

WASH IN HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

Useful resources to support policy & practice

Updated February 2025

Global documents

- WHO/UNICEF 2024. *Universal water, sanitation, hygiene, waste and electricity services in all health care facilities to achieve quality health care services: global framework for action 2024–2030*. <https://iris.who.int/handle/10665/377776>
- WHO/UNICEF 2024. Consensus statement. Role of policymakers and partners in implementing the Global Framework for Action on water, sanitation, hygiene, waste, and electricity services in health care facilities.
- WHO/UNICEF 2023. *Water, sanitation, hygiene, waste and electricity services in health care facilities: progress on the fundamentals. 2023 global report*. Geneva: World Health Organization. <https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/368975>

WASH FIT

- WHO/UNICEF 2025. Implementation of the water and sanitation for health facility improvement tool (WASH FIT): global report. Geneva: World Health Organization <https://iris.who.int/handle/10665/380463>
- WHO/UNICEF 2022. *WASH FIT: A practical guide for improving quality of care through water, sanitation and hygiene in health care facilities. Second edition* <https://iris.who.int/handle/10665/353411>
Available in Arabic, French, Russian, Spanish
- WASH FIT Assessment tool: [Excel](#) and [Kobo](#)
- WHO/UNICEF 2022. *WASH FIT manual for trainers* <https://iris.who.int/handle/10665/353805>
- WASH FIT portal: www.washinhcf.org/wash-fit
- WHO Academy training course: https://web-staging.lxp.academy.who.int/coursewares/course-v1:WHOAcademy-Hosted+H0046EN+H0046EN_Q4_2024?source=edX

RESOLUTIONS

- 2019: World Health Assembly 2019 Resolution on WASH in health care facilities https://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA72/A72_R7-en.pdf
- 2023: Resolution A/78/L.14. *Sustainable, safe and universal water, sanitation, hygiene, waste and electricity services in health-care facilities*. New York: United Nations General Assembly; 2023 <https://www.washinhcf.org/resource/un-general-assembly-resolution-sustainable-safe-and-universal-water-sanitation-hygiene-waste-and-electricity-services-in-health-care-facilities/>
- **WHO/ UNICEF country progress tracker:** www.washinhcf.org/country-progress-tracker

- WHO/UNICEF, 2020. *Global progress report on WASH in health care facilities. Fundamentals First*. <https://iris.who.int/handle/10665/337604>
Available in [Arabic](#), [French](#), [Russian](#) and [Spanish](#).

DATA AND EVIDENCE

- WHO/UNICEF, 2024. WASH in health care facilities 2023. Data update. Special focus on primary health care. <https://washdata.org/reports/jmp-2024-wash-hcf>
- WHO/UNICEF, 2023. *Progress on WASH in health care facilities 2000-2021: Special focus on WASH and infection prevention and control (IPC)*
<https://iris.who.int/handle/10665/366657>
- WHO/UNICEF, 2019. *WASH in health care facilities: Global baseline report 2019*
<https://iris.who.int/handle/10665/311620>
 - Also available: [Arabic](#), [French](#), [Russian](#), [Spanish](#).
- WHO/UNICEF (Joint Monitoring Programme) WASH data
<https://washdata.org/data/healthcare#!/>
- WHO/UNICEF, 2018. *Core questions and indicators for monitoring WASH in health care facilities in the Sustainable Development Goals*: <https://iris.who.int/handle/10665/275783>.
Also available in [French](#), [Spanish](#), [Russian](#) and [Arabic](#).
- WHO/UNICEF, 2019. Monitoring WASH and related IPC in delivery rooms – draft module
<https://washdata.org/sites/default/files/documents/reports/2019-09/JMP-2019-core-questions-delivery-rooms-draft-sept-2019.pdf>
- WHO/UNICEF, 2015. *Water, sanitation and hygiene in health care facilities: status in low- and middle-income countries and way forward*. World Health Organization, Geneva. Note, this is superseded by the Global Baseline report 2019 and subsequently Fundamentals First (2020).
https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/154588/9789241508476_eng.pdf
- WHO, 2011. Report on the Burden of Endemic Health Care-Associated Infection Worldwide. World Health Organization, Geneva.
https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/80135/9789241501507_eng.pdf;jsessionid=7671DD03BECE340084D262FFD720900B?sequence=1

GUIDANCE AND STANDARDS

Global guidance on WASH in HCF including targets and metrics for progress

- WHO/UNICEF, 2019. *WASH in health care facilities: Practical steps for universal access to quality care*. <https://iris.who.int/handle/10665/311618>
 - Also available: [French](#), [Spanish](#), [Russian](#), [Arabic \(awaiting link\)](#)

Environmental health standards

- WHO, 2008. *Essential environmental health standards in health care*. World Health Organization, Geneva. <https://iris.who.int/handle/10665/43767>
 - Also available: [French](#), [Russian](#) and [Spanish](#).

Water

- WHO, 2017. *Guidelines for drinking-water quality, 4th edition*. World Health Organization, Geneva. <https://iris.who.int/handle/10665/44584>
- WHO, 2007. *Legionella and the prevention of Legionellosis*. World Health Organization, Geneva. <https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/43233>
- WHO, 2018. *Developing drinking-water quality regulations and standards*. World Health Organization, Geneva. <https://iris.who.int/handle/10665/272969>

- WHO, 2017. *Climate-resilient water safety plans: managing health risks associated with climate variability and change*. World Health Organization, Geneva. <https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/258722>
- WHO, 2019. *Results of Round II of WHO International Scheme to Evaluate Household Water Treatment Technologies*. <https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/325896>

Sanitation

- WHO, 2018. *Guidelines on sanitation and health*. World Health Organization, Geneva. <https://iris.who.int/handle/10665/274939>
 - Also available: [Arabic](#), [French](#), [Russian](#) and [Spanish](#).
- WHO (2015). *Sanitation safety planning: manual for safe use and disposal of wastewater, greywater and excreta*. <https://iris.who.int/handle/10665/171753>
- WHO, 2020. *State of the World's Sanitation: An urgent call to transform sanitation for better health, environments, economies and societies*. World Health Organization, Geneva. <https://iris.who.int/handle/10665/336687>

Health care waste management

- WHO, 2022. *Safe management of pharmaceutical waste from health care facilities: global best practices*. World Health Organization, Geneva. <https://iris.who.int/handle/10665/380586>.
- OpenWHO module. *Standard precautions: waste management*. <https://openwho.org/courses/IPC-WM-EN>
- WHO, 2022. *Global analysis of waste in the context of COVID-19: status, impacts and recommendations*. <https://iris.who.int/handle/10665/351189>
- WHO, 2019. *Overview of treatment technologies for infectious and sharp waste from health care facilities*. World Health Organization, Geneva.
 - <https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/328146>
 - Also available: [Arabic](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#)
- WHO, 2014. *Safe management of wastes from health care activities*. Second Edition. World Health Organization, Geneva. <https://iris.who.int/handle/10665/85349>
- WHO, 2017. *Safe management of wastes from health care activities: a summary*. World Health Organization, Geneva. <https://iris.who.int/handle/10665/259491>
Also available: [Arabic](#), [Spanish \(links coming soon\)](#), [French](#), [Russian](#)

Environmental cleaning

- OpenWHO Module. *Standard precautions: Environmental cleaning and disinfection*. <https://openwho.org/courses/IPC-EC-EN>
- CDC/ICAN 2019. *Best Practices for Environmental Cleaning in Healthcare Facilities in Resource-Limited Settings* www.cdc.gov/hai/pdfs/resource-limited/environmental-cleaning-508.pdf

Hand hygiene

- OpenWHO Module. *Standard precautions: Hand hygiene*. <https://openwho.org/courses/IPC-HH-en>
- WHO 2009, *Guidelines for hand hygiene in health care* https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/44102/9789241597906_eng.pdf?sequence=1
- World Health Organization. (2018). *Infection prevention and control assessment framework at the facility level*. World Health Organization. <https://iris.who.int/handle/10665/330072>

TOOLS AND MONITORING

WASH FIT

- WHO/UNICEF 2022. *WASH FIT: A practical guide for improving quality of care through water, sanitation and hygiene in health care facilities. Second edition*
<https://iris.who.int/handle/10665/353411>
- WHO/UNICEF 2018. *Water and Sanitation for Health Facility Improvement Tool (WASH FIT)*.
<https://iris.who.int/handle/10665/254910>
Also available: [Arabic](#), [French](#), [Russian](#), [Spanish](#)
- WASH FIT portal www.washinhcf.org/wash-fit
- Weber et al. (2018) *Strengthening Healthcare Facilities Through Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Improvements: A Pilot Evaluation of “WASH FIT” in Togo*. Health Security
<https://doi.org/10.2166/washdev.2019.090>
- Weber et al. (2019) *A conceptual evaluation framework for the water and sanitation for health facility improvement tool (WASH FIT)* Journal of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for Development. <https://doi.org/10.2166/washdev.2019.090>
- Maina et al. (2019) *Evaluating the foundations that help avert antimicrobial resistance: Performance of essential water sanitation and hygiene functions in hospitals and requirements for action in Kenya*. Plos One <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0222922>
- Maina et al. (2019) *Extending the use of the World Health Organizations’ water sanitation and hygiene assessment tool for surveys in hospitals – from WASH-FIT to WASH-FAST*. Plos One: <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0226548>
- Hirai et al. (2021) *Using the Water and Sanitation for Health Facility Improvement Tool (WASH FIT) in Zimbabwe: A Cross-Sectional Study of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Services in 50 COVID-19 Isolation Facilities*. Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health
<https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph18115641>
- Ashinyo et al. (2021) *Evaluation of water, sanitation and hygiene status of COVID-19 healthcare facilities in Ghana using the WASH FIT approach*. Journal of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for Development. <https://doi.org/10.2166/washdev.2021.254>

Situational analyses guidance and examples

- 2021. *Understanding barriers to quality of care: An approach for conducting a situational analysis of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and quality in health care facilities*.
<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240022577>
- 2020. *Achieving quality health services for all, through better water, sanitation and hygiene. Lessons from three African countries*. <https://www.who.int/publications-detail-redirect/9789240009493>
- 2019. *Situational analysis of WASH in health care facilities in Ethiopia*.
<https://www.washinhcf.org/resource/situational-analysis-washinhcf-ethiopia/>
- 2017. *Achieving quality universal health coverage through better water, sanitation and hygiene services in health care facilities: A focus on Ethiopia*
<https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/255264>
- 2017. *Achieving quality universal health coverage through better water, sanitation and hygiene services in health care facilities. A focus on Cambodia and Ethiopia*
<https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/259698?locale-attribute=es&>

OTHER HEALTH TOPICS – GENERAL GUIDANCE

Maternal and child health

WHO 2016. *Standards for improving quality of maternal and newborn care in health facilities*.
<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241511216>

Infection prevention and control, hand hygiene and AMR

WHO, 2015. Global action plan on antimicrobial resistance

<https://www.who.int/publications-detail-redirect/9789241509763>

Available in [French](#), [Russian](#), [Spanish](#)

WHO 2016. Guidelines on core components of infection prevention and control programmes at the national and acute health care facility level. <https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/251730>

WHO 2017. Guidelines for the prevention and control of carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae, *Acinetobacter baumannii* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* in health care facilities <https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/259462/9789241550178-eng.pdf?sequence=1>

WHO, 2019. Turning plans into action for antimicrobial resistance (AMR) Working Paper 2.0: Implementation and coordination

[https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/turning-plans-into-action-for-antimicrobial-resistance-\(-amr\)-working-paper-2.0-implementation-and-coordination](https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/turning-plans-into-action-for-antimicrobial-resistance-(-amr)-working-paper-2.0-implementation-and-coordination)

WHO 2021. State of the World's Hand Hygiene. <https://www.who.int/publications-detail-redirect/9789240036444>

WHO, 2020. [Technical brief on water, sanitation, hygiene \(WASH\) and wastewater management to prevent infections and reduce the spread of antimicrobial resistance \(AMR\)](#)

WHO Hand hygiene for all initiative

<https://www.who.int/initiatives/hand-hygiene-for-all-global-initiative>

OTHER HEALTH TOPICS – MONITORING

Hand hygiene

- WHO, 2010. Hand Hygiene Self-Assessment Framework. www.who.int/gpsc/country_work/hhsa_framework_October_2010.pdf?ua=1
- WHO, 2009. Hand hygiene observation form https://www.who.int/gpsc/5may/Observation_Form.doc
- WHO 2009. Guide to local production: WHO-recommended handrub formulation <https://www.who.int/publications-detail-redirect/WHO-IER-PSP-2010.5>
- WHO 2022. The Hand Hygiene Acceleration Framework Tool (HHAFT) [https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/the-hand-hygiene-acceleration-framework-tool-\(hhaft\)](https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/the-hand-hygiene-acceleration-framework-tool-(hhaft))

IPC

- WHO 2018. IPC assessment framework – facility level <https://www.who.int/publications-detail-redirect/WHO-HIS-SDS-2018.9>
- WHO 2021. Infection prevention and control in primary care: a toolkit of resources <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240037304>

AMR

- WHO, FAO & OIE. Global Database for Antimicrobial Resistance Country Self-Assessment

<https://amrcountryprogress.org/>

- WHO, FAO & OIE, 2019. Monitoring and evaluation of the global action plan on antimicrobial resistance: framework and recommended indicators. World Health Organization, Geneva.

<https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/325006>

ADVOCACY TOOLS and INFOGRAPHICS

- 2020. Combatting AMR through WASH and IPC in healthcare. <https://www.washinhcf.org/resource/combating-amr-through-wash-and-ipc-in-healthcare/>
- 2020. IPC to reduce the burden of AMR. https://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/joint-wash-ipc-amr-actions-2020.pdf
- 2018. How to prevent sepsis https://www.who.int/infection-prevention/campaigns/clean-hands/Sepsis_A3_print.pdf?ua=1
- 2017. The role of infection prevention and control in prevention antibiotic resistance in health care. <https://www.washinhcf.org/documents/IPC-for-WAAW.pdf>
- 2016. Tackling antimicrobial resistance: Supporting national measures to address infection prevention and control and water, sanitation and hygiene in health care settings. https://www.washinhcf.org/documents/AMR_IPC_WASH_FlyerNov2016-1.pdf
- 2016. WASH and quality universal health coverage. <https://www.washinhcf.org/documents/WASH-and-qualityUHC.pdf>

SELECTED WEB LINKS

- WHO/UNICEF. Global knowledge portal on WASH in HCF: www.washinhcf.org, in particular www.washinhcf.org/resources for further reading on all aspects listed in this document.
- WHO UNICEF. Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene <https://washdata.org/>
- WHO. Water sanitation hygiene: <https://www.who.int/teams/environment-climate-change-and-health/water-sanitation-and-health>
- UNICEF. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: <http://www.unicef.org/wash/>
- WHO IPC <https://www.who.int/teams/integrated-health-services/infection-prevention-control>
- WHO AMR www.who.int/health-topics/antimicrobial-resistance
- WHO Patient safety <https://www.who.int/teams/integrated-health-services/patient-safety>
- WHO Emergencies <https://www.who.int/emergencies/overview>
- WHO Maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health <https://www.who.int/teams/maternal-newborn-child-adolescent-health-and-ageing>
- WHO Immunization <https://www.who.int/teams/immunization-vaccines-and-biologicals/diseases>
- UNDP/WHO/HCWH/GEF Green Healthcare Waste <https://greenhealthcarewaste.org/>

COVID-19 RELATED

WHO technical guidance

- [Water, sanitation, hygiene, and waste management for SARS-CoV2, the virus that causes COVID-19](#), updated July 2020
- Other WHO technical guidance on a range of infection prevention control topics, including use of PPE, quarantine dead body management: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance-publications>

Emergencies

- WHO/WEDC, 2013. *Updated technical notes on WASH in emergencies (set of 15 notes)*. World Health Organization, Geneva. <https://www.who.int/teams/environment-climate-change-and-health/water-sanitation-and-health/environmental-health-in-emergencies/technical-notes-on-wash-in-emergencies>
- WHO, 2002. *Environmental health in emergencies and disasters*. World Health Organization, Geneva. <https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/42561>

Refugees, IPDs, Camps

- <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance/humanitarian-operations-camps-and-other-fragile-settings>
- Interim Guidance on Scaling-up COVID-19 Outbreak in Readiness and Response Operations in Camps and Camp-like Settings (jointly developed by IFRC, IOM, UNHCR and WHO) (17 March) <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/other/interim-guidance-scaling-covid-19-outbreak-readiness-and-response-operations-camps-and-camp>
- Interim Guidance on Public Health and Social Measures for COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Operations in Low Capacity and Humanitarian Settings (6 May): <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/health/interim-guidance-public-health-and-social-measures-covid-19-preparedness-and-response>