In 2015, for the first time, WHO and UNICEF assessed the status of WASH in health care facilities in low- and middle-income countries. With a significant proportion of facilities without any services at all, WHO, UNICEF and partners committed to address the situation, with the aim of achieving universal access in all facilities, in all settings, by 2030.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in Health Care Facilities

Global Action Plan

**WASH AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

Under SDG Goal 6 (safely managed water and sanitation), access to WASH in health care facilities will be regularly tracked and reported on for the first time, providing important evidence for action. Furthermore, achieving SDG 3 (health) depends on sustainable WASH services which are supported by cross-sectoral collaboration with Goal 7 (affordable and clean energy) and Goal 13 (climate action). The Global Action Plan on WASH in health care facilities is working to address this through five change objectives.

**5 Change Objectives**

1. **CO 1**  
   WASH in health care facilities is prioritized as a necessary input to achieving all global and national health goals, especially those linked to Universal Health Coverage, Maternal & Child Health, and Antimicrobial Resistance. Key decision makers, health facility staff, and users champion WASH in health care facilities.

2. **CO 2**  
   All countries have national standards and policies on WASH in health care facilities and dedicated improving and maintaining services, and successful scale up is documented.

3. **CO 3**  
   Global and national monitoring efforts include harmonizing core and extended indicators to track WASH in health care facilities.

4. **CO 4**  
   The existing evidence base is reviewed and strengthened to catalyze advocacy messages and improve implementation of WASH in health care facilities.

5. **CO 5**  
   Risk-based facility plans are implemented and support continuous WASH improvements, training and behavior of staff.

**Targets**

- **CO 1**: WASH in health care facility standards and measures are embedded in at least 5 major health strategies and frameworks by 2017, and all major frameworks by 2020.
- **CO 2**: National standards for WASH in health care facilities exist and are implemented in 30 countries by 2017, 40 countries by 2018, and 60 countries by 2020.
- **CO 3**: SDG indicators for WASH in health care facilities are used and reported on in all national service delivery assessments and national monitoring systems by 2020.
- **CO 4**: Systematic reviews of WASH in HCF and health impacts and operational evidence on “what works” published in 2018.
- **CO 5**: Water and Sanitation for Health Facility Improvement Tool (WASH FIT) rolled out and outcomes documented in 10 countries by 2018 and 30 countries by 2020.

**Multiple benefits of adequate WASH in health care facilities**

- Facilities better prepared to continue to provide WASH in disasters, including climate-related events.
- Health staff model good hygiene behavior; improved hygiene practices at home.
- Health and Safety: Disease prevention and treatment, Improved outbreak prevention and control (e.g., cholera, Ebola).
- Disease prevention and treatment: Improved diarrheal disease prevention and control.
- Staff morale and performance: Improved satisfaction and ability to provide safe care.
- Improved access to services, e.g., facility births, vaccinations.
- WASH*: Reduced health care associated infections, Reduced anti-microbial resistance, Improved occupational health and safety, Climate change and disaster resilience.

*WASH in health care facilities includes water supply, sanitation, hygiene and health care waste management.
Four task teams are leading the Global Action Plan and Activities.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ADVOCACY AND POLICY</th>
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<tr>
<td>Change Objective 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aim: To advocate for global and national action to improve WASH in health care facilities and support leaders dedicated to this effort.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aim: To develop, test and revise core and expanded indicators to track WASH in health care facilities.</td>
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<td>Aim: To draw on and extend the evidence base to support increased investments, quality improvements and advocacy efforts.</td>
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<td>Aim: To develop and implement a suite of field-tested tools, training and reference materials for a variety of facilities and settings.</td>
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**Partners** are working closely with Ministries of Health, Water and Environment from over thirty countries.

**Health priorities represented:** Health systems, Infection prevention and control (IPC), Antimicrobial resistance, Maternal and newborn health (MNCH), Outbreaks and emergencies, quality Universal Health Coverage (UHC).