

IPC-WASH Training Project

Process evaluation report



“Sit down, do proper planning; have all of the stakeholders come together; evaluate your challenges – specifically the IPC and WASH challenges; plan together; make it a collaborative process.”

(Member of the Core Project Group)

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Executive summary

Introduction

This document describes the steps in a process evaluation which aimed to extract key learning points from different stages of the project and to outline potential transferable learnings regarding a newly developed training package on infection prevention and control (IPC) and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). The project was a collaboration between WaterAid, the Ministry of Health Malawi and other key stakeholders in Malawi, the African region and the UK, and was funded by the Wimbledon Foundation.

Summary

The project fulfilled the aim of developing an innovative training package on IPC and WASH for the Malawian health care system, that builds on and adds value to existing materials. An associated aim was for such a package to be scalable and adaptable for use by others interested in replicating the approach. The learning points and the six core considerations have been used in the development of a flow diagram (Figure 1) that lists the key steps in the development of an IPC & WASH training, which may be of interest to others considering a similar project.

In summary, different aspects of project management are critical to develop and execute an ambitious project of this nature; leadership, management and coordination are all part of robust project management. A project of such magnitude requires a trigger, vision and funding as well as inclusivity and insights into the local situation in order to ensure a themed, fit for purpose product. Importantly the role of consistent, tenacious people at local level will drive progress.

Six core considerations for a successful approach

1. Trigger

- Is there a trigger to motivate and mobilise action by those relevant stakeholders?

2. Vision

- Is there a clear vision that relevant stakeholders can understand and buy in to?

3. Project management

- Are the aims and goals, of the project clear and unambiguous?
- Has project leadership and coordination been agreed, particularly in-country?
- Is a reliable, sufficient funding source available to cover all anticipated activities and outputs?
- Do the right people with the right skills exist, including local and international SMEs, researchers and educationalists?
- Who will form the core group that will be tasked with guiding, advising and signing-off on project activities and outputs?
- Have the roles and responsibilities of the project team and core group been agreed and formalized?
- Has a project plan and realistic timeline (including slippage), that includes a schedule of meetings for the duration of the project, and been developed?
- Has the engagement, feedback and decision-making process been articulated and agreed by all, including the benefits of in-person workshop(s) for creativity at the start of the project, virtual meetings for consensus and the use of email and WhatsApp for rapid decision making?
- Have all anticipated risks and mitigations been logged, including a focus on scope creep, the impact of likely changes in the political context and other external factors that can impact every aspect of the project?
- Is it clear to all what project closure will look like including consensus on a successful outcome (linked to the original vision, aims and goals)?

4. Inclusivity

- Has inclusivity been considered including those who will benefit from the project, patient organisations, and key informants and disseminators beyond the project team and core group?

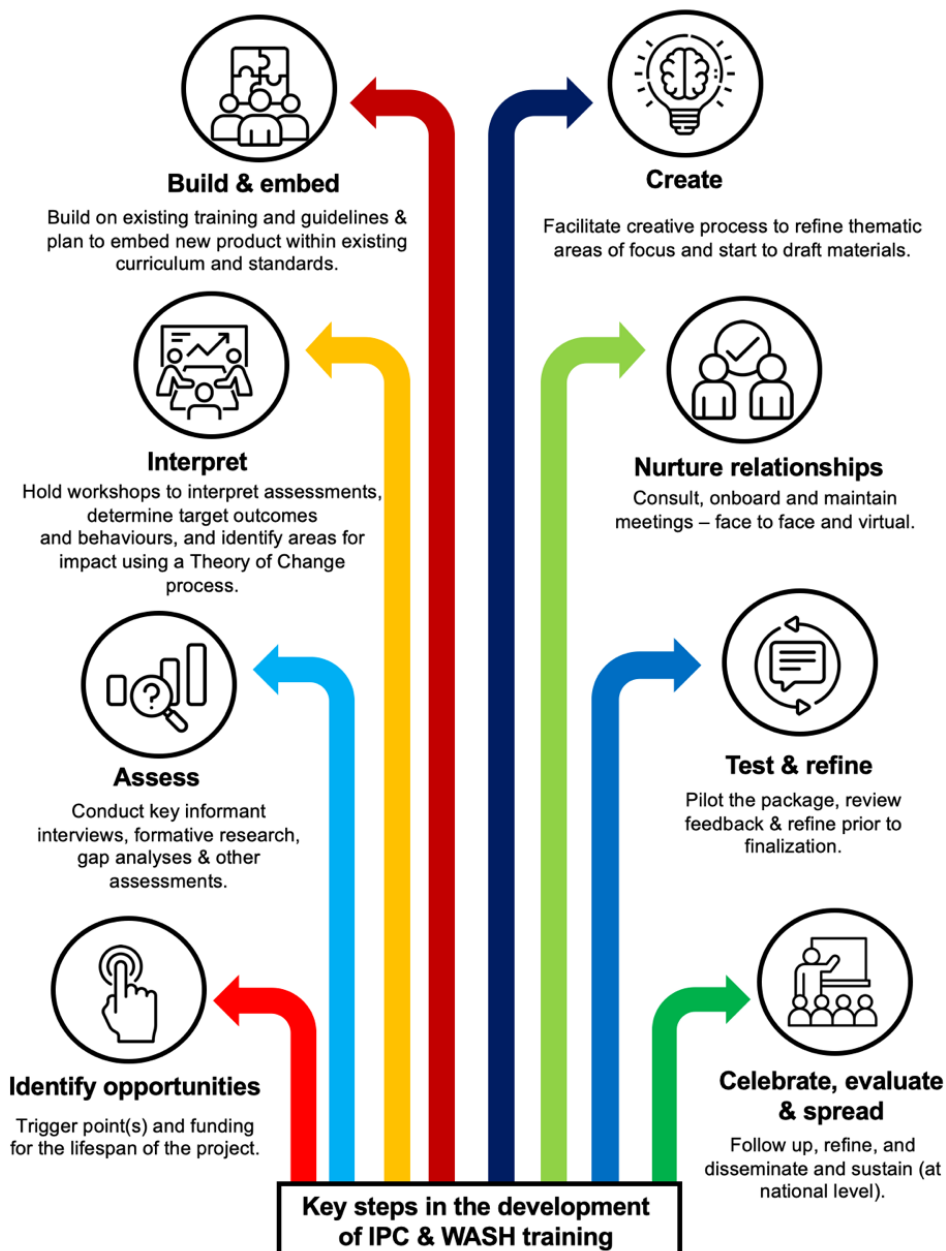
5. Situational analysis & building on what exists

- Has the best way to determine the local situation been considered, including the use of - formative research, KIIs, gap analysis or other baseline assessments e.g. facility visits and exposure to existing in-country training? Such analysis a) reveals insights into what already exists in terms of training and guidelines, and this can be built upon for sustainability and success, and b) aids understanding of local behaviours and cultures that can help accelerate progress.

6. Outputs

- Is there consensus that the proposed outputs i.e. the different components of the training package, will be fit for purpose, innovative and add value to existing training? Be mindful that a) technology such as Whatsapp, may not be easily available for all recipients of the training and b) training outputs must be understandable i.e. in the local language.

Figure 1. Key steps in the development of IPC & WASH training¹



¹ Sources of icons: <https://www.flaticon.com/free-icons/trigger>