



World Health
Organization

unicef 

Practical steps to achieve universal access to quality care

Globally

- ♦ **1 in 4** health care facilities lack basic water
- ♦ **1 in 5** have no sanitation
- ♦ **2 in 5** lack hand hygiene at the point of care
- ♦ **2 in 5** lack systems to segregate waste

Dirty environments are a major contributing factor to 1 million mothers and newborns dying each year because of infections. Nearly all of these deaths can be prevented.



***WASH** is a “best buy” for achieving safe, quality care for all. Join us in making a difference.*

WASH
in Health Care Facilities

A solvable problem. A high return on investment.

Eight practical steps to improve WASH and quality care.



1 Conduct situation analysis and assessment



A situation analysis examines health and WASH policies, governance structures, and funding streams, whereas an assessment provides updated figures on WASH coverage and compliance. Together, these documents form the basis for prioritizing action and mobilizing resources.

2 Set targets and define roadmap



The roadmap, supported by an intersectoral national team, should clearly define the approach, intervention areas, responsibilities, targets, and budget for WASH improvements over a defined time period.

3 Establish national standards and accountability mechanisms



National standards should reflect the national context and provide the basis for design, costing, implementation and operation of WASH services. Accountability mechanisms should ensure that all facilities meet national standards.

4 Improve and maintain infrastructure



WASH infrastructure should be improved to meet national standards and be accompanied by policies, resources, and strategies to keep infrastructure and services operational over time.

5 Monitor and review data



WASH indicators can be integrated into routine data collection and review processes for health care. The data can be used to measure progress and hold stakeholders accountable.

6 Develop health workforce



All workers engaged in the health system, from doctors, to nurses, midwives, and cleaners should have access to up-to-date information on WASH and infection prevention and control practices during pre-service training and as part of regular professional development.

7 Engage communities



Community members serve an important role in defining, demanding, using and providing feedback on health services. They ought to be included in the development of WASH policies and in the regular review of WASH coverage and implementation data.

8 Conduct operational research and share learning



External review and research is important for testing and scaling-up innovative approaches and reflecting on and revising programmatic strategies.

*Are you ready to commit?
Learn more.*

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