



→ WASH WITHIN BEST

WASH in Treatment and care

WASH plays a crucial role in achieving Universal Health Coverage, including promotive, preventive, curative and rehabilitative services. It contributes to strong health systems that can deliver comprehensive and inclusive management along the continuum of care beyond prevention or cure.

Ensuring WASH supports treatment and care of NTDs

- Any contact between healthcare providers and healthcare service users is an opportunity to raise awareness on disease transmission and key preventive behaviours, through counselling to patients and carers during treatment, and through existing healthcare outreach programmes and community health volunteer schemes.
- Mass drug administration should be implemented alongside other interventions to interrupt transmission and reinfection including water and sanitation infrastructure and is also an important entry point for behaviour change activities including hygiene and sanitation promotion.
- Several NTDs require hospital admission, surgery and other medical interventions. Healthcare settings require adequate water and sanitation to ensure infection prevention and control as well as dignity for patients and staff. WASH conditions in healthcare settings also underpin uptake of facility-based services, and healthcare worker retention and motivation.
- Access to WASH is crucial for disease management and self-care such as for wound management and hygiene practices for some of the most debilitating NTDs with which stigma is frequently associated, to reduce disease severity, prevent suffering and reduce vulnerability to poverty, disability, stigma and exclusion. As certain diseases may result in exclusion from basic services such as water and sanitation, specific efforts are



needed to prevent exclusion and address stigma at the patient (self-stigmatisation), community and healthcare levels. Self-help groups can play an important role in empowering individuals to care for themselves and securing access to water and sanitation services.

- Access to quality, affordable rehabilitation and care services can deliver economic and social benefits, for example by facilitating recovery from surgery, addressing pain management, maintaining dignity and maximising independence. Inclusive and comprehensive care has also been shown to improve uptake of other services, such as MDA. This must include provision of accessible and affordable water and sanitation facilities, and provisions for maintaining hygiene.