

WASH in Health Care Facilities
Newsletter
Nov – Dec 2018
Issue 10



New website coming soon!

The WASH in HCF website (www.washinhcf.org) will be relaunched in advance of World Water Day 2019. It will feature news articles, videos, validated tools, examples of national strategies and standards and technical guidance on WASH technologies. You are invited to help populate the site with relevant content. Please share anything you would like to have included (documents, case studies, videos, blog posts etc.) by email to washinhcf@who.int.

WASH in HCF Proposed Resolution to be discussed at WHO Executive Board in January 2019

The Kingdom of Eswatini, United Republic of Tanzania and the Republic of Zambia are jointly proposing a draft resolution to the [144th Executive Board](#) on Agenda Item 6.6: Patient Safety. The draft resolution urges Member States to set targets, establish and implement minimum standards and ensure WASH is mainstreamed in health programming. It also calls on the Director General to provide global leadership, report, with UNICEF, on the global status, and support country implementation. The discussions will take place the end of January 2019 at WHO.

WASH in HCF 2019 global meeting is being revised – stay tuned for details

The global WASH in HCF meeting concept and location (previously scheduled for March 2019) is being revised, with the aim of having an impactful and targeted event. News of the next global and regional meeting(s) will be shared on a forthcoming issue of the newsletter.

New translations of WHO/UNICEF documents

WASH FIT updates



The Water and Sanitation for Health Facility Improvement Tool (WASH FIT) is now available in French. The Spanish and Arabic version will be coming soon. Download the document [here](#).

Related reading: Weber et al. (2018) *Strengthening Healthcare Facilities Through Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Improvements: A Pilot Evaluation of “WASH FIT” in Togo*. [Health Security 16\(1\)](#).



JMP Core questions for WASH in health care facilities now published in Arabic, French, Russian and Spanish:

Earlier this year, the JMP published a set of [recommended core indicators](#) to support harmonized monitoring of WASH in HCF in support of the 2030 Agenda. The indicators include definitions for “basic” water, sanitation, hand hygiene, health care waste management and environmental cleaning. The indicators are now also available in [Arabic](#), [French](#), [Russian](#) and [Spanish](#).

Related reading: Chatterley et al. (2018) Institutional WASH in the SDGs: data gaps and opportunities for national monitoring. Journal of [Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for Development](#).

“Quality Talks” podcast series

Quality Talks is the podcast of the Network for Improving Quality of Care for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health. Quality Talks shares stories of healthcare professionals who are experienced in running and managing quality of care initiatives, whether at a very small scale or country-wide. They share their experiences on how they got started, how they are hoping to make a difference, and what they have learned along the way. Episodes include stories from India, Malawi and Nigeria. All episodes are available [here](#).



WASH in HCF webinar series by Emory University

The Emory University monthly webinar series is taking a break in December and will be back in January. The latest webinar “An Incremental Approach to WASH in HCF: A Donor Perspective and Insights from DRC” can be viewed [here](#).

Country snapshots



Ghana: A two-day Call to Action on AMR, took place in Accra in November, co-hosted by Wellcome with the governments of Ghana and Thailand and the United Nations Foundation, and organised in partnership with the Inter-Agency Coordination Group (IACG) on Antimicrobial Resistance. WaterAid was identified as one of seven AMR pioneers. At the “Promoting Pioneers” session, innovative examples of work that has been having an impact on AMR around the world were showcased to draw out transferable approaches and tools that could support others. It was widely recognised that a health system approach is necessary rather than focussing on infrastructure alone. Read more [here](#).

India: A short [video](#) from NDTV looking at how a government hospital is implementing dignified maternity care.



Malawi: An article in the Nyasa Times: “Ntcheu District Health Officer asks stakeholders to support with cleaning materials”. ([link](#))

Nepal: Terre des hommes SAFA Water Project



The SAFA Water Project aims to strengthen government systems to improve WASH services, with special focus on water quality and sanitation services in 30 HCF and communities in the Bardiya district of Nepal. The project was developed within the national initiative for WASH in HCF, led by the Ministry of Health (MoHP). To provide strategic guidance to the project, a Project steering committee (PSC) has been formed. The genuine involvement of local authorities plays a crucial role in fostering the ownership and sustainability of the project, especially in the new (federal) political context of Nepal. A tripartite MoU has been signed between the municipalities, the implementing partner GERUWA and [Terre des hommes](#) (Tdh), which defines clear roles and responsibilities for project implementation. A workshop was held on 29 Nov to bring the various stakeholders (NGO, local and district authorities, media, civil society) together to launch the project and map activities for the successful implementation of the project. Tdh also collaborates in Bardiya district with WHO and WaterAid to roll out the [WASH FIT digital tool](#).

Tanzania: WaterAid WASH in HCF workshop



WaterAid held a 3-day workshop on WASH in HCF in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania in November. Programme managers, advocacy specialists, and programme managers across 10 WaterAid country programmes and 3 regions came together to build internal capacity by sharing lessons learned, challenges and gaps in WaterAid’s programming. The exploratory workshop provided a space for self-assessment, peer-to-peer collaboration and brainstorming. Participants took a deep dive into topics including gender/equity & inclusion and human rights based approaches, influencing government and policy, WASH and IPC, partnerships and collaboration, assessments, monitoring and indicators, O&M and infrastructure. The workshop provided an opportunity to develop WaterAid’s organisational focus, including their role and niche and identified ways to continue organisational cross-learning. A workshop report will be available shortly.

Further reading from WaterAid:

- Channa Sam Ol. Promoting inclusive water, sanitation and hygiene services in healthcare facilities in Cambodia. [Blog post](#)
- Human rights based approach to WASH and Health [Paper](#).
- Transforming health systems: the vital role of water, sanitation and hygiene. [Paper](#).

Tanzania: Training of decision and policy makers on WASH in healthcare facilities



In November, UNICEF, in collaboration with Emory University, held a training for policy and decision makers from the water and health sectors from the government of Tanzania, the private sector and NGOs to strengthen their knowledge of water, sanitation and hygiene in relation to quality of care, IPC and AMR; demonstrate the necessity for cross-sectoral work and strong leadership to improve WASH in HCF and chart a way forward to implement the national guidelines and strategy for WASH in healthcare facilities. Close to 30 participants attended the training. A report will be shared in a few weeks time.

Over the last year, [Tanzania](#) has finalised and launched three new policy documents on health care waste management:

- National Standards And Procedures For Healthcare Waste Management ([link](#))
- National Policy Guidelines for health care waste management ([link](#))
- National Strategic Plan for Healthcare Waste Management (2018-2022) ([link](#)).

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) updates

AMR, WASH and the Global Conference on Primary Health Care (25-26 Oct 2018)

The recent Global Conference on Primary Health Care provided an opportunity to refocus global attention on primary health care (which is lagging behind in terms of service provision despite global advances in public health) and its links to UHC – including **universal access to WASH** and effective antibiotics. Health leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the historic [1978 Declaration of Alma-Ata](#), and vowed to strengthen their primary health care systems. An expert panel session on “**Antimicrobial Resistance: Unfinished Agenda for Primary Health Care**” was held. A brief on AMR and primary health care, prepared for the panel discussion, is available [here](#). A longer 15-page document will be available shortly.

World Antibiotics Awareness Week (12-18 November) “Our time with antibiotics is running out”

Global activities included a number of new releases such as results from the European CDC of two point-prevalence surveys of healthcare-associated infections and antimicrobial use in hospitals and in long-term care facilities in the EU/EEA ([news release](#)). WHO produced an [infographic](#) on appropriate use of antibiotics in surgery.

SIDA call for proposals

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) is supporting the 2019 call for proposals from the Joint Programming Initiative on Antimicrobial Resistance (JPIAMR) with up to SEK 35 million (approx. €3.4m) for researchers from 30 African countries. Researchers in Africa* are invited to form or join transnational teams together with counterparts in Asia, Europe or North America to produce tools, technologies and methods for diagnostics and surveillance of antimicrobial resistance.

*Researchers based in the following African countries will be eligible for support: Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo (Dem. Rep.), Eritrea, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe. This list is based on the World Bank list of low-income countries in Africa and the list of African countries where Sida has bilateral development cooperation.

WHO IPC Unit: new and upcoming resources

- A new [video](#) on how to insert an indwelling urinary catheter (to support a training package on prevention of urinary catheter-related infections)
- Upcoming 2019: Surgical site infection prevention implementation manual (includes examples of where WASH must be addressed to provide the recommended care)
- Upcoming 2019: a new implementation manual addressing the prevention and control of carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae, *Acinetobacter baumannii* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* in HCF. This will include a dedicated chapter on environmental hygiene and cleaning.

Publisher(s) sought for two upcoming global reports on WASH in health care facilities

The Water, Sanitation, Hygiene and Health (WSH) unit at WHO is seeking publishing quotes for two upcoming reports: “*JMP Global baseline for water, sanitation, hygiene in health care facilities*” and “*Global action and solutions for improving water, sanitation and hygiene in health care facilities*”. Both documents will be published at the end of March 2019. Quotes are due by **3 January 2019**. Details can be found on the [WSH website](#).



WASH in health care facilities knowledge portal:
www.washinhcf.org

If you would like to share any updates related to your work on WASH in health care facilities in future newsletters, please email washinhcf@who.int.