

WASH in Healthcare Facilities: 2019 Year in Review

Moving WASH in HCF from Resolution to Revolution!

2019 was a momentous year for WASH in HCF and saw us move from “*Resolution to Revolution.*” Between the launch of the JMP report and the Practical Steps documents to the World Health Assembly Resolution and 88 commitments to WASH in HCF, the issue has gained tremendous visibility. What was once a neglected crisis is finally receiving its moment in the spotlight, in large part due to the efforts of you all. We look to 2020 to further this progress, with a focus on not just visibility, but also *prioritization, institutionalization, financing, demand, and accountability.* After the success on the global stage, greater attention will be on regional- and country-level action.

Below is a summary of the progress from 2019 in [global advocacy](#), [US advocacy](#), [country action](#), [faith-based engagement](#), [financing](#), and [knowledge management & resources](#). Additionally, this document provides a [list of key news articles](#) on WASH in HCF, what to [look out for in 2020](#), and how you can engage in the coming year.



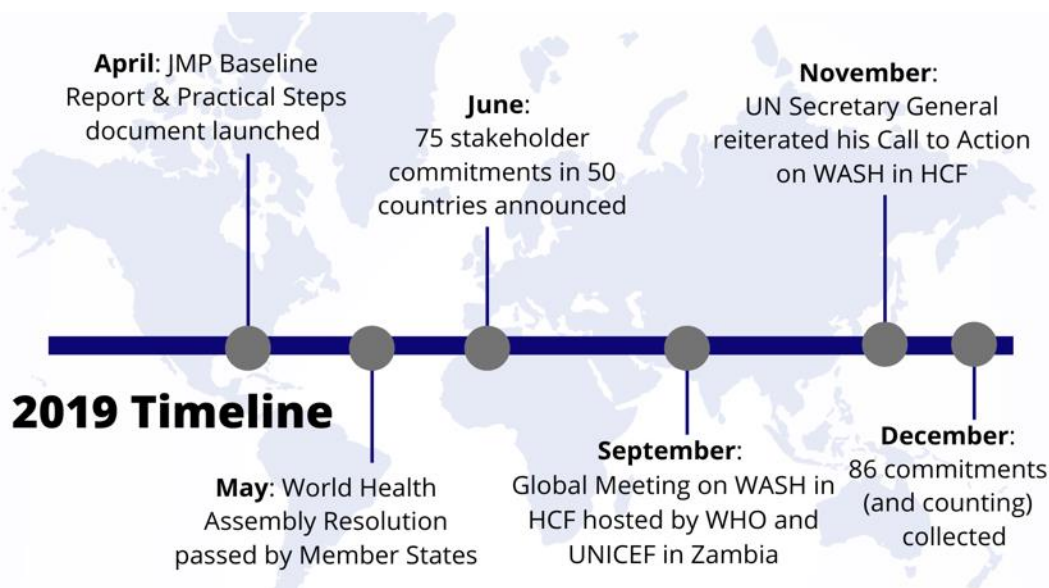
PROGRESS IN 2019

Global Advocacy

- The first [global baseline report](#) on WASH in HCF was published by the [WHO/UNICEF's Joint Monitoring Programme \(JMP\) for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene](#). Highlighting the magnitude of the problem, the report reinforced the urgent need for WASH in HCF across low- and middle-income countries.
- In addition to the JMP report, WHO and UNICEF also published a document outlining the 8 [Practical Steps](#) that countries should take in order to achieve universal coverage of WASH in HCF.
- Member States at the WHO World Health Assembly unanimously [passed a Resolution on WASH in HCF](#). The Resolution urges Member States to take specific actions, including planning and budgeting for WASH in HCF improvements. Eswatini, Germany, Zambia, Tanzania, Japan, and Sweden also [hosted a side event on WASH in HCF and antimicrobial resistance \(AMR\)](#).
- Global Health Council and Global Water 2020 organized a [Stakeholder Commitments Gathering at the Pan American Health Organization in Washington, DC](#), where 75 organizations announced their [commitments to WASH in HCF](#). In the months since, an additional 13 organizations have signed on, with more to come. These commitments are supportive of WHO and UNICEF's efforts to raise the profile of and support countries in achieving 100% coverage of WASH in HCF.

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- Commitments made on WASH in HCF could also be applied to the [AMR Challenge](#), organized by the US CDC. **Of the nearly 350 AMR commitments submitted to the AMR Challenge, 47 were specifically focused on WASH.**
- **WHO, UNICEF, and the Ministry of Health of Zambia hosted a [Global Meeting on WASH in HCF](#).** With over 100 participants from more than 25 countries the meeting in Livingstone, Zambia further secured country commitments and developed action plans on WASH in HCF. As the World Bank noted, the event [embodied the theme](#) “**Resolution to Revolution.**”
- In addition to the WASH in HCF-specific activities that have taken place in 2019, **the issue was recognized through a series of events on the global stage including:** Women Deliver, UNC Water and Health Conference, Concordia Annual Summit, World Water Week, the International Confederation of Midwives’ Africa Regional Conference, [IAPMO Industry Roundtable](#), the 5th Meeting of Parties on the European Water and Health Protocol, and more.



US Advocacy

- **The US State Department hosted a World Water Day event with a panel on the impact of WASH in HCF on maternal health,** including USAID Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator Dr. Alma Crumm Golden.
- **Kaiser Family Foundation hosted a roundtable discussion of WASH and Health actors** in Washington, DC to discuss challenges and opportunities for the two sectors to move ahead, noting WASH in HCF as an important issue for collaboration.
- **Key US government decision-makers were engaged to push for WASH in HCF prioritization,** including Dr. Robert Redfield of CDC and his team, USAID’s Bureau of Global Health and Water Office, State Department, and Capitol Hill.
- **The U.S. Senate in its [spending bill for State and Foreign Operations for Fiscal Year 2020](#) included strong report language on WASH in Healthcare Facilities:** *“The Committee encourages the USAID Administrator to increase water and sanitation activities in healthcare facilities in order to improve the outcomes of USAID’s global health programs.”* The U.S. Senate [spending bill for the US CDC](#) also included encouraging report language: *“The Committee encourages CDC to work with other Federal partners to continue assessing and supporting water sanitation and hygiene [WASH] improvements in healthcare facilities, aligned with the 2017 U.S. Global Water Strategy.”*

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Country Action

Significant progress has been made in country on WASH in HCF. Below is just a snapshot of the action:

- During the Global Meeting on WASH in HCF, **18 countries, led by Zambia, presented their commitments** and progress to WASH in HCF as it aligns with the 8 Practical Steps.
- In **Uganda, 16 commitments to WASH in HCF were announced at the Stakeholders Gathering.** Implementation, advocacy, research, partnership, and scale up are underway. The Speaker of Parliament meanwhile has **urged the Ministry of Health** to close HCF without proper sanitation.
- In **Gaza, donor support and project implementation have begun to show an impact at the community level.** A compiled list of NGO-run healthcare facilities and their WASH needs supports the overwhelmingly positive benefit-cost ratio of focusing on small- and medium-sized projects as the larger infrastructure is built up over time.
- With financial and technical support from Global Water 2020 and IRC WASH, **health advocates in Bangladesh, Kenya, Malawi, and South Africa have successfully raised the profile of WASH in HCF** at national and subnational levels, increased citizens' demand for safe WASH in local hospitals and health centers, and advocated for the inclusion of WASH in HCF in relevant policies and budgets.
- Through their **What Women Want campaign, White Ribbon Alliance surveyed more than 1.2 million women globally** on what they wanted for quality reproductive health. **The #2 response, just after compassionate care, was WASH.** In Kenya and Nigeria, WASH was the top response from women. White Ribbon Alliance country offices are developing advocacy strategies based on this survey, incorporating a major focus on WASH in HCF.

What do women want? Women want water, sanitation, and hygiene in their healthcare facilities.



Photos courtesy of White Ribbon Alliance

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Faith-Based Engagement

The faith-based community has become increasingly engaged on WASH in HCF over the past year:

- On World Water Day 2019, the **Vatican's Dicastery for Integral Human Development** made a [Call to Action](#) to extend sustainable WASH to all Catholic-run hospitals and clinics. The Dicastery is currently evaluating assessment tools to measure the adequacy of WASH conditions in pilot countries. It is estimated that the Catholic Church manages a quarter of the world's healthcare facilities.
- The **Africa Christian Health Associations Platform** hosted a workshop on WASH in HCF as part of their biennial conference. Six of the [Christian Health Association members](#) have initiated WASH in HCF activities in their HCF.
- USAID's Center for Faith and Opportunities Initiative (CFOI) and Global Water 2020 hosted the **first-ever gathering of faith-based actors to discuss how to improve WASH in HCF**.
- **Twenty-three faith-based organizations announced commitments** at the Stakeholders Gathering in DC, including NGOs, health providers, and media.
- At their annual conference, the **Accord Network hosted a technical session on WASH in HCF** as part of the WASH Intensive for faith-based NGO members.



Financing

- **Seven countries** (Ethiopia, Mozambique, Indonesia, Tanzania, Philippines, Malawi and Zambia) made commitments to allocate domestic resources for WASH in HCF.
- **More than US\$120 million was announced for WASH in HCF** at the Stakeholder Commitments Gathering in Washington DC, of which [World Vision committed US\\$100 million](#). Several foundations also indicated their interest in receiving WASH in HCF proposals.
- The World Bank, UNICEF and partners finalized the [project plan](#) for the OneWASH program in Ethiopia, which includes **funding for improvement of WASH services in 1,400 HCF**.
- In addition, **Conrad N. Hilton and OneDrop Foundations have funded WASH district-wide programs** including HCF in Madagascar, Ghana, Uganda, Malawi, Burkina Faso, Niger, and Ethiopia.
- USAID launched its largest-ever [health project in Madagascar](#), a **\$90 million project which will include the improvement of WASH infrastructure and the promotion of healthy behaviors**.
- In its [2020 spending bill](#), the **U.S. House of Representatives has recommended \$450 million for water and sanitation**, a \$15m increase from the previous year. Of that \$450 million, \$225 million is set aside for sub-Saharan Africa.
- Discussion are underway to **identify robust new funding vehicles for large-scale implementation** of WASH in HCF, with monitoring and accountability mechanisms.

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Knowledge Management & Resources

- WHO and UNICEF's WASH in HCF knowledge portal WASHinHCF.org was updated, with new resources, case studies, and tools.
- USAID dedicated a [special issue](#) of Water Currents to WASH in HCF, including summaries of key resources.
- UNC and Emory University gathered researchers and practitioners to discuss the **WASH in HCF Research Agenda**. Feedback from that lunch is being integrated into a working agenda, to be shared in Q1 2020. An [informal literature review](#) of WASH in HCF conducted was recently completed.
- Partners developed “learning laboratories” for each of the 8 Practical Steps that countries should take. The laboratories were run for country participants during the Global Meeting in Zambia. Resources for the labs can be found here: [situation analyses & assessments](#), [standards & guidelines](#), [infrastructure](#), [workforce development](#), and [monitoring](#).
- The [WASH in HCF Initiative](#), hosted by Emory University, broadcasted an additional eight webinars in 2019 to close out the 12-month webinar series, on issues like technology, quality improvement, and costing.
- Several root case analyses/deep dives into WASH in HCF were conducted in Ethiopia in 2019, including by [WHO](#) and Stanford University.
- Global Water 2020 and Global Health Council developed an [Advocacy Toolkit](#) for WASH in HCF to support those making commitments to advocate for the issue.
- UNICEF released a [technical note on antimicrobial resistance](#) (AMR) with a significant focus on the need for WASH in HCF, supporting the increase in focus on WASH at a component of AMR prevention.

Key Messaging Documents:

To help craft your WASH in HCF messages, please feel free to tailor the following to your purposes. In 2020, Global Water 2020 and Global Health Council will host an online training on communications for WASH in HCF:

- [Key Messages for WASH in HCF](#)
- [Talking Points for WASH in HCF](#)
- [Resources & Data for Advocacy](#)

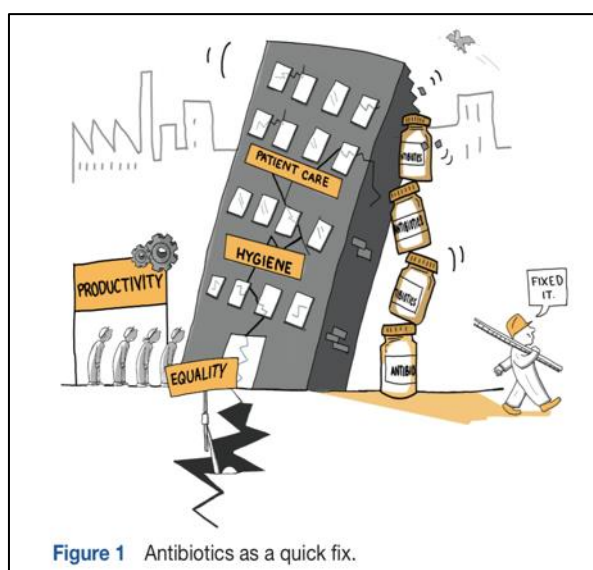


Figure 1 Antibiotics as a quick fix.

Source: Willis, L. & Chandler, C., 2019

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YEAR IN REVIEW: ARTICLES, BLOGS & VIDEOS

It's been a prolific year in WASH in HCF publications. Below are some highlights. We encourage you all to continue the drumbeat in 2020, discussing the need for more WASH in more HCF.

Do you have a story to tell but are not sure how to tell it? Contact Susan Barnett, Communications Director at Global Water 2020 (susankbarnett@gmail.com).

Selected Articles & Blogs:

- [“Where Antibiotics Are More Common Than Water, Superbugs Thrive”](#)
CNN, February 13, 2019
- [“Opinion: We Run a Hospital Without Clean Water – And It’s Time to Change That”](#)
Daily Caller, March 22, 2019
- [“Shocking New Statistics About Water And Hygiene In Hospitals Around The World”](#)
NPR, April 4, 2019
- [“Bill Frist: Lessons Not Learned in Ebola Outbreak”](#)
Fox News, July 6, 2019
- [“No Water or Toilets in Health Facilities? That's Horrifying—And Funders Are Paying Attention”](#)
Insider Philanthropy, September 19, 2019
- [“A Pandemic Killed My Great-Grandfather. Here’s What We Need to Avoid Another”](#)
Global Citizen, September 17, 2019
- [“Safe Surgery – and UHC – Hinge of Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene”](#)
Global Health NOW, September 23, 2019
- [Zambia Minister of Health: "From Resolution to Revolution in Health Care”](#)
Devex, November 5, 2019

For more, see the full list of 2019 WASH in HCF [news articles & blogs](#).

Select Videos:

<p>WHO & UNICEF's Resolution to Revolution</p>  <p>WASH in health care facilities From Resolution to Revolution</p>	<p>UN Secretary General's Call to Action</p> 	<p>Youth What Your Commitment Means</p>  <p>because I might not be here</p>
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LOOKING AHEAD TO 2020

The next year holds even greater opportunity for driving action on WASH in HCF. Our five focuses for 2020 will be **prioritization, institutionalization, financing, demand, and accountability** – every activity undertaken will seek to further one of these goals. Below is a list of activities to look out for in 2020 and how you can be engaged:

1. COMMITMENTS

Over the coming year, we will continue to work with those who have made commitments to identify opportunities and resources, while seeking out key groups who should be more involved in WASH in HCF but haven't yet jumped on board. In June, we will be celebrating the commitments of 2019, reviewing progress, and sharing lessons and tools.

YOU CAN...make a commitment, if you haven't already. If you have, identify one partner you work with who isn't yet involved in WASH in HCF and talk to them about why they should integrate it into their scope of work.

2. FINANCING

Global Water 2020 is writing a brief business case for WASH in HCF, describing the need, costs and benefits of funding WASH in HCF. Meanwhile, UNICEF will be creating a more robust investment case for WASH in HCF. Discussions are currently underway with the UN and World Bank on potential short-term trust funds to jump start financing of large-scale WASH in HCF activities. Additionally, WHO and UNICEF are planning a donor meeting in 2020.

YOU CAN...have an informational interview with one donor you know that hasn't yet funded WASH in HCF. You can use the business case to support your argument for why they should be investing in this issue.

3. FIRST LADIES INITIATIVE

The First Lady of Kenya is working to organize an initiative on WASH in HCF with other First Ladies in the region, including Namibia and South Africa. An event in late 2020 with African First Ladies will discuss the issue on the continent, particularly as it relates to maternal and child health. The First Lady of Colombia meanwhile is supporting the Latin America & Caribbean regional event.

YOU CAN...advocate within your own country to encourage your First Spouse to get involved in the WASH in HCF First Ladies Initiative.

4. YEAR OF THE NURSE AND MIDWIFE

2020 has been designated the Year of the Nurse and Midwife by WHO. Throughout the year, the goal is to empower midwives and nurses to use their collective voice speak out on WASH in HCF. An Year of the Nurse and Midwife [engagement strategy](#) for WASH in HCF partners has been developed for community crowdsourcing and we will have a call in January to discuss.

YOU CAN...join the call in January and use the engagement strategy to identify opportunities where your organization can add value. Consider including a midwife or nurse as a speaker for events in 2020 to highlight their experiences with WASH in HCF.

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5. REGIONAL- & COUNTRY-LEVEL ACTION:

In 2019, there was strong focus on raising the visibility of WASH in HCF globally. In 2020, greater emphasis will be placed regional- and country-level action. WHO will host an event in the Southeast Asia Region in February and in the Spring the Brazilian Ministry of Health, Oswaldo Cruz Foundation, and PAHO are organizing a Latin America & Caribbean regional event for Ministers of Health. Meanwhile, several countries, including Malawi, are building coalitions for WASH in HCF.

YOU CAN...launch a national or regional coalition on WASH in HCF. See the [Commitments Country Matrix](#) as reference for who is working where.

6. CAMPAIGN

UNICEF will be launching a campaign on WASH in HCF in 2020, in line with their focus on maternal and child health and their 4 P's for safe delivery and care (WASH in HCF falls under the first P, "Place").

YOU CAN...use the campaign in your own advocacy work to bolster support for WASH in HCF and share stories of success.

7. WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

In the lead up to the World Health Assembly in May, WHO and UNICEF will publish an update of the JMP report from April with new data as well as a country tracker, which will include a spotlight grade for countries on each of the Practical Steps. An event at the World Health Assembly will also put a spotlight on the issue and progress over the past year since the resolution.

YOU CAN...use the data and country tracker to urge your government to address gaps and finance WASH in HCF.

8. US ADVOCACY

In the Spring, an event on the Hill will focus on WASH in HCF as an integral component of global health security. Also, the launch of the International Water and Sanitation Caucus is expected in the Spring, led by four bipartisan Congressmen, where WASH in HCF expected to be a topic of concern.

YOU CAN...get involved in US government advocacy in 2020 to help us prioritize WASH in HCF. Contact John Oldfield for more information (joldfield@globalwater2020.org).

9. ONLINE COURSE

Emory is developing an online course for WASH in HCF for UNICEF. Future iterations of the online course will be available to the wider community of practice.

YOU CAN...be on the lookout for course updates and registration announcements. If you haven't already, watch the 12-part [webinar series](#).

10. ENGAGEMENT CALENDAR

2020 presents ample opportunities to continue to raise the profile and engage new partners, particularly those in the global health and financing communities.

YOU CAN...use the WASH in HCF [engagement calendar](#) to identify both events and awareness days where you can bring your voice to WASH in HCF, on the global stage and within the countries where you are working.