

WHO Global Learning Laboratory (GLL) for Quality universal health coverage

The new WASH and IPC “learning pod” within the Global Learning Laboratory has just been launched. The pod is a community of practice that will focus on connecting IPC and WASH communities to share experiences and work on quality improvements at the frontline. A webinar will take place on 29 August at 12 noon Geneva time (GMT+2) to share the aims and objectives of the pod and share examples of how WASH, IPC and quality universal health coverage are driving change the country level. To become a member of the learning pod, please visit the [GLL homepage](#).

IPC WASH training (Cape Town, July 2017)

WHO, UNICEF and Infection Control Africa Network (ICAN) have developed a training package and an integrated curriculum for IPC and WASH at the health care facility level, with a focus on AMR. The first training took place from 3- 7 July in Cape Town, South Africa. Twenty-nine practitioners, from twelve African countries, including environmental health officers, laboratory technicians, Ministry of Health officials, doctors and nurses took part. The training involved two field visits to local facilities and a practical exercise to conduct a WASH FIT assessment. ICAN are exploring options for conducting further such trainings in Africa.

LSHTM round table on Antimicrobial Resistance (London, June 2017)

In June 2017, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine convened a one-day roundtable to build on earlier discussions about research, feasibility and funding, and the politics of WASH and AMR. The roundtable moved beyond a purely microbiological framing and considered the differential risks and patterns associated with the three domains of household and community, health care facilities, and agricultural settings. Read the report [here](#).

Updates from WHO’s Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Global Unit

- **WHO’s IPC Assessment Tool version 2 (IPCAT2) launched**

IPCAT2 aims to support national-level assessment of the WHO Guidelines on Core Components of Infection Prevention and Control Programmes. It is an Excel based tool which enables national actors to undertake a baseline assessment of facilities to guide action for improvement. More information can be found on the WHO [IPC Core Components page](#).

- **New IPC training modules package coming in 2017**

The WHO IPC Global Unit is developing training modules to build capacity amongst IPC practitioners. The package was piloted at a meeting in Geneva in June with representatives from low- and middle-income countries from all WHO regions. The unit will test the training package in Liberia. The final version will be issued towards the end of 2017.

- **International Conference on Prevention & Infection Control (ICPIC) (Geneva, June 2017)**

To learn more about the latest in infection prevention research, the abstracts of all the presentations and posters can be read [here](#).

- **World Hepatitis Day: “Make smart injection choices” (28 July 2017)**

The year’s strapline was “*Eliminate Hepatitis*” and incorporated the IPC Global Unit’s work on injection safety. More information on the “*Make smart injections choices*” campaign can be found [here](#).

- **New health care facility registrations for SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands**

[A new map](#) is available on the WHO web page which shows the number of health care facilities registered for SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands, adjusted by population per country. Thank you to everyone who has supported the campaign on 5 May and throughout the year. Read the latest [WHO Save Lives newsletter](#).

International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) congress (Toronto 18-22 June)

ICM works to strengthen professional associations of midwives throughout the world. The theme of this year’s ICM congress was “*Midwives: making a difference in the World*”. More than 4,000 participants from over 100 countries attended. WaterAid led a session “*Clean Water: The Missing Ingredient. Local, national and global perspectives on making water, sanitation and hygiene available at birth*”, at which the challenges that midwives in many parts of the world face every day and the important role that they (individually and collectively) can play in changing this unacceptable situation were discussed. The Global Midwifery Advocacy Strategy group with ICM, WHO, White Ribbon Alliance, USAID and others are working on a set of messages and tools to advocate for WASH in HCF.

Read WaterAid’s Blog: [How can midwives be expected to deliver quality care without clean water?](#)

What does it mean to be a midwife around the world? And what difference does it make having access to clean, safe water? Watch WaterAid’s powerful “[Parallel Lives](#)” video, highlighting the different working conditions and challenges faced by midwives in the United Kingdom and Tanzania.



GEF-project: Reducing UPOPs and Mercury Releases from the Health Sector in Africa

The Minamata Convention on Mercury comes into force in August 2017. Four African countries (Ghana, Madagascar, Tanzania and Zambia) are involved in a GEF-project with UNDP, WHO and Health Care without Harm to reduce UPOPs and mercury use in health care facilities, and will lead the continent in demonstrating best available technologies and environmental practices for health care waste management. Further information about the project is available [here](#).

Monitoring Updates

It has been a year since the Expert Group Meeting in New York at which the core indicators for WASH in HCF were finalised and a set of expanded indicators were drafted. The WHO UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme is preparing to update the 2015 WHO and UNICEF [global landscaping report](#), and produce a report on WASH in health care facilities in early 2018. Data collection is underway and will continue at least through the end of 2017. Indicators for monitoring WASH in birthing settings, focusing on delivery rooms, are being developed and will be shared in the next couple of months. For more information on monitoring WASH in HCF visit the [health care facilities page on the new JMP website](#).

JMP have produced two scoping studies on monitoring WASH in HCF:

- East Asia & Pacific: [Preparing for SDG reporting of WASH in health care facilities in the East Asia and Pacific Region](#)
- Latin America and Caribbean: [Are data available to monitor the SDGs for WASH in schools and health care facilities in the Latin America and Caribbean region?](#)

Papers and other reading

- Gon et al. (2017) [Unpacking the enabling factors for hand, cord and birth-surface hygiene in Zanzibar maternity units](#). Health Policy and Planning.

A new paper, led by the [Soapbox Collaborative](#) and supported by SHARE, highlights the enabling factors for hand, cord and birth-surface hygiene in Zanzibar maternity units. This collaborative research project used a mixed methods approach which yielded practical information of direct relevance to action at local and ministerial levels.



Image credit: WaterAid Tanzania

- Mensah Abrampah et al. (2017) [Improving water, sanitation and hygiene in health-care facilities, Liberia](#). WHO Bulletin: Lessons from the field.
This paper highlights efforts to improve the quality of health services in Liberia, focusing on the development and implementation of a package to improve water and sanitation infrastructures and hygiene practices. Enabling factors for advancing WASH at the facility-level, including the role of strong national leadership with clear vision for implementation, engagement of local health workers and multi-sectoral collaboration, provide some insights on how WASH can be embedded into health service provision.
- Action Against Hunger (2017). Medical Waste Management for WASH Practitioners. [Incinerators and Sharps Management](#)
- Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC), SCA, Government of Kenya and WaterAid: Health and Hygiene across the Life Course: [World Health Assembly 2017 side session report](#).

Upcoming events

Providing Safe Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Health Care Facilities

Thursday 31 August, 1600-1730, Pillar Hall in Norra Latin

Hilton Foundation, UNICEF, WaterAid, WHO and World Vision are hosting a session at World Water Week which will explore the current status of WASH in health care facilities and share specific, simple actions that can be taken to improve WASH in HCFs safely, effectively and sustainably. Successful examples of improving WASH in HCFs (including two case studies from Mali) will be shared. All are welcome to attend. For more information on World Water Week, visit <http://www.worldwaterweek.org/>



World Sepsis Congress (WSC) spotlight: Maternal and neonatal sepsis

On 12 September 2017, WHO and the Global Sepsis Alliance will host the 'World Sepsis Congress Spotlight: Maternal and Neonatal Sepsis', a free online congress shining a spotlight on this neglected aspect of sepsis. In four distinctive sessions, 25 renowned experts from all over the world will give 12-minute presentations on all aspects of maternal and neonatal sepsis, as well as give updates on sepsis in general. Participation is open to everyone with an internet connection and is free of charge, and just requires a 1-minute registration. The congress will be held in English and will be live, giving you the opportunity to ask questions after each talk. For more information, please visit: <https://wscspotlight.org/>



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



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