

Developing Tools for Impact: Sanitation Behavior Change among Women in Southern Ethiopia

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Context

- Access to improved water and sanitation is an important development factor that has significant effects on health outcomes and the burden of poverty.
- As of 2009 in Ethiopia, only 39% of the population had basic sanitation coverage and 66% had access to an improved water source.
- Water is Life International is a non-governmental organization that is working to improve this situation by providing access to safe and sufficient water sources to impoverished communities throughout Ethiopia. Water is Life also forms Sustainable Livelihood Groups (SLGs) in order to affect sanitation behavior change in the lives of the individuals in the communities in which they work.
- A the time of this practicum, Water is Life did not have an established monitoring system for the Sustainable Livelihood initiative, and previously had never conducted an evaluation of the effect of Sustainable Livelihood Groups on individual sanitation behaviors.



Objectives and Activities

Objective 1:

Assess the functioning and operation of Sustainable Livelihood Groups to determine essential characteristics for effectiveness

Objective 2:

Determine the effect of Sustainable Livelihood Groups on individual sanitation behaviors and underlying behavioral determinants

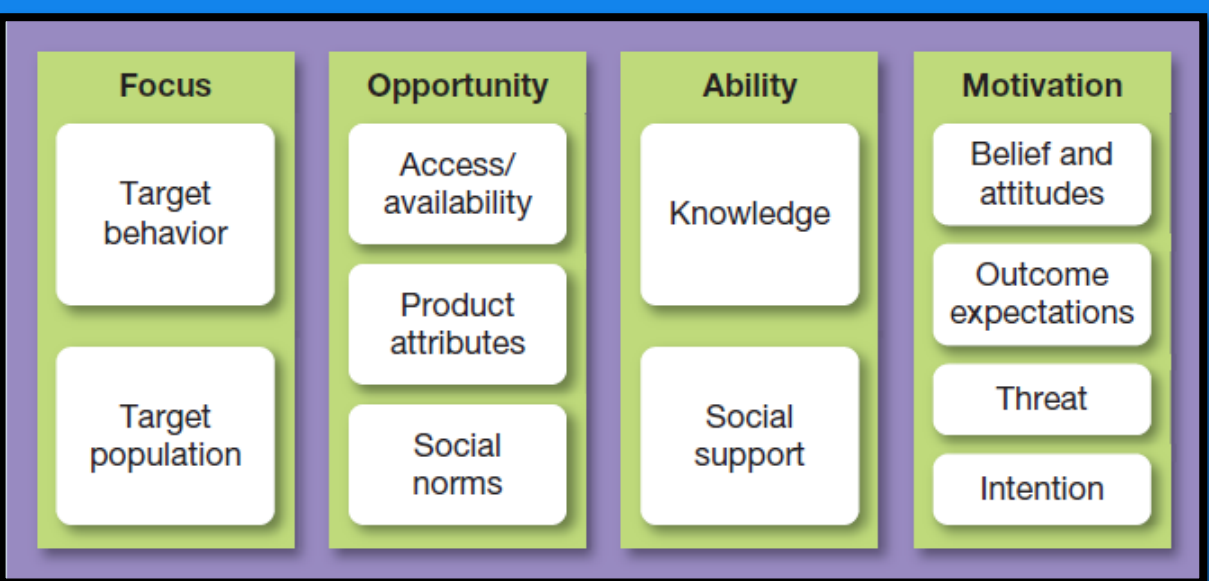
Objective 3:

Conduct an evaluation that can be utilized by Water is Life International and used to establish a practical monitoring system

- In order to address practicum objectives, four focus groups were conducted with members of Sustainable Livelihood Groups, and 105 surveys were administered to both Sustainable Livelihood Group members and non-members
- Activities were conducted in partnership with Water is Life International, Selam Awassa Water Drilling Group, Kale Heywot Church, and Awassa community members
- The design of these instruments was informed by the FOAM Framework of the Water and Sanitation Program and the Ethiopia Demographic Health Survey 2011

Methods

- The FOAM Framework identifies specific underlying determinants of sanitation behavior change, so that we can better understand why or why not a sanitation behavior is adopted
- My survey included a series of 43 questions relating to 7 of the FOAM behavioral determinants measured on a Likert scale
- For analysis, Stata was utilized to perform principal components analysis to develop a composite index for each behavioral determinant, based on the scores for the underlying survey questions correlating to each determinant
- Behavioral determinant scores were then categorized into high and low levels, indicating whether an individual has a high or low level of each behavioral determinant
- Chi square tests were then run to examine the relationship between behavioral determinants and different sub-groups of the population and sanitation behaviors



Results

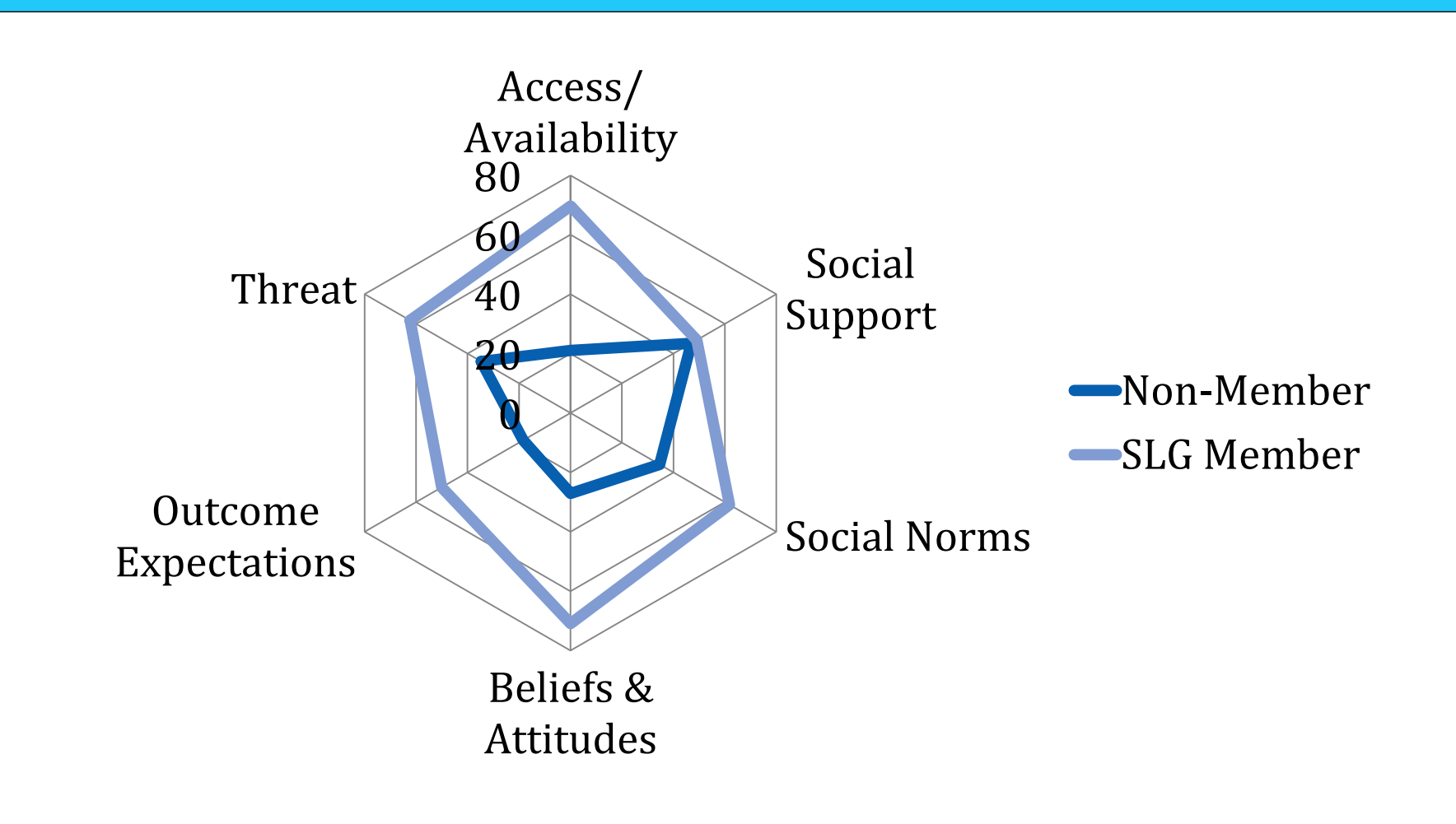
Objective 1

Figure 1: Essential operational and organizational characteristics of SLGs obtained from focus group discussions



Objective 2

Figure 2: Percent of SLG members and non-members with high behavioral determinant levels obtained from surveys



*SLG members are significantly more likely than non-members to have high levels of sanitation behavioral determinants

	Percent (%) High					
	Access/Availability	Social Support	Social Norms	Beliefs & Attitudes	Outcome Expectations	Threat
SLG Member						
No	21.1*	46.9	34.7*	27.1*	18.4*	34.7*
Yes	69.6*	49.1	61.8*	70.9*	50.0*	62.3*

Statistically significant variables (p<0.05) are marked with an asterisk (*)

Figure 3: Percent of low and high education individuals with high behavioral determinant levels obtained from surveys

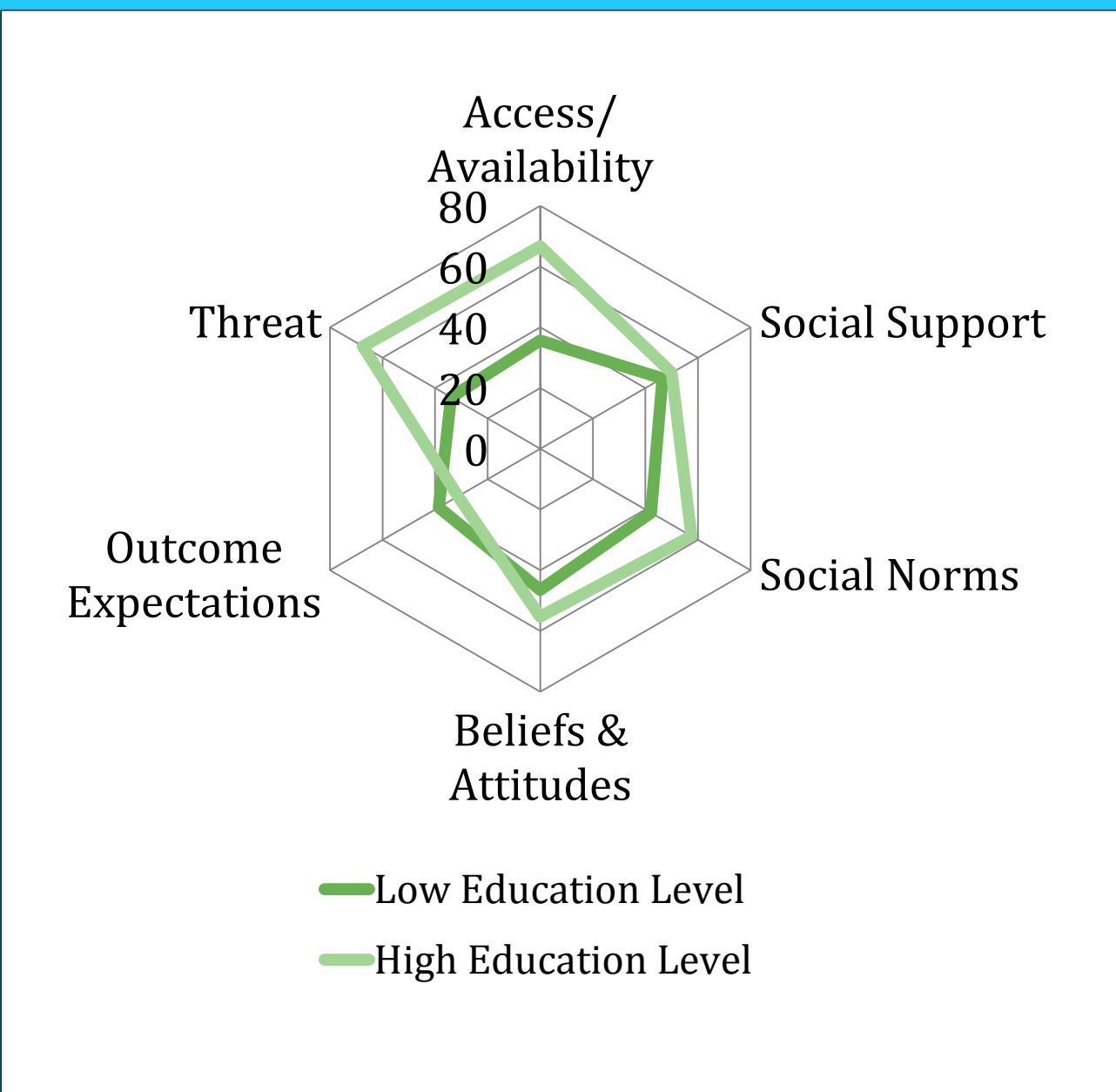


Figure 4: Percent of individuals in Community 1 and Community 2 with high behavioral determinant levels obtained from surveys

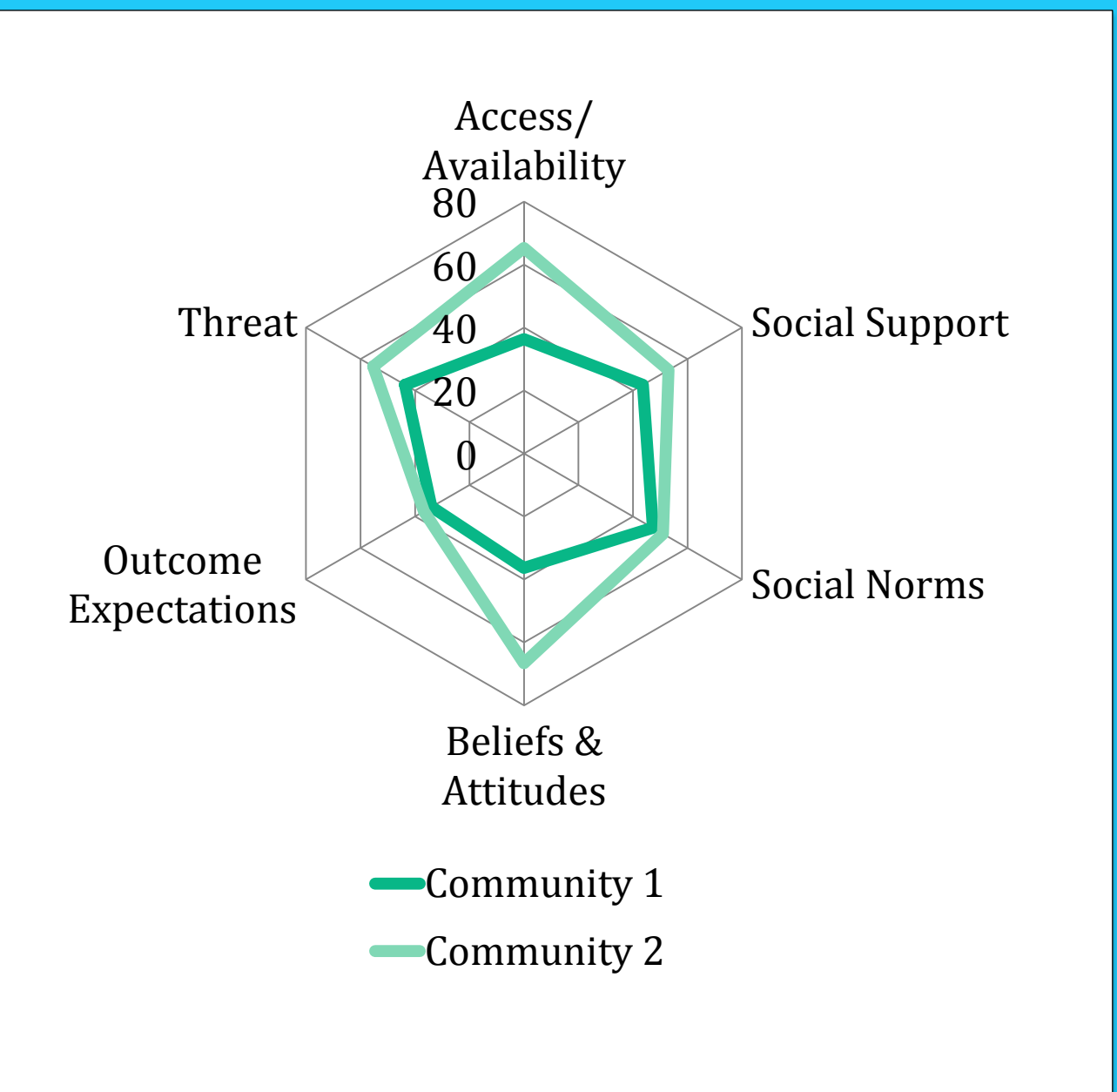


Figure 5: Levels of behavioral determinants for two proxies of individual sanitation behaviors obtained from surveys

	Percent (%) with behavior	
	Has a Handwashing Station in the Household	Individual Washes Hands at Critical Times
Social Support		
Low	20.4*	46.2
High	40.0*	52.0
Access		
Low	17.3*	17.7*
High	44.2*	82.4*
Social Norms		
Low	17.0*	35.3*
High	45.1*	62.8*
Beliefs & Attitudes		
Low	36.5	72.6*
High	25.5	28.0*
Outcome Expectations		
Low	29.4	40.3*
High	32.4	66.7*
Threat		
Low	25.0	25.5*
High	36.0	75.5*

Statistically significant variables (p<0.05) are marked with an asterisk (*)

*High levels of all behavioral determinants, except for beliefs and attitudes, consistently indicates the adoption of positive sanitation behaviors

Gender Perspective

It is important to consider a gender perspective when analyzing this field practicum because Sustainable Livelihood Groups are primarily composed of women, and also because of the intertwined relationship between gender issues and water and sanitation issues. The following are key observations of the field practicum from the gender perspective:

- Women's gender roles in Ethiopia garner them the primary responsibility for the management of household water supply, sanitation, and hygiene
- Women's traditional activities such as cooking, cleaning, and caring for children are reliant on water resources, and women's concerns for their family's health and cleanliness hinge on sanitation and hygiene
- Women are positioned in a unique place of power in regards to sanitation and hygiene resources and practices due to their knowledge and their position in the household
- Gender issues can negatively compound the effect of the opportunity, ability, and motivation determinants of sanitation behavior change

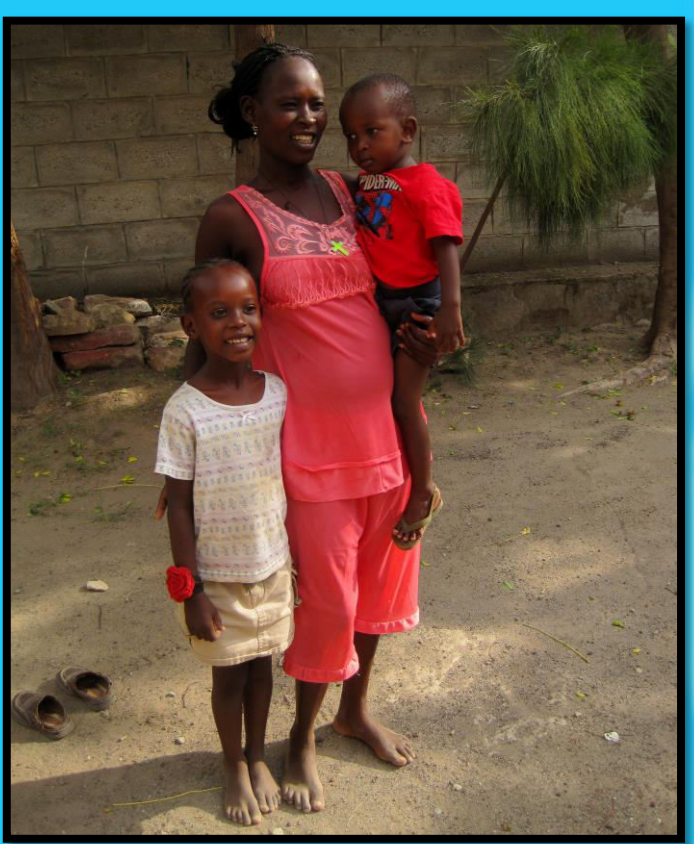
Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions

- Social support is the most significant barrier to sanitation behavior change among the participatory population in Awassa
- Sustainable Livelihood Group members, younger individuals, more educated individuals, and individuals in urban areas are more likely to have high levels of behavioral determinants
- Sustainable Livelihood Groups are a powerful and effective social structure that are transformative for women and bring numerous benefits
- Sustainable Livelihood Groups especially affect access/availability, beliefs and attitudes, and threat
- Sustainable Livelihood Groups have a positive effect on determinants of sanitation behavior change and are a promising avenue for intervention

Recommendations

- Expand the Sustainable Livelihood Group program, specifically targeting rural areas
- Leverage Sustainable Livelihood Groups to target social support within communities by creating a dialogue about sanitation issues
- Utilize this evaluation within Water is Life to perform systematic monitoring of Sustainable Livelihood Groups, including pre- and post- surveys



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