WASH and waste services in health care facilities: An unmet need

“The world can no longer afford to overlook the fundamentals”*
Access to fundamental WASH and waste services is poor

Globally

1 in 4 health care facilities lacks basic water services

This exposes 1.8 billion people to greater risk of infections

1 in 3 lacks hand hygiene facilities where care is given

1 in 3 does not segregate waste safely

1 in 10 has no sanitation services

Least Developed Countries

50% BASIC WATER

37% BASIC SANITATION

74% HAND HYGIENE AT POINTS OF CARE

30% BASIC HEALTH CARE WASTE MANAGEMENT

0% ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANING

https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240017542
Urges Member States to:

- Establish national roadmap, targets and implement WASH in HCF and infection prevention and control (IPC) standards
- Integrate WASH and IPC standards and indicators into health programming and monitoring
- Address inequities, especially in primary health care facilities and facilities where births occur
- Increase domestic funding for WASH in HCF

Requests WHO Director General to:

- Provide leadership, technical guidance and regularly report on status
- Mobilize partners and investments

Country progress - tracker now live!

60+ countries making progress on implementing *World Health Assembly Resolution & Practical Steps*

Visit: [https://washinhcf.org/country-progress-tracker/](https://washinhcf.org/country-progress-tracker/) to submit an update for your country
Problem of health care waste has worsened during COVID-19

- Analyzed data from UN COVID-19 supply portal + country data and experiences
- Waste volumes increased 3-4 X and where no segregation 10 x!

**FIG. 1 — Volume of COVID-19 gloves and masks shipped to regions, as of November 2021**

- Total quantity of masks shipped = 5,900 tonnes
- Total quantity of gloves shipped = 36,000 tonnes

Nearly half of PPE waste non-essential and could be avoided.
Recommendations: possible to protect health and environment

- **Key recommendations**
  - Change how we procure and what we procure: don’t use PPE if not needed, biobased packaging and PPE materials
  - Strengthen national sustainable waste policies and regulations
  - Increase investments in training, waste workers and expertise, recycling and non-burn waste treatment technology
  - Utilize reverse logistics to transport waste to better quality, centralized treatment
  - All have an obligation to be conscience consumers (e.g. safe reusable masks for the public)
**Investing in WASH and waste: modest costs and high return**

...highest costs are for waste management & in primary health care facilities

- Achieving universal basic WASH by 2030 in all LDCs will cost, on average, US$ 6.5-9.6 billion; equal to 0.60$/capita/year
- Annual costs for WASH in health care facilities in LDCs are 3% of annual recurrent government spending on health and 3% of the annual universal WASH pricetag.

### Table: Costs of WASH and Waste Management

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>All facilities</th>
<th>Hospitals</th>
<th>Non-hospitals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Water</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost, billion US$</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>19</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sanitation</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cost, billion US$</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>0.08</td>
<td>1.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hygiene</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cost, billion US$</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Waste Management</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cost, billion US$</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>3.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Chaitkin, et al., 2022; Estimating the cost of achieving universal basic WASH in health care facilities in the least developed countries. Lancet Global Health (publication 7 April 2022) Pre-print available at: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/352364594_Estimating_the_Cost_of_Achieving_Universal_Basic_Wash_Standards_in_Health_Care_Facilities_in_the_46_Least_Developed_Countries
Supporting facilities to be WASH FIT

- Risk-based, incremental improvement approach currently used in 45 countries
- Supports **quality care** and **infection prevention and control** and emergency preparedness
- **Features:** *Water, Sanitation, Health care waste, hand hygiene, cleaning, energy and management*
- Version 2.0 includes greater focus on **climate resilience, sustainable health care waste management** and **gender**
- New package includes checklists, fact sheets, assessment forms, improvement plan templates, training slides and manual

Join us for the Global Launch Webinar for WASH FIT V 2.0 on 26 April 13:00 CET time (link at www.washinhcf.org)
Health leaders - your voice and action matters!

Learn and engage
- Understand the status of your country/facility
- Reach out to global and national health actors to engage in collective efforts

Connect
- Join the conversation and share your questions & comments @WASH_for_health
- Engage in Friends of WASH in HCF (through NY Missions), or Community of Practice (www.washinhcf.org)

Commit and act
- Contribute to four main global recommendations
- Collaborate with Ministry of Health and partners on practical steps to advance WASH in Health Care Facilities and WASH FIT