WASH IN HEALTH CARE FACILITIES IN WESTERN AFGHANISTAN

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Indicator Progress
This research is the first large-scale attempt to measure progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals for WASH in Health Care Facilities (HCFs) in Afghanistan.

World Vision International (WVI) utilized the WASHCon Tool developed by Emory University’s Center for Global Safe WASH (CGSW) to assess 104 HCFs in Herat, Badghis and Ghor Provinces in the Western Region of Afghanistan.

In addition to the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Program (JMP) indicators, WVI added some WHO-aligned maternal and newborn health indicators to the study.
**WATER**

- 86% of HCFs had an improved water source
- 75% of HCFs had a water source on premises
- 93% of HCFs had water available during the time of visit (although 35% reported routine severe water shortages)
- 79% of HCFs, all water samples met WHO E.coli guidelines (<1 CFU)
- 18% of HCFs, all water met chlorine guidelines (0.2-2.0 mg/L)

Overall: 75% of HCFs met all JMP ‘basic’ requirements.

**SANITATION**

- 91% of HCFs had improved toilets (68% exclusively improved)
- 84% of toilet blocks assessed were usable (available, private, functional)
- 31% of HCFs had at least one female-only toilet with supplies for menstrual hygiene management (MHM)
- 46% of HCFs had at least one toilet designed for staff
- 13% of HCFs had at least one toilet that was accessible to people with reduced mobility

Overall: 5% of HCFs met all JMP ‘basic’ requirements.

**ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANLINESS**

- 10% of HCFs had bathing facilities
- 41% of HCFs had laundry facilities
- 63% reportedly changed bedding between patients
- 25% of HCFs had uncontained waste (trash) on the ground
- 15% of HCFs were reported to have open defecation

**HAND HYGIENE**

- 85% of HCFs had at least one point of care with adequate hand hygiene materials (soap and water or hand alcohol-based hand rub). However, only 26% had adequate hand hygiene materials at all surveyed points of care.
- 34% of HCFs had at least one hand hygiene facility with adequate hand hygiene materials (soap and water) within 5 metres of a toilet block. However, only 18% had adequate hand hygiene materials at all surveyed toilet blocks.

Overall: 8% of HCFs met all JMP ‘basic’ requirements.

**HEALTH CARE WASTE MANAGEMENT**

- 20% of HCFs safely segregate waste in all surveyed wards (0% in Ghor Province, however).
- 19% of HCFs dispose of both their sharps and infectious waste safely

Overall: 6% of HCFs met all JMP ‘basic’ requirements.
## Maternal & Newborn Health Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>57%</td>
<td>Of HCFs had piped water supply in the delivery room (only 9% in Ghor Province)</td>
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<tr>
<td>43%</td>
<td>Of HCFs had piped water supply into the postnatal ward (7% in Ghor Province)</td>
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<tr>
<td>21%</td>
<td>Of HCFs that provide delivery services had <em>E. coli</em> in their water samples</td>
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<tr>
<td>83%</td>
<td>Of HCFs had basic sanitation available for women during labour and delivery</td>
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<tr>
<td>86%</td>
<td>Of HCFs had basic sanitation available for women after delivery in the postnatal area</td>
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<tr>
<td>67%</td>
<td>Of HCFs had at least one functional handwashing station with water and soap available in the delivery room</td>
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<tr>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Of HCFs had a shower or bathing area accessible to women during/after labour and delivery (9% in Ghor)</td>
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<tr>
<td>21%</td>
<td>Of HCFs had essential equipment for providing the six cleans (0% in Badghis)</td>
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<tr>
<td>27%</td>
<td>Of HCFs had adequate supplies of correct concentration chlorhexidine for umbilical cord stump treatment (8% in Herat)</td>
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<tr>
<td>80%</td>
<td>Of HCFs had 3 separate bins to manage health care waste in delivery rooms</td>
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<tr>
<td>19%</td>
<td>Of HCFs safely disposed of their sharps and infectious waste</td>
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