



WASH in health care facilities newsletter January - April 2017 Issue 4

Global Learning Event: WASH in health care facilities: action-oriented solutions and learning (Kathmandu, Nepal, March 2017)

WHO and UNICEF held a three-day Global Learning Event in Kathmandu, Nepal from 28 – 30 March, 2017. The event built on previous global meeting (Madrid 2014, Geneva 2016, London 2017) and convened over 60 stakeholders from more than 20 countries, including WASH and health practitioners, policy-makers, researchers and representatives from international organizations and government to share case studies, technical expertise and solutions to address key gaps and strategize on effective measures for improving WASH in health care facilities. Working group and technical sessions covered key areas including advocacy and campaigns, facility-based improvements, research and monitoring, health care waste management and maternal and newborn health focusing on change from the facility to national level. A meeting report, presentations and other resources from the meeting will be available shortly on the [WASH in HCF knowledge portal](#).

Launch of Network for Improving Quality of Care for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (Lilongwe, Malawi, February 2017)

In February 2017, the *Network for Improving Quality of Care for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health* was launched in Lilongwe, Malawi. The network is made of nine countries: Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Ivory Coast, Malawi, Nigeria, Tanzania and Uganda. A technical session on the links between quality of care (QoC) and WASH in health care facilities was held to catalyse action and ensure that WASH in health care facilities is embedded with network countries' QoC action plans. A technical brief documenting the linkages between WASH and QoC can be read [here](#). WASH is one of the eight essential standards in the 2016 WHO [Quality of Care \(QoC\) Framework](#).



WHO/UNICEF Water and Sanitation for Health Facility Improvement Tool (WASH FIT) activities

WASH FIT is a risk-based, step-by-step guide to undertaking WASH improvements as part of wider quality improvements in health care facilities.

- A new mobile version of the tool has been developed by [mWater](#), and is available at www.washfit.org. The platform will enable better monitoring of WASH FIT implementation and analysis of progress and challenges at the facility level, and includes technical support and real-time trouble-shooting. Please visit the site and explore the tool. Feedback is welcome and can be sent to washinhcf@who.int.
- Two countries have held national WASH FIT trainings in Q1. Firstly, Laos held a training in Savannakhet Province in February, with participants from Laos and Cambodia. Both countries are in the process of developing national standards for WASH in HCF and will be using WASH FIT as a means to implement these standards. Last week, Ethiopia hosted a WASH FIT training with the aim of integrating WASH FIT with an existing national quality improvement programme: the Clean and Safe Hospitals (CASH) Initiative. More information on the CASH initiative can be found on the Ethiopia case study page [here](#). There were also two participants from Malawi and two from Kenya in attendance who plan to use WASH FIT where they work.

Strengthening links between WASH and midwifery and 2017 International Day of the Midwife

The Essential Competencies for Basic Midwifery Practice have been revised to include WASH, IPC and AMR and submitted to the Board of the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) for review. These will be shared on the WASH in HCF knowledge portal once they have been finalised. Work is also underway to develop a set of indicators for monitoring WASH in birthing settings which will be ready in Q3.



5 May was International Day of the Midwife (#IDM). The [WHO IDM 2017 webpage](#) includes feature stories on WASH in India and emergencies in Liberia, as well as a short filmed presentation about the centrality of midwifery to the Global Strategy for Women, Children and Adolescents Health, the Standards for QoC and the “Midwives Voices, Midwives Realities” report.

Global Learning Laboratory (GLL) for Quality Universal Health Coverage (qUHC)

The GLL was launched in November 2016 at the Health Systems Research Symposium in Vancouver, Canada. An introductory webinar was held in February 2017 which gave an overview of the GLL and details of the functionality of the web-based platform (listen [here](#)). A second webinar focusing on national quality policies and strategies and their interaction across multiple levels of a health system (facility, district and national) will place on May 30. More information on the webinar can be found [here](#). A joint Learning Pod on WASH and infection prevention & control (IPC) is under construction and will be activated in June 2017. For more information or to join the GLL, please visit <http://www.who.int/servicedeliverysafety/areas/qhc/gll/en/>, or email GLL4QUHC@who.int.

May 5 Hand Hygiene Day: 'Fight antibiotic resistance - it's in your hands'

This year's World Hand Hygiene Day campaign focused on the fight against antibiotic resistance in the context of hand hygiene and infection prevention and control (IPC) programmes, in an effort to improve IPC behaviour and best practices. 'Antibiotics, handle with care' is this year's tagline in an effort to demonstrate unity between antimicrobial resistance and IPC efforts. Learn more and explore how to be involved [here](#).



A snapshot of other work

- To mark International Day of the Midwife and World Hand Hygiene day (both on May 5), WaterAid hosted a webinar featuring speakers from WHO and Soapbox to look at how improving quality of care for mothers and newborns can be enhanced through integration of WASH in health care facilities. Presenters described the practical interventions and policy changes required to drive progress and examine the wider implications including the importance of WASH for delivering effective IPC, tackling the rise of antimicrobial resistance and achieving qUHC. Listen to the recording [here](#).
- The USAID funded Maternal and Child Survival Program (MCSP) WASH team, in collaboration with LSHTM are investigating the behavioural barriers and motivators to practicing appropriate hygiene during the highest risk period for both newborn sepsis and puerperal sepsis in mothers in Nigeria. A brown bag presentation was held which highlighted the findings from the Phase I literature review and scoping visit to Nigeria. Listen to the recording [here](#).
- WHO and UNDP are partnering on the GEF project “Reducing UPOPs and Mercury Releases from the Health Sector in Africa” in four African countries. In March 2017, WHO recently supported the MoH in Ghana and Tanzania in the development of national policy and guideline documents on healthcare waste management. Further support is planned for Zambia in May 2017.
- The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) in New Delhi, in collaboration with WHO South East Asian Regional Office is offering a distant learning program “Certificate in Health Care Waste Management” for the SEAR countries targeted at the health personnel in various health care facilities. The program content is currently under revision with support of WHO.

- The Global Task Force for Cholera Control (GTFCC) met in Dakar, Senegal in February. At the meeting, the WASH working group was revived and a number of work packages agreed, including developing a WASH package for cholera hotspots and endemic cholera situations. More than 20 participants from NGOs, donors, universities and the UN participated.

Papers and other reading

- [Water, Sanitation and Hygiene at the Health Center](#): The Health System's Unaccounted for Responsibility, USAID (Feb 2017)
- [Giving Birth without Clean Water](#): Maternal Health Task Force Blog (March 2017).
- [Kotay et al 2017](#). Spread from the Sink to the Patient: *in situ* Study Using Green Fluorescent Protein (GFP) Expressing- *Escherichia coli* to Model Bacterial Dispersion from Hand Washing Sink Trap Reservoirs. Applied Environmental Microbiology.
- [What's wrong in the control of antimicrobial resistance in critically ill patients from low- and middle-income countries?](#) Dondorp, A.M., Limmathurotsakul, D. & Ashley, E.A. Intensive Care Med (2017). doi:10.1007/s00134-017-4795-z
- [Risks from Ebola virus Discharge from Hospitals to Sewer Workers](#). Haas CN, Rycroft T, Bibby K, Casson L. *Water Environ Res.* 2017 Apr 1;89(4):357-368. doi: 10.2175/106143017X14839994523181

Upcoming events

70th World Health Assembly, Geneva

May 22 - May 31

Several resolutions and progress reports relevant to WASH in HCF will be deliberated at this year's 70th World Health Assembly including 12.2 - Antimicrobial resistance, 16.3 – Global strategy on women's, children's and adolescents' Health (2016-2030) and 16.1 – Progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In addition, WSSCC, SCA and WaterAid will be hosting a side event on Wednesday 24 May at 8am on 'Health and Hygiene through the Life Course' at the Intercontinental that will feature WASH in HCF, particularly for mothers and newborns.



WASH in health care facilities knowledge portal: www.washinhcf.org

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