



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Health Care Facilities: Joint action for change

WASH Futures Conference
Brisbane, Australia May 2016

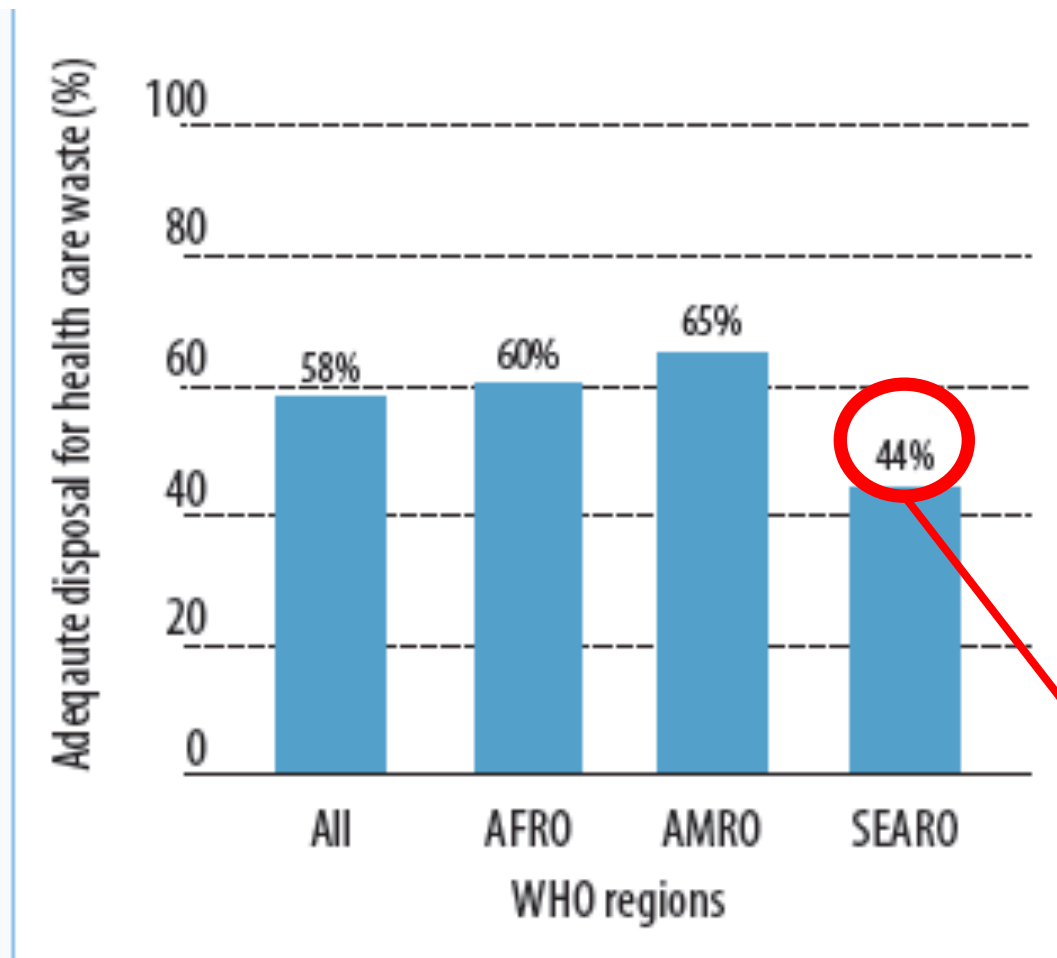
Bruce Gordon
Coordinator, Water Sanitation
Hygiene and Health
WHO HQ

Globally, access to WASH in health care facilities is limited

WHO Regions	Access to an improved water source within 500 m			Access to improved sanitation facilities			Access to soap for handwashing		
	Number of facilities*	Number of countries	Coverage (mean)	Number of facilities	Number of countries	Coverage (mean)	Number of facilities	Number of countries	Coverage (mean)
All	66,101	54	62%	62,524	36	81%	40,536	35	65%
AFRO	52,674	23	58%	51,715	16	84%	31,984	14	64%
AMRO	3,026	16	70%	1,425	11	57%	1,442	11	65%
EMRO	5,778	3	—	5,510	2	—	5,510	2	—
EURO	527	3	—	527	3	—	420	2	—
SEARO	3,596	6	78%	3,347	4	—	1,180	4	—
WPRO	500	3	—	0	0	—	0	0	—

- 38% globally **do not have access to an improved water source at or near the facility.**
- When reliability and safety is considered, water coverage **drops by half.**
- 35% lack soap for handwashing and 19% are without sanitation

Safe health care waste management is also lacking



Situation is worst in SEARO where **less than half** of facilities have adequate disposal.



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Lack of services adversely affects every area of health

Increases

- Health care associated infections (e.g. nearly one million deaths associated with unclean births)
- Health care costs
- Environmental and community risks

Decreases

- Ability to provide quality care
- Staff moral and performance
- Care seeking and patient satisfaction

"What good does it do to offer free maternal care and have a high proportion of babies delivered in health facilities if the quality of care is sub-standard or even dangerous?"

Margaret Chan,
World Health Assembly - May 2012



While benefits of WASH services are multi-fold



Taking Action



WHO standards provide a basis for addressing gaps

- Water quantity
- Water quality
- Handwashing facilities
- Excreta and wastewater disposal
- Health care waste disposal
- Cleaning
- Control of vector borne diseases
- Information and hygiene promotion



Global Action Plan



Vision (2030)

To ensure that every health care facility, in every setting, has safely managed, reliable water, sanitation and hygiene facilities and practices to meet staff and patient needs in order to provide quality, safe people-centered care.

Global action plan task teams and activities

ADVOCACY LEADERSHIP AND ACTION		MONITORING	EVIDENCE AND OPERATIONAL RESEARCH	POLICY, STANDARDS AND FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS
Change Objective 1	Change Objective 2	Change Objective 3	Change Objective 4	Change Objective 5
<p>Aim: To advocate for global and national action to improve WASH in health care facilities and support the leaders dedicated to this effort.</p> <p><i>Activities</i> Document national case studies including processes and change mechanisms for improving WASH in health care facilities.</p>		<p>Aim: To develop, test and revise core and extended indicators to track WASH in health care facilities.</p> <p><i>Activities</i> Core and extended indicators incorporated into all relevant WASH and health monitoring and accountability mechanisms.</p>	<p>Aim: To draw on and extend the evidence base to support increased investments, quality improvements and advocacy efforts.</p> <p><i>Activities</i> Develop priority operational research agenda and seek opportunities to address the evidence gaps.</p>	<p>Aim: To develop a suite of field-tested tools, training and reference materials for a variety of facilities and settings.</p> <p><i>Activities</i> Support regular training and competency assessments for all health care facility staff including cleaners and health care workers.</p>

Task Team Highlights: Progress to date

ADVOCACY LEADERSHIP AND ACTION

- Active participation in 5 global health conferences
- Side events at WHA
- Infographics published

EVIDENCE AND OPERATIONAL RESEARCH

- Reviews on health care associated infections and quality care indicate strong links with WASH
- Initial BoD framework

MONITORING

- Core and expanded indicators developed
- Indicators embedded in IPC, AMR, child maternal health tools

POLICY, STANDARDS AND FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

- Water and Sanitation for Health Facility Improvement Tool (WASH FIT) developed and tested
- Training materials produced



Learning from and supporting country efforts - a snapshot of activities

- **Liberia:** WASH as fundamental part of resilient health care systems, quality care and infection prevention and control
- **Mali:** WASH for primary care facilities offering essential child and maternal health services
- **Ethiopia:** Nation-wide clean and safe health (CASH) programme with public-private partnerships
- **Cambodia:** linking to Universal Health Coverage and quality assessments and incentives



Collaboration with Health



Quality Universal Health Coverage

**Combine
advocacy efforts**
to reach global WASH
and quality
UHC goals

Include WASH
in health care
facilities as a
tracer indicator
for quality UHC

Cross fertilize
WASH in HCF global
action plan with
UHC activities

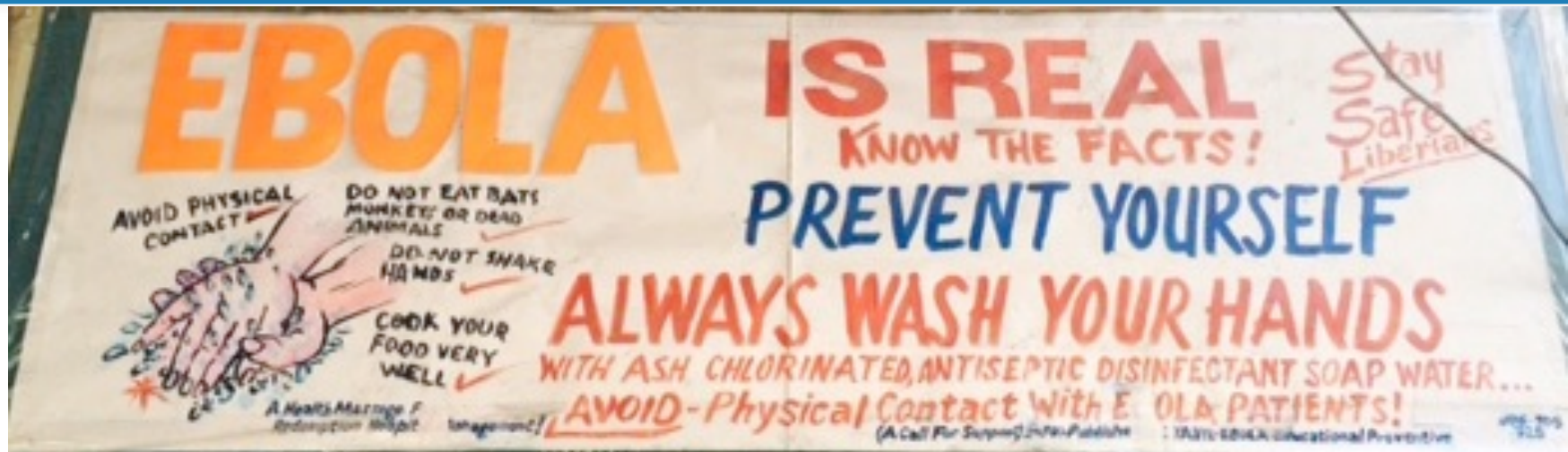
**Align
national
processes**
on standards
development and
implementation
with financing
for UHC

**Jointly
implement
and document**
lessons learned from
improving WASH and
quality of care in
health facilities



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Infection Prevention and Control




- Development of joint Infection Prevention Control (IPC) and WASH indicators and monitoring tools
- Contribution to new global IPC standards
- Coordinated WASH and IPC training
- Strengthened technical support on health care waste and for global injection safety campaign



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Maternal and Child Health

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Water and sanitation core element of new Quality of Care during Childbirth Framework

Antimicrobial resistance

5 key objectives

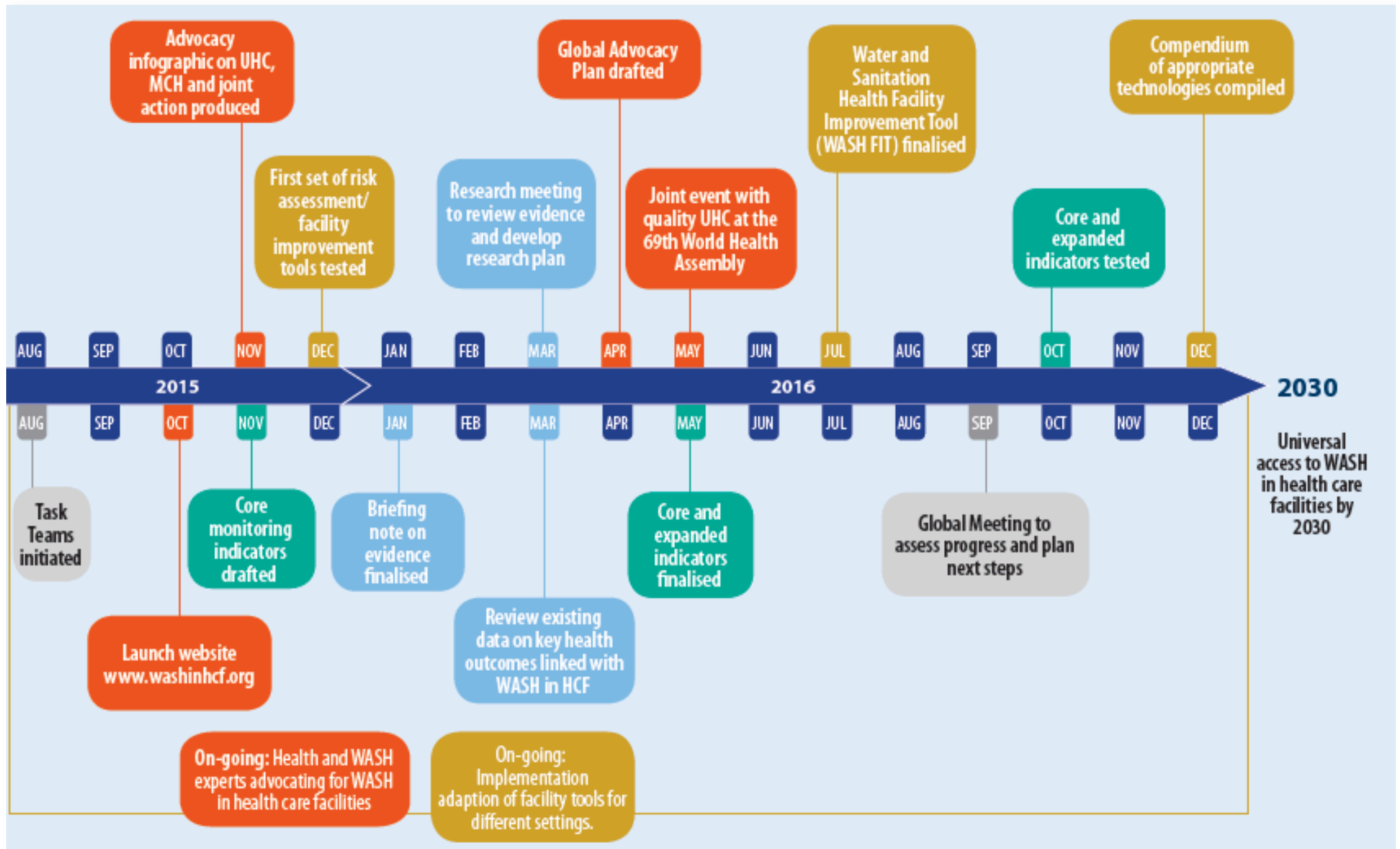
- Improve awareness
- Strengthen knowledge
- **Improve sanitation, hygiene and infection prevention**
- Optimize use of antimicrobial medicines
- Increase investments in medicines, diagnostics, vaccines



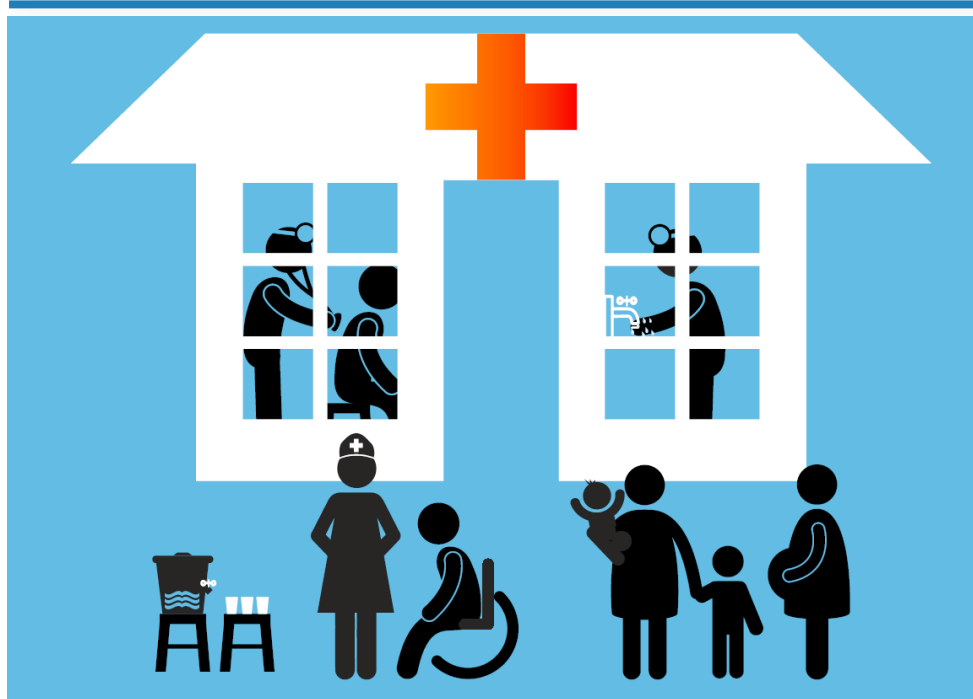
Activities

- Joint advocacy
- Inclusion of WASH in monitoring indicators
- Improving evidence base

Timeline of Action



Thank you and Join the Action



For more information and to get involved contact:

washinhcf@who.int

Knowledge portal:

www.washinhcf.org

Twitter: [@WASH_for_health](https://twitter.com/WASH_for_health)

Presentation References:

- Bartram J, Cronk R, Montgomery M, Gordon B, Neira M, Kelley E, Velleman Y. 2015. *Lack of toilets and safe water in health care facilities*. Bulletin of the World Health Organization.
- WHO/UNICEF. 2015. *Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Health Care Facilities: status in low and middle income countries and way forward*. World Health Organization, Geneva.
- WHO. 2008. *Essential Environmental Health Standards in Health Care*. World Health Organization, Geneva.



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