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**ACCESS TO SANITATION AND SAFE WATER:
GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS AND LOCAL ACTIONS**

**Meeting the hygiene, safe water and sanitation needs
of people living with HIV/Aids (PLWHA)**

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People living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) are at increased risk for diarrhoeal diseases, and are far more likely to suffer severe and chronic complications if infected. There is terrible irony in fighting to provide PLWHA with advanced antiretroviral agents (ARVs), and washing them down with water that may infect with a life-threatening illness. Recent evidence demonstrates the efficacy of hand washing, safe water and sanitation (WASH) in reducing diarrhoea among PLWHA by 25% or more, and increasing the absorptive capacity of ARVs. In addition to the negative impact on life expectancy and quality of life that diarrhoeal illnesses cause PLWHA, diarrhoeal disease in PLWHA adds significantly to the burden on caregivers in clinics and at home, and puts family members at increased risk for diarrhoeal disease.

This talking poster (including video and sound clips) will highlight community approaches to integrate safe water, hygiene and sanitation into HIV home-based care programs in Ethiopia. At the heart of integrating WASH into home-based care is identifying a range of “small doable actions” that caretakers and PLWHA find feasible (and prove effective) in various resource and disease contexts: washing with scarce or no running water; feces disposal when mobility is limited; and washing and sanitation considerations in different family/care contexts.

This presentation will briefly outline the evidence for integrating WASH into HIV home-based care; then highlight practical and participatory research methods and findings from Ethiopia used to identify behavioral options, and finally describe two interventions to increase uptake of WASH behaviors within home-based care programming.

Tools, research guides and program resources will be available to share.

Keywords

vulnerable groups, home-based care for PLWHA, community

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