



WASH

COMMITTED TO WASH IN HEALTHCARE FACILITIES

**April 22 – 23, 2026
Conference Center of the Jesuit Curia
Borgo Santo Spirito, 4
ROME**

Dr. Anne Lydia Wawire Kabimba, PhD, RN



WASH

- **WASH CICIAMS (International Catholic Committee of Nurses and Medico-Social Assistants)**

REPORT

Dr. Anne Lydia Wawire Kabimba, PhD, RN

April 22-23, 2026



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- **Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)** programme **came into force and was adopted in 2019** on **WORLD WATER DAY** (22 March 2019).
- It was first discussed at the forum of the Assembly of Catholic-Inspired Non-Governmental Organizations **(CINGO)**, established in November 2007 (being one of the founding organizations).



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- The discussions were guided by Catholic social doctrine, focusing on:
 - **human dignity**
 - **solidarity**
 - **vulnerability**
 - **health care and education**
- CICIAMS has been a member since 1947.**



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- Currently, **CICIAMS** actively participates in **CINGO**, collaborating with the forum on various initiatives, giving presentations on health, women's health and initiatives for adolescents, and working for an inclusive society (represented by Dr. Anne KABIMBA, PhD, RN)
- In 2020, **WASH** stood out as a **COVID-19 infection prevention strategy**, influencing the global assessment of water and sanitation standards.



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- The **CINGO forum** now recognizes **WASH** as a human right and a clinical safety requirement in Catholic healthcare facilities.
- Since then, **CICIAMS** has continued to be actively involved in **WASH initiatives**.
- It focuses on the intersection of **health**, **education** and **sanitation**.



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- It goes beyond activities, promoting broader and long-term participation to improve health outcomes in line with **Sustainable Development Goal 6**, which addresses **water** and **sanitation**.
- **CICIAMS** participated in the may 26, 2021, meeting of the **Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development (DPIHD)** presenting **“STOP: COVID... Actions for Health Facilities”**



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- On June 1, 2023, at DPIHD online WASH Meeting was represented :
- By **Dr. Anne Lydiah Wawire Kabimba, PhD, RN**, President of the CICIAMS Midwives Committee and Representative of CICIAMS CINGO
- By **Diana Ruzicka , MSN, RN**, Secretary General of CICIAMS , to listen to leaders from around the world on what had been achieved and learned to share a common vision
- To ensure that all patients in Catholic health care facilities worldwide have access to the basic rights **of water, sanitation and hygiene.**



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Summer 2023

CICIAMS' roles in the **WASH** project also include:

- **a sanitation project** for adolescent girls, implemented in CICIAMS member associations in the **CICIAMS African region**, including:
- **menstrual hygiene** management
- **collaboration with sanitation in health facilities and other agencies**
- **Sharing WASH information with CICIAMS member Associations in Africa, Asia, Europe and Pan America Region: CICIAMS News February 2026, August 2025, May 2025, November 2024, April 2024, Summer 2023.**

(<http://www.ciciams.org/nouvellesciciamsnews.html>)



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Areas of interest

- **Infection prevention and control:** Safe drinking water and accessible sanitation for handwashing to protect health workers and clients
- **Community health:** Promote hygienic behaviors and sanitation solutions in communities to prevent waterborne diseases
- **instruction:** Support school-based initiatives to provide clean, safe water and sanitation to improve health outcomes and the Child-Friendly Africa Project



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Information available on:

<https://www.humandevlopment.va/en/progetti/wash-water-sanitation-hygiene.html>



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**Thank You for Your
Kind Attention**