

UN Secretary General issues Global Call to Action on WASH in health care facilities

Marking World Water Day, the UN Secretary General called for immediate action to address the lack of water, sanitation and hygiene in health care facilities, noting that “...we must work to prevent the spread of disease. Improved water, sanitation and hygiene in health facilities is critical to this effort.” WHO and UNICEF along with health and WASH partners will be working together in the coming months to update the global action plan to address this call and to document successful national and community strategies to sustainably improve services. To read the address visit: <https://www.un.org/press/en/2018/sgsm18951.doc.htm>.

WHO/UNICEF Strategy meeting to respond to SG’s call to action on WASH in health care facilities

A two-day strategic meeting was held in Geneva on 8-9 May to discuss and agree on a coordinated, global response to the Call to Action. Over 45 WASH and health experts from academia, implementing partners, countries, practitioners and WHO and UNICEF headquarters, regional and country offices attended the meeting. Six key areas for work were identified and will be further defined in the coming months: leadership and systems, technical support to countries, monitoring and accountability, evidence and knowledge, community engagement and behaviour change, and financing. It was agreed that a secretariat and an Advisory group will be established to oversee the global plan of work and a global meeting on WASH in HCFs will be held in Q4 (the location will be confirmed shortly). A meeting report with more information will be shared in June.

For an update of global activities from Q1 2018, click [here for a set of slides](#) from the WHO/UNICEF webinar held on 20 March 2018.

World Health Assembly event: Seizing the opportunity: catalyzing quality UHC and tackling AMR through WASH and infection prevention and control

WaterAid, IntraHealth, and WHO hosted a breakfast event at WHA71, which featured panellists from the Ministry of Health in Liberia and Mauritania, the IPC and AMR programmes at WHO, frontline staff from South Sudan and WaterAid Malawi. Key themes discussed were that joint WASH and IPC efforts require strong national coordination, benefit from regular mentoring and monitoring, and that there is a need to ensure that community and care-seekers demand better services. Key advocacy messages that emerged were that some funds currently directed to the development of new antibiotics should be invested in WASH and “do not call it a health care facility if there is no WASH”.

World Health Assembly Resolution on Cholera prevention and control: Approved

The resolution on cholera prevention and control was formally approved by Member States at WHA71. The resolution calls for addressing the social and environmental determinants of cholera, developing and implementing a multisectoral package of effected interventions in affected countries, strengthening surveillance and national coordination and establishing national targets. The resolution was sponsored by Brazil, The Dominican Republic, Ghana, Haiti, Kenya, Mozambique, Peru, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America and Zambia. To read the resolution click [here](#).

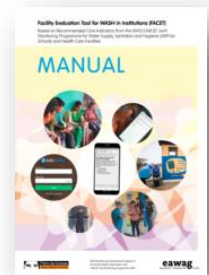
‘Transforming health systems: the vital role of water, sanitation and hygiene’: New WaterAid report & film

Launched to coincide with WHA 71, [this report](#) showcases ways in which WaterAid and partners have influenced and supported government-led action to improve WASH in HCF and features snapshots of WaterAid’s work from Cambodia, India, Malawi, Mali, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Tanzania and Uganda. It outlines the key components of WaterAid’s approach to strengthening health systems through WASH, and calls on governments – led by ministries of health – and donor agencies, researchers and NGOs to re-double efforts to ensure every healthcare facility has the water, sanitation and hygiene necessary to make universal health coverage a reality. Click [here](#) for more information to watch a short film.



New monitoring tool from EAWAG/Terre des hommes

The WASH Facility Evaluation Tool (FACET) is a simple, adaptable tool that enables mobile data collection on WASH services in schools and HCF (including healthcare waste management in HCF). FACET was developed by Eawag and Terre des hommes with support from the Joint Monitoring Programme and CartONG. FACET is based on indicators recommended by the JMP and is applicable across humanitarian and development settings. The data collected can be analysed with standard online-offline analysis tools. A user manual provides detailed explanations on how FACET works and processes for adapting to the local context. To access/download the ensemble of FACET files (available in English and French), click [here](#).



Infection prevention and control updates

5th May – hand hygiene day.: ‘It’s in your hands – prevent sepsis in health care’

This year's global hand hygiene day on 5 May focused on the vital role that hand hygiene plays in preventing sepsis in health care. Posters, infographics and banners are all still available for download from the web site, together with a wealth of information on sepsis and infection prevention and control resources. The full #handhygiene conversation drove 1.6 million impressions on Twitter in the week leading up to 5 May, indicating another successful year for the campaign. <http://www.who.int/infection-prevention/en/>



New IPC implementation tools and resources

To support the facility level implementation of the WHO Guidelines on Core Components of Infection Prevention and Control Programmes a new interim practical manual for the facility level was issued together with the new infection prevention and control assessment framework (IPCAF), accessible [here](#).

First module of the new IPC Training modules released

The “Leadership and programme management in infection prevention and control” [module](#) comprises a conventional presentation, trainers guide and student handbook. In addition, an IPC leadership [training video](#) is now available to support the training.

To receive future issues of the IPC Saves Lives newsletter, register [here](#).

A snapshot of country activities

Bhutan, Indonesia, Philippines and Viet Nam: WHO beginning new five-year project funded by the Australian Government

WHO has been awarded a new four-year grant from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to work to improve access to WASH in HCF and drinking water quality in four countries. This was announced by the Hon Concetta Fierrevanti-Wells, Australian Minister for International Development and the Pacific, in her [opening address at the 2016 WASH Futures conference](#) in Brisbane in March.

Cambodia: new national guidelines on WASH in HCF

In April 2018, the Cambodian Government finalised and published a new set of National Guidelines on WASH in HCF. The Ministry of Health strongly recognises that adherence to these guidelines will provide a safer work environment for health care staff and a higher quality of care for patients. Read the guidelines [here](#).

Ethiopia and Kenya: Millennium Water Alliance case study of WASH in HCF

A case study was undertaken in 11 facilities in Ethiopia and 9 in Kenya to ascertain the factors that triggered change or hindered success as well as to look at the role that NGOs played or could play in supporting successes. Facilities were selected. Read the report [here](#).

Madagascar: new health care waste management policy and technical guidelines released

Madagascar has recently released a set of national standards for safe health care waste management. This work was conducted as part of a four year GEF-funded project to implement best environmental practices and introduce non-incineration healthcare waste treatment technologies and mercury-free medical devices in four Sub-Saharan African countries (Ghana, Madagascar, Tanzania and Zambia) to reduce harmful releases from the health sector. Read the [guidelines](#) and [national policy](#) in French.

Tajikistan: first WASH FIT training to take place in the European Region.

In April, Tajikistan hosted WASH FIT training in Dushanbe, the first country to do so in the European Region. The tool will be piloted in three facilities: the National Medical Centre (Dushanbe) (in the paediatric ward) and two primary health care facilities 20 km east of Dushanbe. The Government of Tajikistan also hosted a national-level roundtable with participation of four ministries (Minister of Health and Social Protection, Energy and Water Resources, Finance and the State Committee for the Environment), partners (UNICEF and Oxfam) and facility representatives. The WASH FIT training modules [are now available in Russian](#) for use across the European Region.

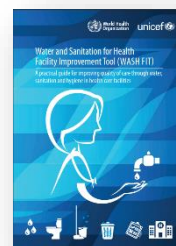
Uganda: Integrating WASH indicators into the national Health Management Information system

Every five years, the Ministry of Health is required to revise its HMIS data collection and reporting tools. A workshop was held in March 2018 to align the HMIS with global SDG indicators on WASH in HCF. The report is available to read [here](#).

New publications

WASH FIT updated (ENGLISH)

The WHO/UNICEF Water and Sanitation for Health Facility Improvement Tool (WASH FIT) has been republished and is available in English [here](#). Russian, French and Spanish versions will be available later this year. The [English](#) and [Russian](#) training packages have also been updated and are available to download. The [French](#) modules will be reviewed shortly.



WHO 2008 Essential environmental health standards in health care: (RUSSIAN)

The 2008 document provides guidance on essential environmental health standards required for health care in medium- and low-resource countries and should be used to support the development and implementation of national policies. It has recently been published in Russian for use in the European region. It is already available in [English, French and Spanish](#). Access the Russian version [here](#).

WHO Safe management of wastes from health-care activities: A summary (FRENCH)

This document highlights the key aspects of safe health-care waste management to guide policy-makers, practitioners and facility managers to improve such services in health-care facilities. It is based on the comprehensive WHO handbook [Safe management of wastes from health-care activities](#) (WHO, 2014), and also takes into consideration relevant World Health Assembly resolutions, other UN documents and emerging global and national developments on water, sanitation and hygiene and infection prevention and control. It was published in English and Russian in 2017 and is now [available in French](#).

Papers and other reading

- Bouzid, Cumming & Hunter (2018). [What is the impact of water sanitation and hygiene in healthcare facilities on care seeking behaviour and patient satisfaction? A systematic review of the evidence from low-income and middle-income countries](#). *BMJ Global Health* 2018;3:e 000648.
- LSHTM (2017) [Antibiotic prescribing and resistance: Views from low- and middle-income prescribing and dispensing professionals](#). Report to the World Health Organization, researched and compiled by students and staff of the Antimicrobial Resistance Centre at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.
- Klein et al (2018). [Global increase and geographic convergence in antibiotic consumption between 2000 and 2015](#) PNAS <https://doi.org/10.1073/PNAS.1717295115>.
- Rajasingham et al. (2018) [Water treatment and handwashing practices in rural Kenyan health care facilities and households six years after the installation of portable water stations and hygiene training](#). *Journal of Water and Health*.



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.



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