



Quality, Equity, Dignity

A Network for Improving Quality of Care  
for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health

14-16 February 2017  
Lilongwe, Malawi

# The role of WASH in health care facilities & linkages with quality of care

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Arabella Hayter  
Water, Sanitation, Health and Hygiene  
Unit, WHO HQ

[haytera@who.int](mailto:haytera@who.int)





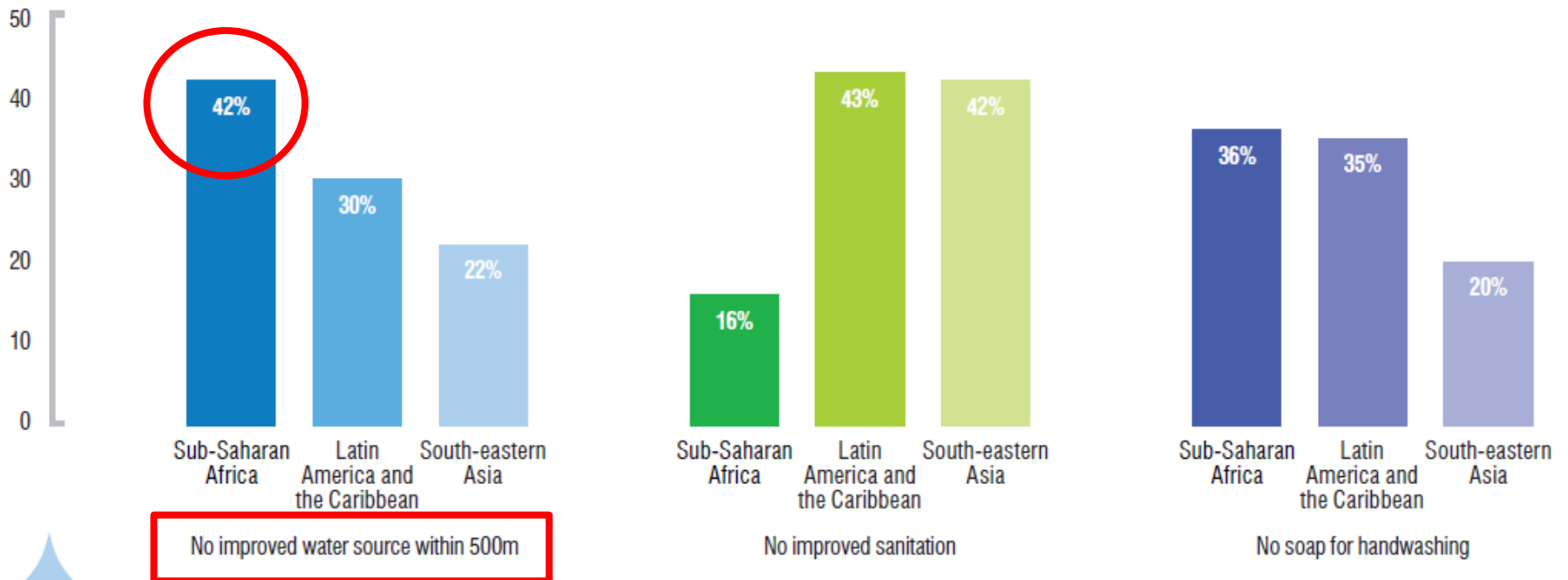
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# WASH in HCF globally

Many health care facilities still lack basic water, sanitation and hygiene facilities



**Fig.43** Proportion of healthcare facilities without basic water, sanitation and hygiene facilities



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## Many women give birth in settings with inadequate WASH

- **Less than ½** of women had access to basic water and sanitation services in maternity units in 4 countries in East Africa
- Only **44% of birthing facilities** had basic WASH while **less than ¼ of delivery rooms had basic WASH**

## High contribution to infections and sepsis

- In high mortality settings, up to **50% of neonatal mortality** is due to infections
- **30-40% of infections** that lead to neonatal sepsis deaths are transmitted at **the time of childbirth**



Blencowe, et al, *BMC Public Health*, 2011  
Gon, et al, *Plos One* 2016  
Benova, et al, *Plos One* 2015

6 CLEAN WATER  
AND SANITATION

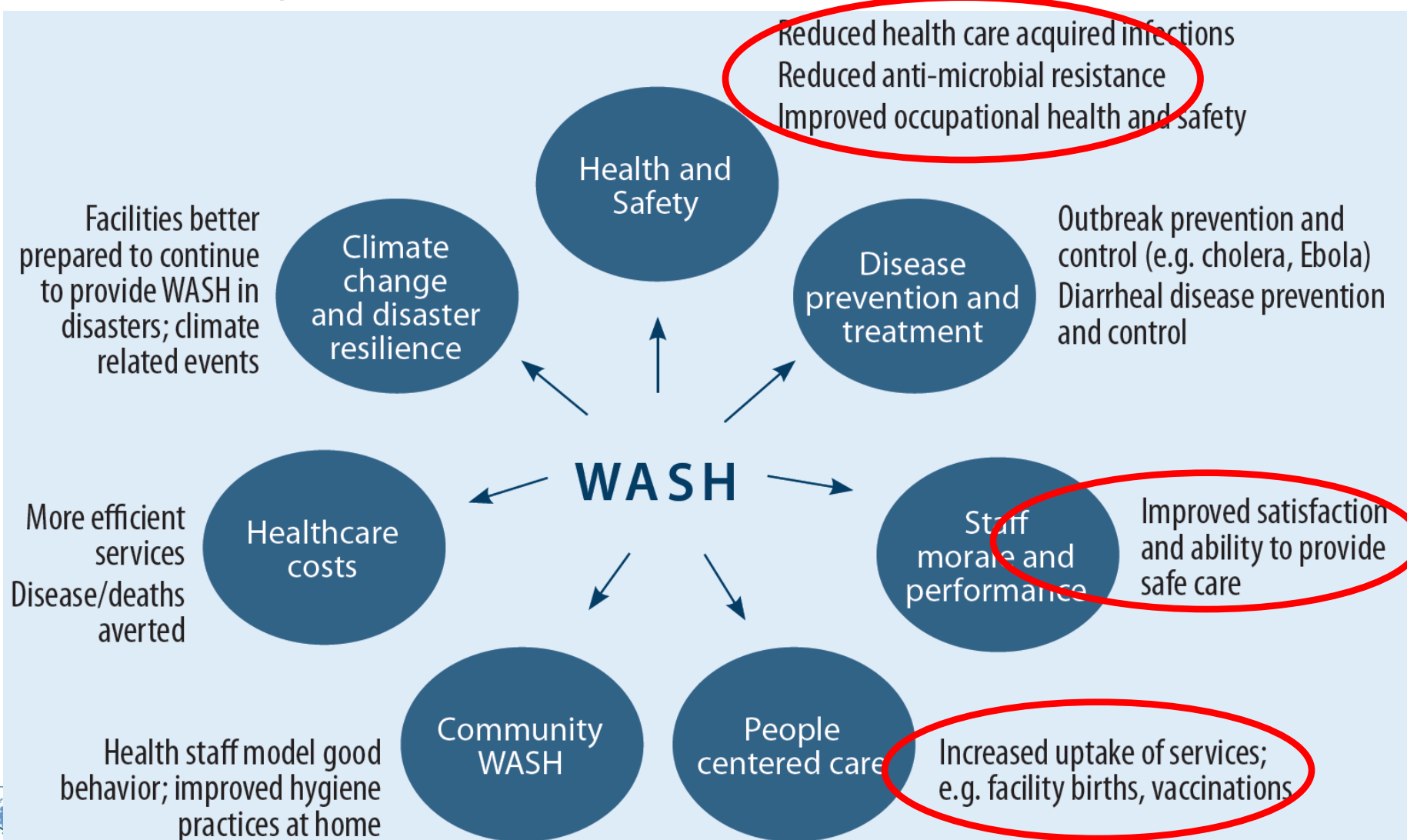


3 GOOD HEALTH  
AND WELL-BEING





# Importance of WASH in HCF





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# Essential environmental standards in health care - WHO 2008

Water quantity

Water quality

Hand hygiene facilities

Excreta and wastewater disposal

Health care waste disposal

Cleaning

Control of vector borne diseases

Information and hygiene promotion





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# Standard 8 – cross cutting

The health facility has an appropriate physical environment, with adequate water, sanitation and energy supplies, medicines, supplies and equipment for routine maternal and newborn care and management of complications.

8.1: Water, energy, sanitation, hand hygiene and waste disposal facilities are **functional, reliable, safe** and **sufficient** to meet the needs of staff, women and their families.

→ *WASH in HCF underpins safe and quality service provision for achieving UHC*







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# WASH FIT

*Water & Sanitation for Health Facility Improvement Tool*

- A risk-based, management framework for undertaking continuous WASH improvements as part of **wider quality improvements** in HCF
- Designed for LMICs in primary & some secondary facilities
- Used in Chad, Liberia, Mali, Madagascar, Laos
- **Ghana, Ethiopia & Malawi** planning to implement and integrated with existing activities

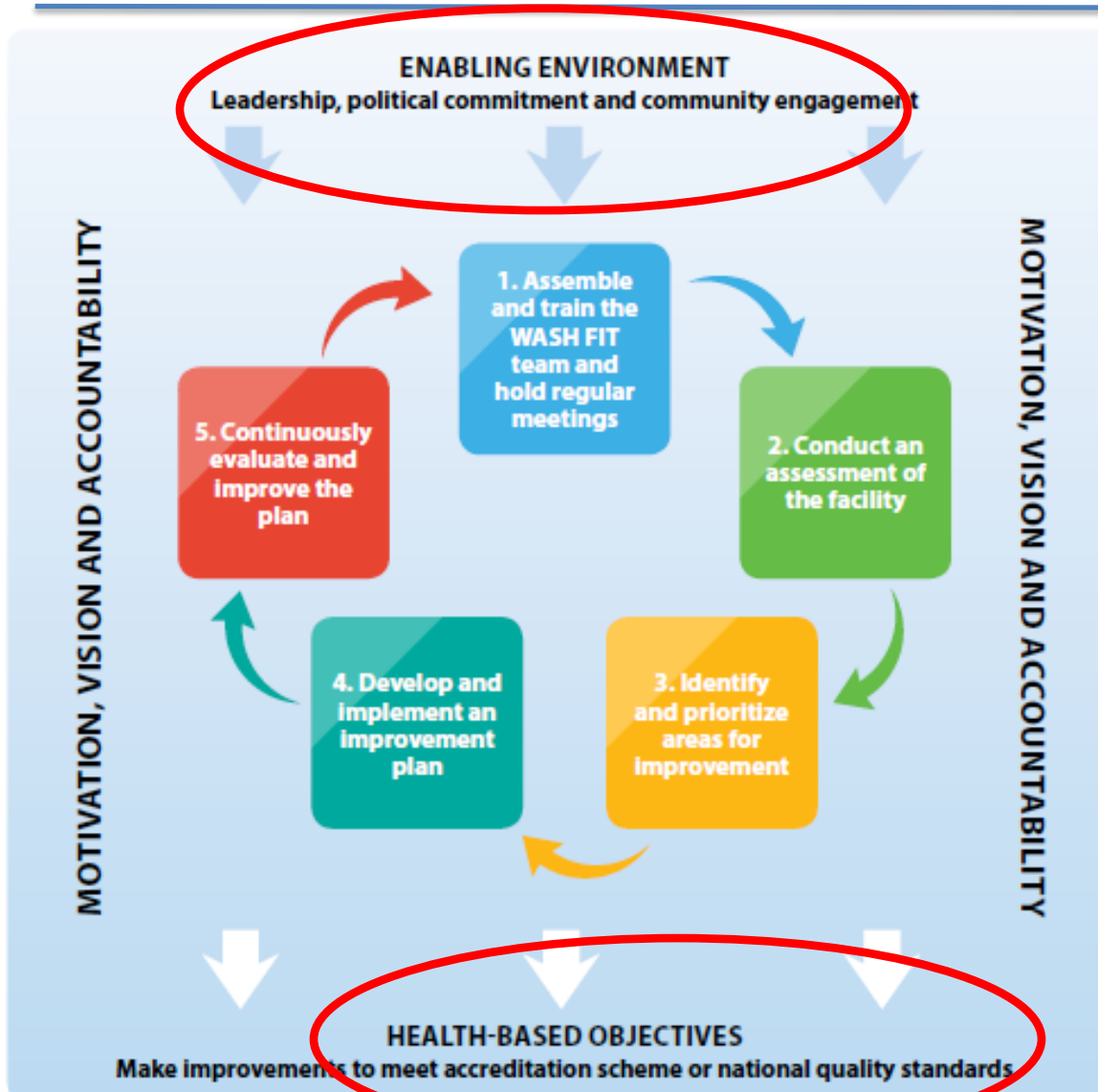




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## What should countries commit to?

- **WASH in HCF standards** should be established and enforced, placing people at the centre, to improve quality of care
- **WASH in HCF indicators** included in national health monitoring systems to track progress, guide improvements, and improve people-centred quality
- Cost of WASH upgrades & maintenance included in national **health & facility level budgets**
- **WASH & health to combine advocacy efforts** to reach global & national goals
- **Jointly implement & document lessons** learned from improving WASH and QoC in HCF





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## For more information:



WASH in HCF knowledge portal:  
[www.washinhcf.org](http://www.washinhcf.org)

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