

WASH in health care facilities newsletter

January 2017



WHO/UNICEF's WASH FIT now finalised.

Following a second review of the tool, WASH FIT has been finalised and can be downloaded [here](#). The guide is currently being designed and will be formally launched in February 2017 at the Quality of Care Network launch in Malawi (see [below](#)). To date, the tool has been used in Chad, Mali and Liberia with a further five countries beginning the process (DRC, Ghana, Guinea, Senegal and Sierra Leone). A training of trainers took place in Madagascar (12-14 December 2016) and further trainings are planned in Laos (January 2017), Cambodia (Q2 2017) and Tajikistan (June 2017). Plans are also underway to develop an app for WASH FIT in 2017. The guide is already available in French and will be translated into Spanish, Russian and Arabic. A training package with associated training materials (in English) is also [available](#).

Monitoring WASH in HCF in the Sustainable Development Goals: final indicators now available.

In June 2016, an Expert Group Meeting on Monitoring WASH in HCF in the SDGs was convened by the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP) in New York. A set of service ladders and core indicators (covering water, sanitation, hand hygiene and health care waste) and questions have been finalised and are available on the [JMP website](#) in English and French. A longer set of expanded questions are being developed to address aspects of service not covered in the core set. The JMP is working to integrate these indicators into existing national and global surveys as well as national health management information systems. At present, the indicators only address outpatient settings but indicators and questions will be developed for maternity settings in 2017.

Launch of WHO Global Learning Laboratory for quality Universal Health Coverage, with a focus on WASH.

The quality Universal Health Coverage Unit recently launched the Global Learning Laboratory (GLL) to share lessons, experiences and ideas and to challenge those ideas and spark innovation in relation to quality Universal Health Coverage. A joint WASH in health care facilities and Infection Prevention and Control learning pod will be one of the first to be developed. To become a member and receive updates on the initiative, please sign up [here](#).

WHO handbook "Safe management of wastes from healthcare activities": development of a summary document.

A summary version of the WHO 2014 handbook "Safe management of wastes from healthcare activities" is being produced. This document will provide a brief overview and introduction to safe healthcare waste management for policy-makers, practitioners and health care facility managers. It is largely based on the comprehensive and detailed WHO handbook, but also takes into consideration relevant World Health Assembly resolutions, other UN documents and emerging global and national developments on WASH and IPC. It will be available in early 2017.

A snapshot of regional and country efforts.

- WHO **SEARO** conducted a regional workshop on healthcare waste management in Kathmandu, Nepal from 21-24 November 2016. More than 50 participants from 10 member states attended the workshop. Participating countries drafted action plans and a regional level action plan was also elaborated.
- **Mali** is half way through a three year project with WHO, WaterAid and CDC which aims to improve WASH in 22 HCF in two districts (Ségou and Mopti). A series of national and district trainings have taken place and a national taskforce on WASH in HCF, led by the government, has been established. In November, a mid-term workshop took place to take stock of progress to date and decide on priorities for the rest of the project.
- In July 2016, the Vice President of **Liberia** launched a WASH and Environmental Health Package. WASH FIT is part of the package and this builds on work undertaken as part of Ebola recovery efforts.
- In **Myanmar**, the Ministry of Health and Sports with support from WHO, UNICEF and WaterAid have commenced a large scale WASH in HCF review including reviewing all policies and standards as they relate to WASH in HCF and also conducting a large scale assessment of the conditions of WASH in HCF across the country.
- **Ghana, Madagascar, Tanzania and Zambia** are involved in a three-year WHO/UNDP project to improve the safe and environmentally sound management and destruction of health care waste. WHO are supporting the development of strengthened national plans that align with broader health sector initiatives on improving health facility infrastructure and quality of care. A ten-day Master trainer's programme was held in Kenya in December with participants from all 4 countries, as well as participants from Kenya.
- Having approved a national policy note on healthcare waste management in April 2016, the **Maldives** continues work in this area and is developing an implementation plan for the policy. In collaboration with the LECRED/UNDP program, they are establishing a pilot project on safe and environmental sound healthcare waste management in the Laamu Atoll in 2017.
- In September, **Indonesia** organised two 5-day training workshops on healthcare waste management (Serpong and Bali). The basic objective of the training was to improve the knowledge and skills of environmental health personnel in provincial-level institutions and health-care facilities in planning, implementing, supervising and monitoring infectious waste management.

Recent publications

First ever global guidelines on the prevention of surgical site infection launched (November 2016).

WHO's Infection Prevention and Control unit recently launched new Global guidelines for the prevention of surgical site infection, which include a list of 29 concrete recommendations distilled by 20 of the world's leading experts from 26 reviews of the latest evidence. The recommendations were also published in The Lancet Infectious Diseases and are designed to address the increasing burden of health care-associated infections on both patients and health care systems globally. You can access the guidelines, publications and supporting tools [here](#).

Updated WHO Core Components of Infection, Prevention and Control published (November 2016).

These new guidelines on the core components of IPC programmes form a key part of WHO strategies to prevent current and future threats, strengthen health service resilience and help combat AMR. They are intended also to support countries in the development of their own national protocols for IPC and AMR action plans and to support health care facilities as they develop or strengthen their own approaches to IPC. It supersedes the Core Component for IPC issued in 2009 and can be found [here](#).

New infographic on WASH, IPC and AMR released (November 2016).

During World Antibiotic Awareness Week, WHO and UNICEF launched a joint IPC, WASH and AMR action brief to highlight the need for coordinated IPC and WASH efforts to address AMR. The brief highlights the consequences of poor WASH and compromised IPC practices, how they contribute to AMR and provides clear global, national and local joint actions to improve IPC and WASH to address AMR. The infographic is available [here](#).

Upcoming events

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

WHO and UNICEF are holding a three-day meeting in Kathmandu, Nepal in March 2017 which will follow on from the global meetings that took place in March 2015 (Geneva, Switzerland) and in March 2016 (London, UK). The event will be action-oriented and provide an opportunity for actors at all levels (local, national, regional and global) to share solutions and jointly problem solve on overcoming key barriers to strengthening WASH in health care facilities, including standards, policies and actual services. A strong focus will be on lessons learned from embedding WASH in health care facilities with other health efforts and initiatives. If you have a case study to share at the meeting, please fill in the case study template attached, and send to Arabella Hayter (haytera@who.int) by January 13th 2017.

Quality of Care Network Launch (Lilongwe, Malawi, 14 - 16 Feb 2017).

The launch meeting of the Network to improve Quality of Care for mothers, newborns and children will take place in Malawi in February 2017. The meeting will be hosted jointly by WHO and UNICEF in collaboration with the Ministry of Health Malawi. The network covers nine priority countries, seven from Africa (Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi, Nigeria, Uganda and Tanzania) and two from Asia (India and Bangladesh). WASH FIT will be officially launched at this meeting, The WHO Standards for improving quality of maternal and newborn care in health facilities can be downloaded [here](#).

If you would like to share an update of work related to WASH in health care facilities in the next newsletter or on the WASH in health care facilities knowledge portal, please email: washinhcf@who.int.



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

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