



Water, sanitation, hygiene and infection control in health care facilities

Status from low- and middle-income countries

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WHO/UNICEF Meeting on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Health Care Facilities –
Urgent Needs and Action

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Background and significance

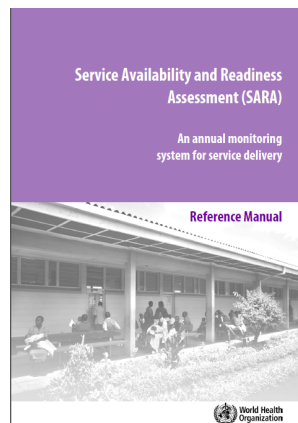
- WASH and infection control necessary for preventing and treating disease in health care facilities (HCF)
- Estimated 15% of patients in low-income countries acquire a nosocomial infection
- Infections account for 430,000 neonatal deaths/year
- WASH in HCF included in proposals for the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals



Photo credit: Ryan Cronk, 2014

Global review: data sources and indicators

Facility data compiled for 54 countries



Indicators for monitoring WASH in HCF

WASH element	Global assessment		
	SARA	SPA	SDI
Water	Observed Improved water source within 500 meters of facility.	Reported Year-round water access to improved water source within 500 meters of facility.	Reported Improved water source.
Sanitation	Reported Presence of adequate sanitation facilities for clients.	Observed Facility has functioning, clean latrine.	Observed Facility has one or more functioning toilets. Functioning: Toilet should be accessible; within the facility grounds, is unlocked and not restricted to facility personnel use only.
Hygiene	Observed Soap and water or alcohol based hand rub at all points of care.	Observed Percentage with all items for infection control (soap, running water, sharps box, disinfectant and latex gloves) in all	No data collected – collects data on sterilization of equipment.

Water access

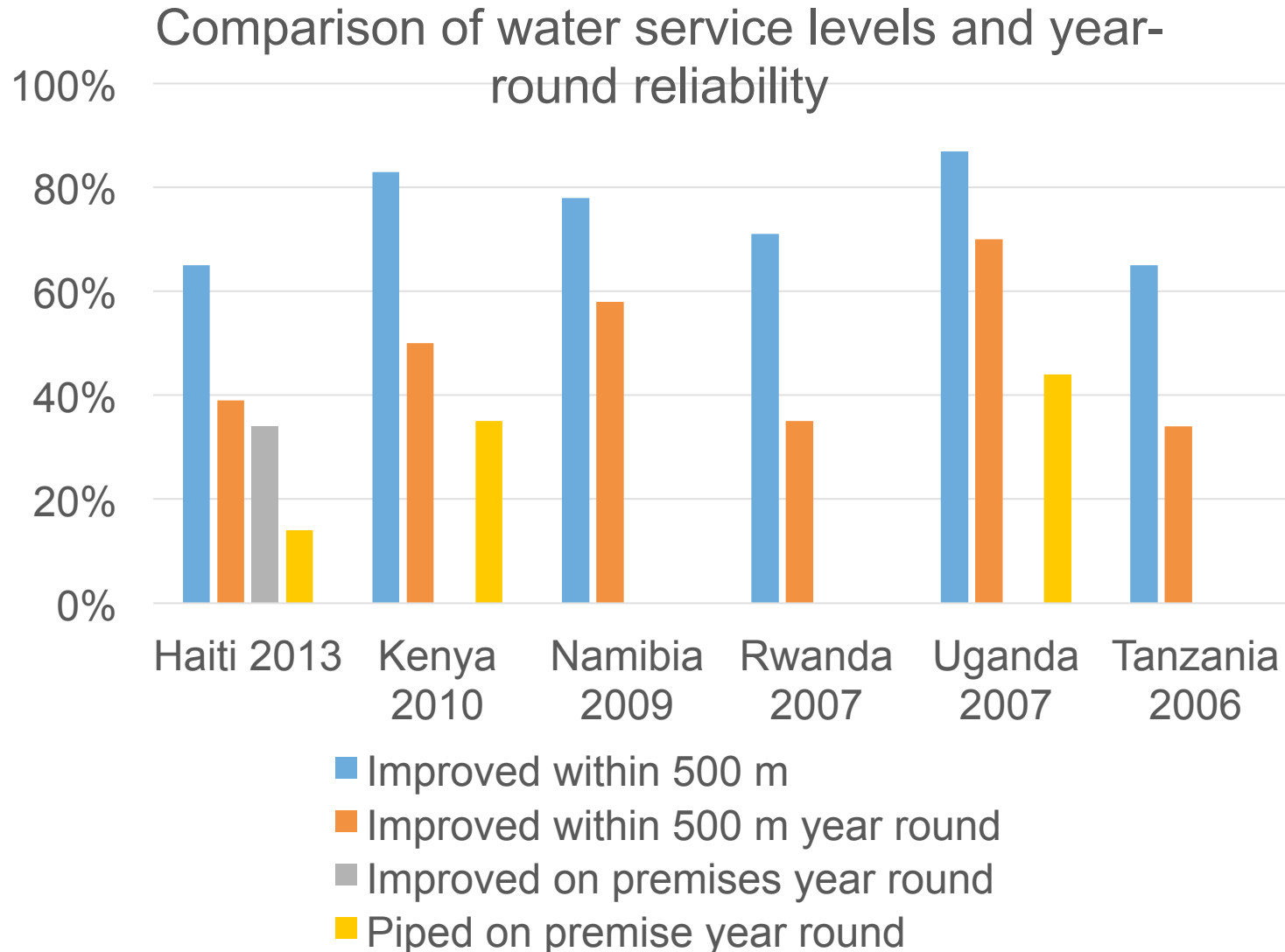
Reliability and service levels

WHO Regions	Access to an improved water source within 500 m		
	Number of facilities	Number of Countries	Coverage (mean)
All	66,101	54	62%
AFRO	52,674	23	58%
AMRO	3,026	16	70%
SEARO	3,596	6	78%

***Almost 40% of
facilities lack
access to
improved
sources***

Water access

Reliability and service levels



When accounting for year-round reliability and water on premise, coverage drops by half or more

Sanitation in health care facilities

WHO Regions	Access to improved sanitation		
	Number of facilities	Number of countries	Coverage (mean)
All	62,524	36	81%
AFRO	51,715	16	84%
AMRO	1,425	11	57%

19% lack sanitation

Hygiene in health care facilities

Access to soap for handwashing	Number of facilities	Number of countries	Coverage (mean)
All regions	40,536	35	65%
AFRO	31,984	14	64%
AMRO	1,442	11	65%

35% lack hygiene

Infection control items

Indicator	Coverage (mean)
Adequate disposal systems for hazardous waste	57%
Sharps box	72%
Adequate sterilization equipment for medical equipment	55%
Solution for decontamination (e.g. chlorine)	72%
Presence of latex gloves	69%

As few as 3-21% of facilities have all infection control items

Inequalities in access to water and sanitation in HCF

By facility type:

- 2011 Sierra Leone SARA
- Sanitation coverage 93% in hospitals and 73% in primary care clinics

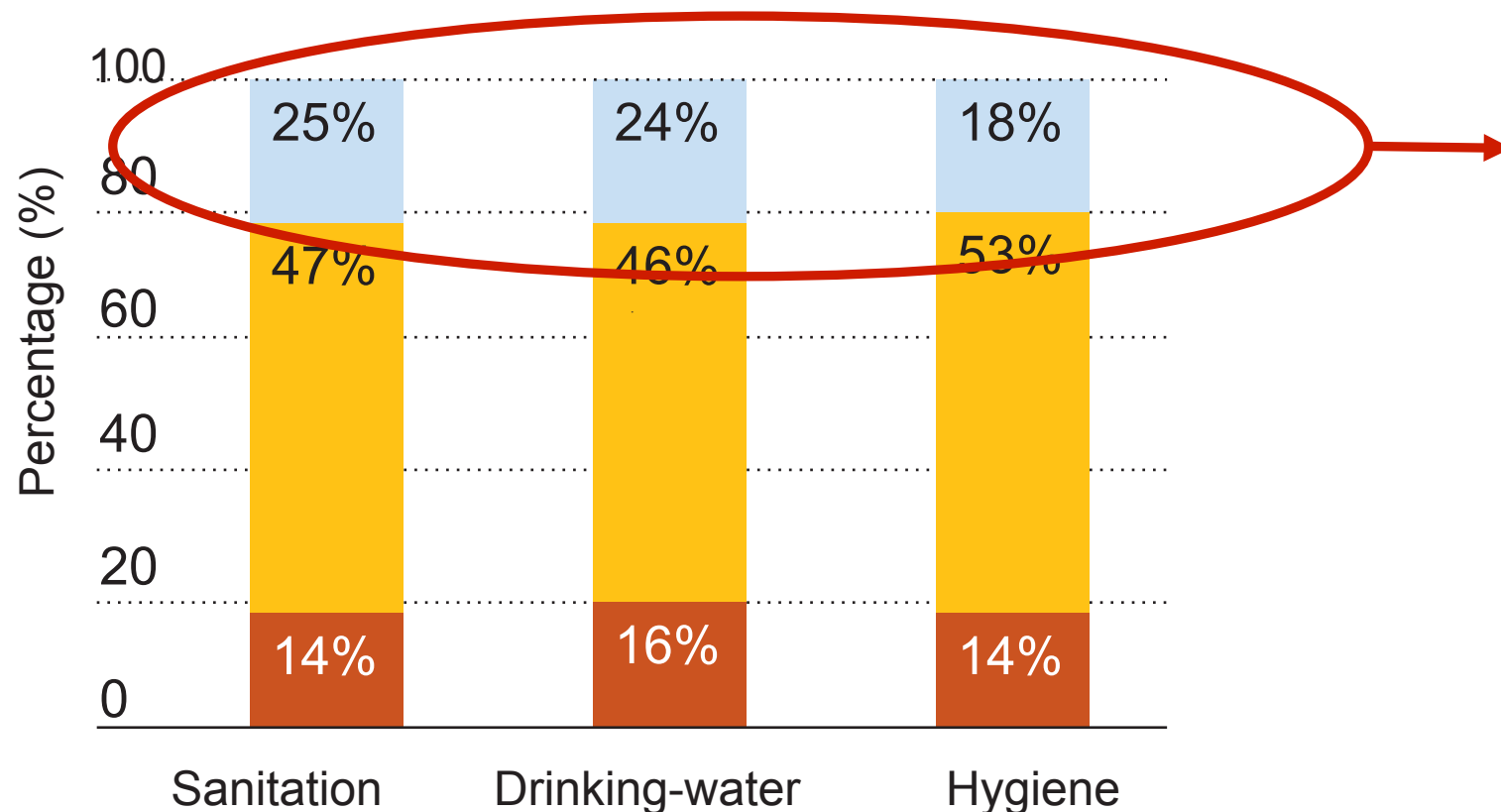
At the sub-national level:

- 2010 Kenya SPA
- Water in HCF coverage
 - 46% nationally
 - 75% Central province
 - 22% Nyanza province



Photo credit: WaterAid/Eliza Deacon

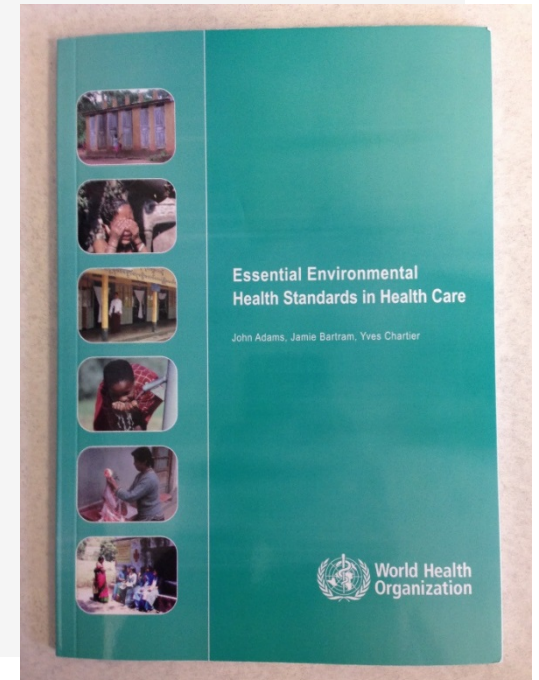
Status of national policies and plans on WASH in health care facilities



- ***Only 25% countries have plans or policies for WASH in HCF in place***
- ***Water coverage higher when plans and targets are in place***


The way forward: areas of focus

- Strengthen national policies and standards
- Establish coverage targets; links with post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals
- Improvements at facility level
 - Human resources
 - Financial resources
 - Risk management plans
- Harmonized and more comprehensive monitoring
- Operational research



The way forward: advocacy and health leadership

- WASH in health care facilities important for ALL health efforts
- Benefits for greater coordination with:
 - Infection prevention and control strategies
 - Health systems strengthening
 - Specific programs of focus: maternal and child health, Cholera prevention and control, outbreaks, and emergencies
- Capitalize on UN Human Right to Water and Sanitation and Universal Health Coverage
- Preventable problem that requires leadership and commitment from a wide range of partners



Thanks for your attention.

Presentation References:

- Bartram J, Cronk R, Montgomery M, Gordon B, Neira M, Kelley E, Velleman Y. 2015. Lack of toilets and safe water in health care facilities. Bulletin of the World Health Organization.
- WHO/UNICEF. 2015. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Health Care Facilities: status in low and middle income countries and way forward. World Health Organization, Geneva.

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