**WASH IN HEALTHCARE: A NEW GLOBAL HEALTH MOVEMENT**

**[CORE MESSAGING FOR FAITH COMMUNITIES]**

**1. Faith-based organizations provide healthcare during people’s most vulnerable moments.**

Faith-based organizations often provide healthcare where otherwise there would be none, under difficult circumstances, and in low resourced areas around the world. Yet from urban hospitals to rural health centers, facilities turn deadly because they lack Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (called WASH), the foundation for safe and dignified healthcare.

**2. It is “the least of these” who bear the greatest burden in the healthcare water crisis.**

The lack of WASH inside healthcare facilities causes great suffering and death. In the world’s [47 least developed countries](https://www.washinhcf.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/9789240017542-eng-1.pdf), 50% of healthcare facilities do not have basic water services; 63% do not have basic sanitation; and 26% of healthcare staff cannot wash their hands at points of patient care. 1.8 billion people must rely on healthcare facilities that cannot meet the most basic human health needs.

**3. Safe water secures life, starting on day one.**

The sanctity of life calls us to welcome vulnerable newborns into the world with washed hands, clean beds and safe instruments to cut umbilical cords. Instead, preventable infections are among the leading causes in the death. Every year, [one million newborns die](https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/newborns-reducing-mortality) within their first 24 hours, and nearly [300,000 women die in childbirth](https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/maternal-mortality).

**4. Reducing harmful healthcare with WASH is a moral call.**

Every infection prevented causes no suffering and imposes no economic burden, which strengthens families and human flourishing. WASH must be present to protect mothers and vulnerable newborns; prevent, cure and contain infections in patients and staff; deliver safe surgery; prevent antimicrobial resistance; advance pandemic preparedness. That staff and patients cannot adequately wash their hands during COVID-19 merely underscores that the lack of WASH needs prioritization and increased resources.

**Faith leaders play a critical role in the health and well-being of communities.**

Faith leaders are called to use their voices and pulpits to influence policymakers, to bring care and compassion to healthcare where life is at its most fragile.