WASH and Nutrition integration: what can it mean in practice

WaterAid’s experience
Why integrate?

• Programmatic links between prevention and cure have potential for improved impact (e.g. elimination, sustainability)
• Poor nutrition and lack of WASH likely to be a double burden faced by the poorest (reducing inequalities)
• Under increasing pressure to deliver sustained impact & value-for-money
• Move away (again) from ‘vertical’ approaches
• For the people we are trying to reach
What is integration?

Convergence?
To converge – to come together and unite in a common interest or focus

Coordination?
To coordinate – to bring into common action, movement or condition

Integration?
To integrate – To make into a whole by bringing all parts together; unify

Today! Continuing the global discussion. Also via national platforms. Consensus

National/sub-national – joint planning, targeting of interventions & monitoring
Global level – Frameworks, action plans
Programme level – joint delivery of interventions
Beneficiaries – person-centered
So which is best? Integration? Coordination? Convergence?

Do we always need integration?
When is it the right thing to do?
When is integration needed?

What does it look like in practice?
WaterAid, USAID & WASHPlus delivered a large scale nutrition programme in four sub-districts with high rates of undernutrition.

Included a substantial WASH component, especially safe disposal of child faeces, as well as improved access to safe water to reduce the diseases that affect nutrition.

Outcomes: Enhanced food production, increased access to safe water, increase in essential nutrition actions (breastfeeding) and essential hygiene and sanitation behaviours.
WaterAid’s collaborating with the Ministry of Health and Population to build hygiene promotion into routine immunization.

Mothers attending immunisation clinics with babies (<1yr) participate in hygiene promotion sessions (sessions focus on handwashing with soap, exclusive breastfeeding, safe water management and faeces management).

Hygiene promotion delivered by trusted frontline health workers (vaccinators, Female Community Health Volunteers)
What’s needed for better coordination and integration?
Planning

Investment

Targets and indicators

Evidence