarinde *et al* (2018) *Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology*

Health and hygiene from birth. W.J. Graham (2018) *BMJ*

Multi-sectoral collaboration for health and sustainable development. W.J. Graham *et al* (2018) *BMJ*

An invisible workforce: the neglected role of cleaners in patient safety on maternity units. S. Cross *et al* (2019) *Global Health Action*

Hands washing, glove use and avoiding recontamination before aseptic procedures at birth: a multicentre time and motion study conducted in Zanzibar G. Gon *et al* (2019) *American Journal of Infection Control*.



TEACHCLEAN[®]

**Teaching for a cleaner environment
and better health for all**

Courtesy of Medici con l'Africa Cuamm, flickr

TEACH CLEAN

One of the most striking findings from Soapbox's work with partners over the last 7 years is the low status accorded to a key area of service provision in maternity wards: environmental cleaning and cleaners. In January 2019, we published '*An invisible workforce: the neglected role of cleaners in patient safety on maternity units*' in Global Health Action, highlighting findings from needs assessments in India, Bangladesh, Zanzibar & The Gambia.

Soapbox has remained committed to raising awareness of the importance of cleaning in maternity units, and to addressing the gap of formal training for cleaning staff, by developing a participatory training package.

Launched globally at the end of 2018, TEACH CLEAN presents information and materials required to deliver comprehensive, participatory training in environmental hygiene and IPC in healthcare facilities. Tailored towards use within low-resource settings, TEACH CLEAN is a freely available, evidence and best practice based resource which is adaptable to the local context,

accessible for staff with limited literacy skills through its participatory methodology and suitable for a cascade approach to training (Training of Trainers, ToT).

The TEACH CLEAN package includes:

- A 'How to Train' instruction document and ToT modules on Supportive Supervision & Quality Improvement
- Seven essential Clean Box training modules addressing IPC and environmental hygiene
- Written & Illustrated Cleaning Procedure Guidelines
- Competency Assessment Checklists
- Advocacy and Communications Resource Pack

Frontline workers who clean are champions of the healthcare environment. TEACH CLEAN helps address a lack of formal training and promotes IPC and WASH standards for a safer environment, underpinning quality healthcare for all.

Global Dissemination of TEACH CLEAN

In March, Soapbox collaborated with our partners, Horizons Trust Gambia, to produce a short film which follows the pilot and implementation of TEACH CLEAN training in four healthcare facilities in The Gambia, and the sustained improvements in IPC and environmental hygiene witnessed. The film highlights the impact training has had on local staff - empowering them to drive improvements in IPC, and the benefits that have been seen by women accessing care in the facilities.



The film 'Implementation of the TEACH CLEAN package in The Gambia' is available to view on our YouTube channel.

TEACH CLEAN training is currently being implemented in Tanzania (page 10) and Myanmar (page 12) and the first formal evaluation of the package is underway.

TEACH CLEAN has been shared in more than 20 different countries around the globe and we look forward to receiving feedback from those end users.



To access the TEACH CLEAN package visit our website.

Measuring WASH in Maternity Units

In 2018, the WHO-UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene published core questions and indicators for monitoring WASH in HCFs in the Sustainable Development Goals. These questions are intended to be relevant in all countries and settings, and focused on the minimum criteria for provision of basic WASH services in HCFs.

The indicators include definitions for ‘basic’ water, sanitation, hygiene, healthcare waste management and environmental cleaning and recognised the important role WASH plays in preventing infections, saving lives, and improving quality of care. Soapbox were delighted to contribute to the development of these indicators and, in particular, focused on IPC measures such as environmental cleaning.

WHO and UNICEF have subsequently released the *WASH in Health Care Facilities JMP report* - the first global baseline estimates for WASH, healthcare waste management and environmental cleaning services in HCFs, based on national data from assessments of over

560,000 HCFs across 125 countries. The companion report - *WASH in HCF Practical Steps to Achieve Universal Access to Quality Care* outlines a set of eight practical actions that countries can take to improve WASH services – providing some inspiring practical case studies including Soapbox’s TEACH CLEAN training in Tanzania.



These documents are targeted towards national health policy makers, district health managers, quality experts and implementers, and health facility administrators and staff. Visit www.washinhcf.org for more information.

The CLEAN Study, Tanzania

Fantastic progress has been achieved in Tanzania in 2018-19 with the implementation of the TEACH CLEAN package in maternity units in three hospitals in Dar es Salaam as part of the CLEAN Study.

The CLEAN study, which is funded by Joint Global Health Trials, is the first formal evaluation of the efficacy of training ‘cleaning champions’ to improve environmental hygiene and is being delivered by a multi-disciplinary collaboration involving London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Ifakara Health Institute and Soapbox.

Experienced trainers at Muhimbili University of Health & Allied Sciences assessed the needs of the focus hospitals and then adapted TEACH CLEAN to fit the Tanzanian setting, ensuring relevance to national IPC guidelines. Cleaning ‘champions’ from each facility took part in Training the Trainer workshops to learn IPC and environmental hygiene theory, best cleaning practice and participatory training methods. These cleaning champions have subsequently trained healthcare staff with cleaning responsibilities to support the cascade of

best cleaning practices throughout the hospitals. In addition to measuring cleanliness before and after the training, changes in staff attitude and knowledge of cleaning are also being assessed. Aberdeen St. Fittick Rotary Club have generously provided funds to purchase cleaning materials to ensure cleaning staff can translate knowledge into action.

Soapbox’s Dr Susannah Woodd is leading an add-on study which is investigating methods to measure self-reported healthcare associated infections among newborns and mothers using telephone surveillance. A team of 6 research nurses are recruiting up to 900 women who they will follow up at 1 and 4 weeks post-birth.



Susannah & the research nurse team



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Supporting Safe Births in Myanmar

In partnership with WaterAid, Jhpiego, and Myanmar's Ministry of Health and Sport, the 'Supporting Safe Births in Myanmar' project is funded by the Australian Government's Water for Women Fund and seeks to improve the quality and safety of healthcare at the time of birth.

The project, which will run until 2023, is being carried out in five township hospitals in the Ayeyarwady region and is focusing on good hygiene practices and cleanliness, and addressing current gaps in IPC.

In early 2019, Soapbox's Dr Liz Goodburn and Professor Wendy Graham travelled to Yangon, Myanmar to lead an orientation workshop for project partners on the TEACH CLEAN package to share knowledge required to plan, adapt, implement and evaluate training of cleaning staff in healthcare facilities.

Materials for the CLEAN boxes were sourced locally by Soapbox-WaterAid Project Officer Dr Thinn Myat Mon, and the workshop included demonstrations from Liz,

Wendy and Thinn to highlight the participatory approach of the training and provided partners with an opportunity to raise queries and consider local adaptations.



Dr Thinn Myat Mon showing TEACH CLEAN's illustrated guideline for hand washing for participatory training.

Wendy demonstrated cleaning of a blood spill following the visual prompts provided by TEACH CLEAN's Illustrated Cleaning Guidelines. She also highlighted the pros and cons of different mop types, which led to her

subsequently being referred to as Professor Mop de Bucket!

The TEACH CLEAN package emphasises the importance of continual supportive supervision to enable monitoring of standards, highlight areas in need of improvement, and ensure that cleaning staff have the required knowledge and skills to perform their role. Liz and WaterAid Health Co-ordinator Dr So Pyay Naing discussed the theory and methods of supportive supervision and performed a role play to demonstrate the difference between unsupportive and supportive supervision.

A formal Training of Trainers workshop with the Regional Training Team and senior staff from the five township hospitals is planned for late-2019.

During their visit, Liz and Wendy also attended the WASH symposium at the 47th Myanmar National Health Congress which provided an excellent opportunity to engage with a diverse range of WASH stakeholders. Wendy gave a presentation on 'The Perfect Storm', highlighting the urgent need to improve WASH and IPC

in healthcare facilities to reduce the burden of healthcare associated infection and the threat of increasing antimicrobial resistance. Liz then followed, sharing an overview of the TEACH CLEAN package and the role it can play in promoting IPC and WASH standards for a safer environment for patients and healthcare workers.



Soapbox's Wendy and Liz with our partners on the Water for Women Supporting Safe Births in Myanmar project attending the 47th Myanmar National Health Congress

The Aberdeen - Bahir Dar Partnership

Since 2014, Soapbox has had a successful partnership with Felege Hiwot Comprehensive Specialized Hospital (FHCSH) as part of the Aberdeen-Bahir Dar Knowledge Exchange Partnership. The partnership aims to strengthen infection prevention and control and support quality of care in Bahir Dar, with a particular focus on maternal and newborn health. Student projects form a key component of the partnership's success and in 2019 University of Aberdeen medical student Victoria Kinkaid, carried out research into overcrowding on the maternity unit. Victoria has developed a Photo Action Tool (PAT) aimed at defining and managing overcrowding on



Victoria Kinkaid at FHCSH, Ethiopia

maternity wards in low income countries, in an attempt to reduce maternal and childhood mortality and morbidity and this is currently being piloted at FHCSH.

Global Citizenship

In June 2018, Soapbox and NHS Grampian hosted a seminar on Global Citizenship exploring the mutual benefits of international volunteering by those working in the health sector. We were delighted to welcome speakers from across the UK to share their experience with NHS staff, students and representatives from local NGOs. Chaired by Professor Graham, it was attended by a number of high profile champions of international volunteering; with presentations from Brenda Longstaff, Head of International Partnerships at Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and Kerry Chalmers, Scottish Government Senior Policy Manager.

Jennie Spence, a nurse practitioner at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, shared her recent first-hand experience of international volunteering in the Intensive Care Unit of FHCSH as part of the Aberdeen-Bahir Dar Partnership.

Student Projects

Soapbox has continued to support the University of Aberdeen's MBChB & Global Health programme activities:

The barriers to the use of prophylactic antibiotics for caesarean section at Felege Hiwot Comprehensive Specialized Hospital. Julia Thomas, MBChB Elective

Routine obstetric practices amongst anaesthesia providers. Victoria White, MBChB Elective

Reducing overcrowding on maternity wards in LMICs. Victoria Kinkaid, MBChB Elective

More than a medical issue - evaluating methods to research multisectorial collaboration in the context of global health & development. Lucy Singh, MBChB Elective

Paediatric conditions presenting for care to the MRC Unit in The Gambia: Audit of the relationship between patients' characteristics, place of residence and conditions. Raymond Jia Hao Kheng, MBChB Elective

Financial Statement

Income	£
Donations	1,380
Investment income	6,270
Grants	58,761
Total income	66,411
Expenditure	
Project support	34,960
International travel	5,637
Salaries	112,088
Grants and bursaries	380
Other costs	151,225
Total expenditure	304,290
Net expenditure	237,879



Saving lives with clean safe care at birth

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