

3. Point of use water treatment in emergency and development settings - Discussion

LSHTM: Thomas Clasen

Based on the results of a research on the level of effectiveness of different water treatment strategies, Thomas Clasen from LSHTM, presented the new approaches defined as highly effective.

The presentation addressed the relationship between diarrhoeal diseases and water quality, by showing the results obtained after the application of strategies at source water level and household level. The results shown covered the direct impact of the spread disease reduction and the cost-benefit relationship.

- ***Highlighted points:***

- High level of investment in water quality system does not result in the desired level of effectiveness – results in terms of diseases.
- It is important to review the concepts related to water quality – the standards defined are not always applicable.
- Households interventions are more effective than the intervention at the water source level.
- Boiled water should be re-considered at the main intervention – it has several associated risk and its cost is high.
- Solutions/interventions based on the use of filters showed good results.

- ***Discussion:***

- Use of filters in Emergencies: It is a little bit difficult; in this scenario boiled water is a more realistic strategy.
 - There is not a “magic” or single solution, when defining solutions / interventions the main point is to look at the resources available and then to make a decision.
 - The use of disinfectant products has shown good results.
 - Solar disinfection has become an important alternative.
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