



The Network



The International Network to Promote
Household Water Treatment and Safe Storage

**Combating Waterborne Disease at the
Household Level**



World Health
Organization



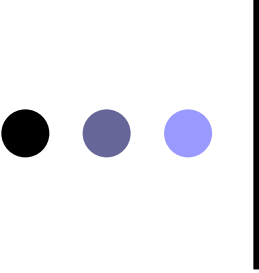
Overview

- Why household-level water quality interventions?
- What do we mean by Household Water Treatment and Safe Storage (HWTS)?
- The Network
- Priorities for the future

The Challenge

- Unsafe Water, Inadequate Sanitation and Hygiene:
 - **1.1 billion lack access to "improved" drinking water supply**
 - **4 billion cases of diarrhoea annually, 88% attributable to unsafe water**
 - **1.8 million die each year from diarrhoeal diseases, vast majority being children under 5**
 - **Lack of safe water perpetuates poverty**
 - **WHO says 94% of diarrhoeal cases preventable through environmental modifications**





Why household level water quality interventions?

- Prioritize provision of "improved" water sources to 1.1 billion people
- Recognizing that household water quality is frequently compromised:
 - Promote household-level water management where appropriate, which may benefit billions

What is HWTS?

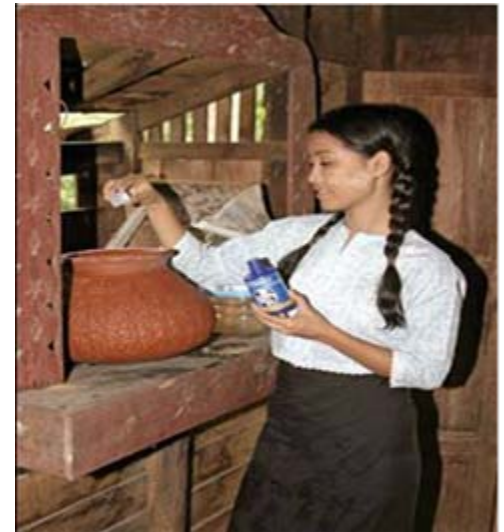
- **Household Water Treatment and Safe Storage (HWTS)** is also known as managing water at the "point-of-use" (POU)
- HWTS includes wide array of treatment and storage techniques
 - e.g. boiling, filtration, chemical, solar, and UV lamp disinfection, flocculation, etc.
 - Safe storage (e.g. narrow-mouth, screened, and covered containers, and taps and spigots) prevents recontamination



The Case for HWTS

- Growing body of research suggests HWTS...
 1. dramatically improves microbial water quality
 2. significantly reduces diarrhoea
 3. is among the most effective of water, sanitation, and health interventions
 4. can be rapidly deployed and taken up by vulnerable populations

HWTS: Not an alternative, but a complement to infrastructural improvement



The Need for a Network

Looking Back: the situation in 2003

- HWTS a new field
- lack of awareness of effectiveness, and cost effectiveness
- lack of supportive policies
- limited cooperation: fragmented advocacy, research and implementation efforts
- limited tools available to support implementation
- major gaps in implementation research



The situation now:

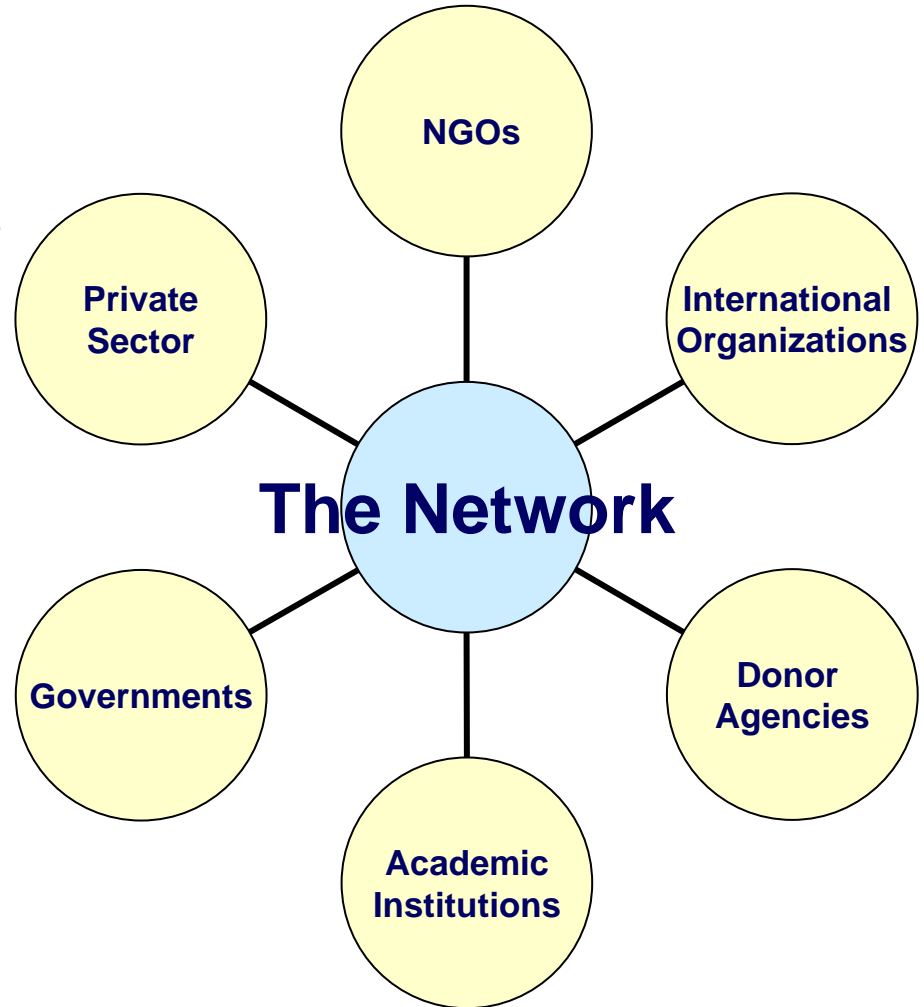
- There is increasing recognition that HWTS should be incorporated into country strategies

The **HWTS** Network

Over 100 Organizations

Mission Statement:

To contribute to a significant reduction in waterborne disease, especially among vulnerable populations, by promoting household water treatment and safe storage as a key component of water, sanitation, and hygiene programmes.



Working Groups of the Network

- Advocacy



- Communication



- Research



- Implementation

Current Priorities of the Network

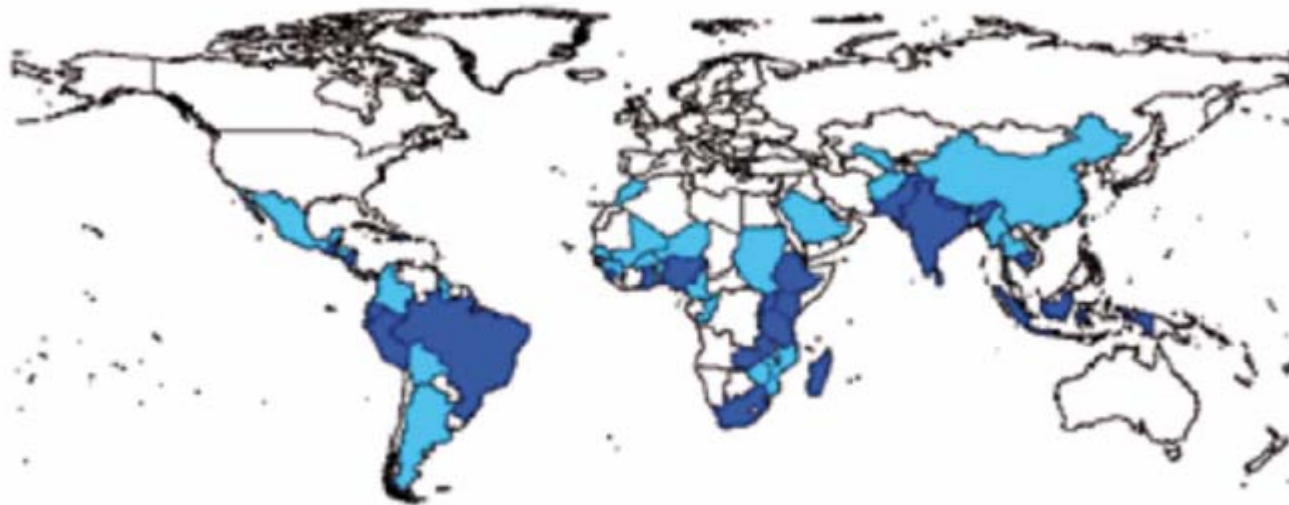
Focus on scaling up HWTS at country level through...

- 1. demonstrating sustained health impact at scale
- 2. mainstreaming advocacy and integration
- 3. tools and resources for scale up
- 4. improved monitoring of HWTS programmes



The HWTS Network

Network survey of HWTS project implementation

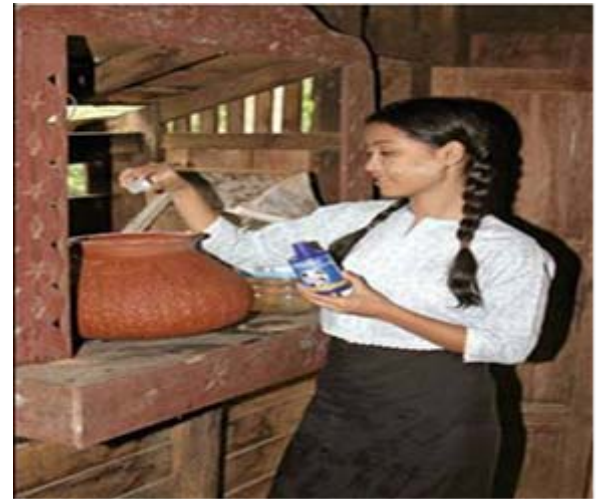


□ No Data
■ Some HWTS project implementation (1-2 projects)
■ Significant HWTS project implementation (3 or more projects)

Source: WHO Network Implementation Working Group Survey Data, 2005

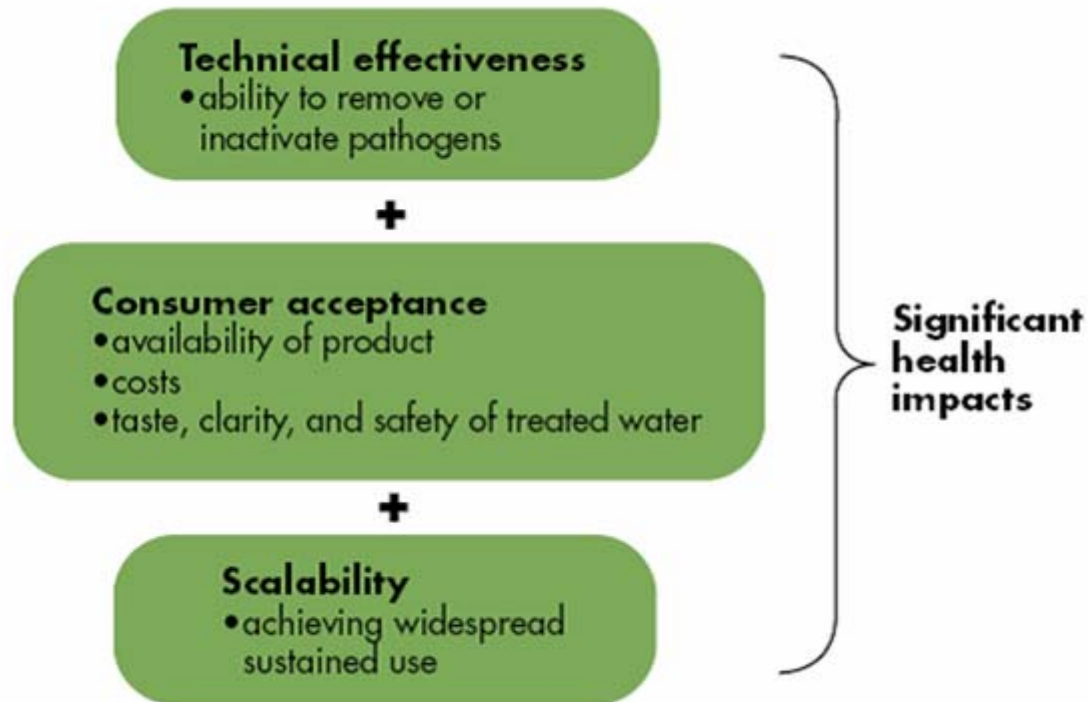
Achievements

- The Network has pushed HWTS from a fringe intervention into the mainstream.
- Undertook research according to agreed research agenda.
- Promoted HWTS at regional, national, and international meetings addressing water and health (e.g. 4th World Water Forum, held in Mexico City, March 2006, and the World Water Congress, held in Beijing, September 2006)
- Constantly improving "pooled" information hub available at:
www.who.int/household_water



Achieving Health Gains

Looking forward, it is necessary to understand that a technology must pass three tests for it to achieve significant health impacts:



Moving Forward - examples of Network priorities:

- Influencing public policies to ensure that HWTS is incorporated into country WSH strategies when appropriate
- Influencing commercial strategies to ensure they reach the most vulnerable groups (i.e. poor communities in remote and rural settings)
- Achieving a successful large-scale model to demonstrate "proof of concept"



Joining the Network

- Participating in the Network can help any organization interested in HWTS
- To join, email WHO Network Secretariat (hhwater@who.int) to confirm agreement with Network mission and guiding principles and willingness to contribute to objectives.

