WHO global activities on health care waste management

ISWA Working Group meeting in London
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Presented by:
Dr. Ute Pieper (PhD)
WHO Consultant
 upsetpieper@yahoo.de
A target of universal basic coverage of WASH in health care facilities by 2030 is included in the post-2015 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG3, SDG6):

- **Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages**

- **Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all**

Urgent action is needed to improve Water, Sanitation and Health (WASH) services and practices in health care facilities:
- including on-site improved water source accessible to all users at all times, adequate, functioning and accessible toilets, separated by gender, for staff, patients and visitors, functioning handwashing stations near all toilets and points of care and **safe health care waste management including segregation, collection, transport, treatment and waste disposal**.
Click here to read about global efforts!

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in health care facilities are fundamental for the provision of quality, people-centered care. Such services also reduce health care-related infections, increase trust and uptake of services, increase efficiency and decrease cost of service delivery and improve staff morale. All major initiatives to improve global health depend on basic WASH services in health care facilities.

In low- and middle-income countries, WASH services in many health care facilities are absent. Data from 54 countries representing 66.101 facilities show that 36% of health care facilities do not have an improved water source. 19% do not have improved sanitation and 30% do not have water and soap for handwashing. This lack of services compromises the ability to provide safe and quality care and places both those providing and those seeking care at considerable and preventable risk.

Urgent action is needed to improve WASH services and practices in health care facilities. WHO, UNICEF and partners committed at a global meeting in March 2015 to address the situation.

The vision is to provide access to WASH services in all facilities, in all settings by 2030, with a special attention to the needs of women, girls and children.

- http://www.washinhcf.org/
Global Action Plan on WASH

- WHO, UNICEF and partners committed at a global meeting in March 2015 to address urgent need to improve WASH services.

- Result: Global Action Plan on WASH which includes HCWM elements

- Vision: By 2030, to ensure that every health care facility, in every setting, has safely managed, reliable water, sanitation and hygiene facilities and practices to meet staff and patient needs in order to provide quality, safe people-centered care.
## Global Action Plan: Vision, Task Teams and Activities

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Advocacy and Policy</th>
<th>Monitoring</th>
<th>Evidence and Research</th>
<th>Standards and Facility Improvements</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Change Objective 1</td>
<td>Change Objective 2</td>
<td>Change Objective 3</td>
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**Aim:** To advocate for global and national action to improve WASH in health care facilities and support leaders dedicated to this effort.

**Activities**
- Document national case studies including processes and change mechanisms for improving WASH in health care facilities.

**Aim:** To develop, test and revise core and expanded indicators to track WASH in health care facilities.

**Activities**
- Core and expanded indicators incorporated into all relevant WASH and health monitoring and accountability mechanisms.

**Aim:** To draw on and extend the evidence base to support increased investments, quality improvements and advocacy efforts.

**Activities**
- Develop priority operational research agenda and seek opportunities to address the evidence gaps.

**Activities**
- Support regular training and competency assessments for all health facility staff including cleaners and health care workers.

**Aim:** To develop a suite of field-tested tools, training and reference materials for a variety of facilities and settings.
Task Team activities

- **The advocacy team**: create positive messaging for inclusion in nationally relevant materials, disseminate WASH standards, and campaign for better WASH services.

- **The monitoring team**: finalise a set of harmonized indicators and implement these in key tools, surveys and HMIS.

- **The research team**: conduct burden of disease and systematic reviews, costing analyses, qualitative research on hygiene behaviour, and an evaluation of tools and training.

- **The facility-based improvements team**: revise WASH FIT, review technology options and associated costs, make suggestions for appropriate training and education approaches and review innovative financing options.
Past HCWM Activities of WHO

- Conducting HCWM assessments and monitoring (national level)

- Technical Support on the development of national Policies, Strategies and Regulations (GAVI supported: Africa, Eastern Mediterranean, the Americas, South East Asia, Western Pacific, Europe, and Central Asia)

- Conducting Case Studies and pilot projects (e.g. Kyrgyzstan, Albania, Georgia, Ukraine)

- Providing sharp boxes for immunization (standard package)
HCWM Knowledge Portal

Guidance for healthcare waste management in LICs

Healthcare waste (HCW) is a by-product of healthcare that includes sharps, non-sharps, blood, body parts, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, medical devices and radioactive materials.

Poor management of HCW exposes healthcare workers, waste handlers and the community to infections, toxic effects and injuries.

WHO Programme activities include developing technical guidance materials for assessing the quantities and types of waste produced in different facilities, creating national action plans, developing national healthcare waste management (HCWM) guidelines and building capacity at national level to enhance the way HCW is dealt with in low-income countries (LICs).

Website structure and navigation

The website is split in three main sections:

- basics: provides an overview about HCW and its proper management;
- country level and HC facilities: is where information relevant to the five main thematic (management, training, regulatory and financial issues as well as technologies) can be found;
- resources: has five databases that provide relevant documents, links, technologies, country information and case studies.

To be kept informed of the latest updates, subscribe to our RSS feeds.

If you have any remarks, suggestions or have some piece of information you believe should be posted on this website, please contact: hcmw[at]who[dot]int

http://www.healthcare-waste.org/
WHO HCWM Docs: Developed Policies, Strategies, Plans

- **Policies**
  - Policy Paper: Safe Healthcare Waste Management
  - Policy Paper: Mercury in Health Care
  - AIDE-MEMOIRE for a national strategy for health-care waste management

- **General strategic documents;**
  - WHO core principles for achieving safe and sustainable management of health-care waste
  - Better health care waste management: An integral component of health investment

- **Documents aiming the national level**
  - National Steering Committees and National Working Groups for Health-Care Waste Management Policy Development and Planning
  - Health-care waste management: Guidance for the development and implementation of a National Action Plan
  - Preparation of national health-care waste management plans in sub-saharan countries: a guidance manual

- **Management of solid health-care waste at primary health-care centres: A decision-making guide**
WHO HCWM Docs: Guidance

- General guidance
  - Safe Management of Wastes from Health-Care Activities (second version)
  - Health through safe health care: safe water, basic sanitation and waste management in healthcare settings

- Fact Sheets and Poster
  - Health-care waste management - Fact sheet n° 281
  - Waste from health-care activities - Fact sheet n° 253
  - Ebola Virus disease (EVD) – Key questions and answers concerning health care waste
  - Management of waste from injection activities - Poster

- Specific Guidance
  - Review of health impacts from microbiological hazards in health-care wastes
  - Managing Health Care Waste Disposal
  - Guidelines for Safe Disposal of Unwanted Pharmaceuticals in and after Emergencies
  - Management of wastes from immunisation campaign activities. Practical guidelines for planners and managers
  - Management of waste from injection activities at district level: guidelines for district health managers
  - Mercury in health care
  - Technical Guideline: Replacement of mercury thermometers and sphygmomanometers in health care
WHO HCWM Docs: Tools

- HCWM - Costing Analysis Tool (CAT / ECAT)
- Unpublished tools
  - Basic 3-day training on healthcare waste management – CIS Countries
  - Transport Guideline for infectious waste UN 3291
  - Electronic Monitoring Tool for healthcare waste management
Collaboration with UNDP: GEF project

- **Target Countries:**
  - Ghana, Madagascar, Tanzania, Zambia

- **Components**
  - Capacity building and awareness on HCWM and mercury phasing out
  - Improving of policy and regulatory frameworks, coordination, budgeting and for HCWM and mercury
  - Introduction of BEP and BAT approaches for HCWM and support the phase-out of mercury at facility level

- **WHO input:**
  - Strengthening policy
  - Technical capacity building
  - Skill development
Collaboration with ISWA

- Collaboration Plan for 2015 – 2017
  - mutually agreed three year plan for collaboration, the results of which are reviewed by the WHO Executive Board once every three years

- Objective: to promote the safe management of healthcare waste worldwide and to reduce the impact of waste related activities on public health
Plan for collaboration 2015 - 2017

- **Activity 1** – “Safe Management of Wastes from Health-Care Activities” (finalized)

- **Activity 2** – WHO participation in the ISWA Working Group on Health Care Waste

- **Activity 3** – ISWA…
  - Provides technical advice to WHO through its working group and its experts.
  - provide expert knowledge and are available for participation in training, workshops and conferences at international, regional and national level.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expected deliverable (add as many as needed)</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
<th>Resp. for implementation</th>
<th>Budget</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Contribute to technical content and support drafting of the documents</td>
<td>Q1 2015 – Q4 2017</td>
<td>As this is a WHO publication, WHO is responsible for implementation. ISWA will support by identifying experts to contribute to the content of fact sheets through their Working Groups and Networks</td>
<td>In-kind</td>
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<td>• Review of Publication</td>
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<td>• Dissemination of Publication via ISWA channels</td>
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<td>• Support of the “healthcare-waste.org” site</td>
<td>Q1 2015 – Q4 2017</td>
<td>ISWA WG-Healthcare Waste Chair and ISWA General Secretary</td>
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<td>• Inclusion of key WHO publications in the ISWA online knowledge platform; ISWA waste pedia and other relevant ISWA communication channels</td>
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<td>• Updates provided by WHO on activities and projects relating to the management of healthcare waste</td>
<td>Q1 2015 – Q4 2017</td>
<td>ISWA WG-Healthcare Waste Chair and ISWA General Secretary</td>
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<td>• Communication with WHO on ISWA projects and activities relating to Healthcare Waste Management</td>
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<td>• ISWA to allocate some time for one person to provide periodic support on joint activities.</td>
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Collaboration areas: Outlook

- **Sharing of information:**
  - Input to the healthcare waste / WASH webpage: Case studies, equipment etc.

- **Participating in the task teams on the WASH Global Action Plan to advocate hcwm**

- **Monitoring**
  - As part of SDG 6 on WASH
  - Within national health facility assessment surveys (e.g. SARA)
  - Within health management information systems (HMIS)

- **Development of technical documents**

- **Financial support for the translation of the “Blue Book”?**
Way forward

- Providing input on HCWM to the WHO web pages: case studies, etc.

- ISWA members part of the task teams of the Global Action Plan on WASH (one member for each task team)

- Supporting WHO to develop technical documents on HCWM:
  - Compendium on HCWM treatment / disposal systems
  - Short guideline on HCWM (Blue Book summary)
  - ?
Thank You

For more information and to get involved contact:

washinhcf@who.int

WASH in health care facilities knowledge portal:

www.washinhcf.org

Health care Waste Management on WHO portal:

www.healthcare-waste.org