REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
74th World Health Assembly
24 May 2021 - 01 June 2021

Pillar	**4**	**MORE EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT WHO PROVIDING BETTER SUPPORT TO COUNTRIES**
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		Water, sanitation and hygiene in health care facilities

The Philippines appreciates the WHO for its inclusion of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Health Care Facilities (WASH in HCF) on the 74th World Health Assembly. We are pleased to report our progress, in supporting more people in enjoying better health and well-being.

The Department has successfully assessed more than 20 Health Care Facilities (HCFs) using the Water and Sanitation for Health Facility Improvement Tool (WASH FIT) under the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) Project. Assessment using WASHFIT also included birthing facilities as there is linkage of WASH and Maternal and Child Health (MCH). WASH also addressed inequities since concerns of PWDs were integrated in the WASH standards developed for primary healthcare facilities.

We updated the "Philippine Roadmap on WASH in HCF" last year, based on the assessment data from the HCFs that included current developments of the health sector. Another development was the WASH Master Plan (2020-2030) that outlined the required cost for universal coverage with potential funding mechanisms.

The "Green and Safe Health Facilities Manual" is for release, as response to the global call of minimizing carbon footprint of the health sector, thereby setting the minimum green and safe standards for all hospitals, other health care facilities, to continue providing quality health and safety to the people.

On continuously promoting WASH to people, the Philippines, together with relevant partners, celebrated Global Handwashing Day with the theme, "Clean Hands for All" while during the World Toilet Day, series of webinars for sanitation learning exchange were presented. Similarly, the World Environmental Health Day (WEHD) adopted a theme that hinged Environmental Health as a key public health intervention in disease pandemic prevention.

The Philippines WASH Program contributed in capacitating health workers combat COVID-19, through technical sessions/webinars, emphasizing on Infection, Prevention and Control (IPC), Healthcare Waste Management, including wastes from COVID-19 vaccination and those from COVID-19 quarantine units.

We look forward to a continuous and always productive partnership with WHO, on the development of policies and initiatives relevant to WASH in Health Care Facilities; especially on this time of the pandemic, when Water, Sanitation and Hygiene are significantly in demand.