



2023 UN Resolution on universal water, sanitation, hygiene, waste, and electricity services in health care facilities: What you need to know

Background

In 2018, the UN Secretary-General António Guterres made a [Call to Action](#) on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in health care facilities, raising the alarm on this neglected crisis. The next year, at the annual World Health Assembly (WHA) hosted by WHO, Member States passed a [Resolution on WASH in Health Care Facilities](#). This WHA resolution sparked action and brought greater attention to the issue by countries and partners alike.

In May 2023, the reporting requirements for this Resolution concluded, effectively closing its public mandate. Subsequently, a UN Resolution on WASH, waste and energy in health care facilities was co-sponsored by 56 Member State, leading to unanimous adoption by the UN General Assembly in December 2023. This serves as an important tool to drive collective action by countries on specific topics and guiding areas for technical support and fundraising by partners. This resolution will be supported by a Global Framework for Action to guide the implementation and reach the 2030 goal of universal coverage.

Key elements of 2023 UN Resolution

This new UN Resolution demonstrates whole-of-government commitment at the highest level to this important issue. As such, it can shepherd collaboration amongst the various sectors and partners to address gaps and build sustainable systems. It is also an important asset for advocates, who can point to this commitment by governments when seeking greater prioritization and financing of WASH in HCF.

The Resolutions calls on:

Countries to

- Integrate and mainstream WASH, waste and energy services for HCFs into national health planning, programming, financing, monitoring and evaluation
- Empower the health workforce to demand, use, and maintain these services
- Strengthen international cooperation, including through enhanced official development assistance to support health financing

Partners to

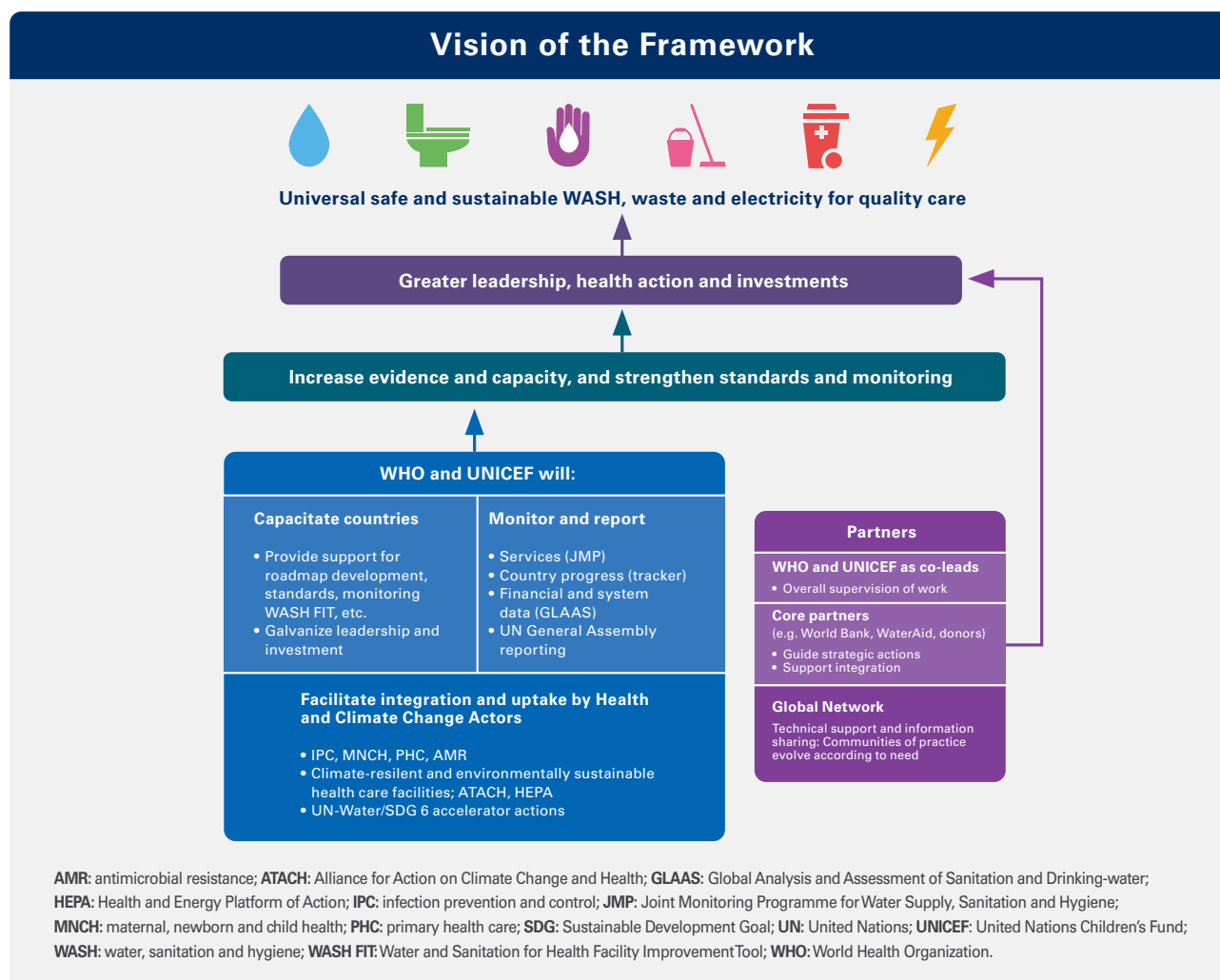
- Enhance coordination, strengthen existing global initiatives, and bolster efforts to increase data coverage through the inclusion of global indicators in programme surveys

UN Agencies to

- Promote the optimum use of resources and to support countries on WASH, waste and energy in HCFs, at their request

Global Framework for Action: 2024 - 2030

The Global Framework for Action serves to guide collaborative global and national efforts to deliver safe and sustainable WASH, health care waste management and reliable electricity in all health care facilities. It provides an operational roadmap for implementing the Resolution.



Progress on achieving the Framework's vision centres on three areas, each with defined targets: integration, policy and governance; service improvements; and equity, inclusivity and community engagement. In order to drive action in these areas, WHO and UNICEF have articulated key recommendations to achieve the targets:

Recommendation 1: Integrate WASH, waste and electricity into health system planning, programming, financing, implementation and monitoring



Recommendation 2: Regularly monitor and review progress and strengthen accountability

Recommendation 3: Develop the workforce by training and mentoring for practising good hygiene, carrying out safe cleaning and waste practices, and supporting management and maintenance of safe WASH, waste and electricity services

Find out more and get involved:

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

WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme: www.washdata.org