Health care facilities are the operational heart of service delivery. Limited access to water, sanitation and hygiene and poor waste management impede the ability to maintain hygienic environments and prevent health care–acquired infections. Reliable energy supply is fundamental for maintaining the quality, range and population coverage of essential health services. Yet many health care facilities in low- and middle-income countries currently lack water, sanitation, and energy, as well as occupational health services. Ensuring climate resilience and environmental sustainability of health systems can generate considerable health gains.
In 11 sub-Saharan African countries, one quarter of health care facilities lack any access to electricity.

Based on a review of 125 low- and middle-income countries:

- 26% of health care facilities lack access to even basic levels of water.
- 21% have no sanitation.
- 43% have no handwashing facilities at point of care.
WHAT ARE KEY ACTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT?

Key actions on health care facilities include the following:

1. **National assessments**
   Conduct national assessments and set appropriate targets for improving WASH in health care facilities.

2. **Adequate water and sanitation**
   Prioritize the provision of adequate water and sanitation to ensure infection prevention and quality care in health care facilities.

3. **Electricity**
   Ensure that hospitals and health care facilities are equipped with an adequate and reliable supply of electricity for essential health care services.

4. **Workers**
   Protect health care workers.
SECTORAL POLICIES INTERACTING WITH HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

Cooperation with the following sectors may be required to sustainably reduce risks to health:

- **Energy**
- **Health**
- **Water and sanitation**
- **Industry**
- **Labour**
