

# Saving Newborn Lives Through Safe **WASH**



Water supply services for healthcare facility in Nikoy. Pregnant mothers and families with newborn are the priority to benefit from the service.

WASH services strengthen health systems to prevent disease outbreaks, and to effectively respond to emergencies.



An Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM) washes her hands before she examines a pregnant woman as part of Village Health and Nutrition Day (VHND) in Shrawasti, Uttar Pradesh.

Facility utilization as well as retention of mothers and newborns for at least 24 hours after birth requires running water. Reliable, safe water in health facilities is required for **hygiene**, medical and drinking purposes.



Newly constructed toilets at the health centre supported by UNICEF in the village of Mongere, Bo District, Sierra Leone

WASH services are important for provision of respectful maternity care where clean toilets are a felt need for women (clients) and service providers. New Post natal care guidelines by WHO recommend discharge after at least 24 hours after birth. It is not possible to retain women in healthcare facilities if functional toilets are not in place.



Youssef Sanogo, born on 13 February 2018; Born into clean, safe hands

“Every birth should be supported by a safe pair of hands, washed with soap and water, using sterile equipment, in a clean environment”

by **Henrietta H. Fore**, UNICEF Executive Director