Water, sanitation and hygiene in health care facilities

Dr Rick Johnston

Water, Sanitation, Hygiene and Health Unit
WASH essential for preventing and treating disease in health care facilities (HCF)

- Health care associated infections in low income countries much more prevalent than in Europe and US
- In low income settings, an estimated 10-15% of maternal deaths are due to infections that can be linked to unhygienic conditions

Many countries worldwide still lack basic WASH services in HCFs
Examples

Water source of a tuberculosis sanatorium in Uzbekistan

Management of hospital waste in Pakistan

Source: AGUASAN, 2013
WASH in HCF is different

Challenges

- Lots of sick people
- Lots of hazardous waste
- Specific requirements due to limited mobility of patients
- Diversity of:
  - Users (patients, staff, visitors)
  - Facilities (1°, 2°, 3°)
  - Wastes (biological, chemical, radio.)
- WASH – stuck between two sectors

Opportunities

- Health care staff are highly credible, can promote hygiene behaviour change
- Health facilities can function as a role model for proper management of waste, water and sanitation
WHO’s role

- Norms and guidelines
  - Evidence-based

- Support Member states and partners in implementation of guidelines and monitoring

- Advocacy and partnerships
An urgent priority

Universal access to water and sanitation: The lifeblood of good health

9 October 2013 – WHO Director-General Dr Margaret Chan delivered two keynote addresses at the Budapest Water Summit, emphasizing how safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene are fundamental to health, well-being, and poverty eradication. Along with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, she stressed how sanitation must be given a higher place in any agenda for future development.

“Get your house in order!” M. Chan, 2013
Where are we?

- Essential Environmental Health Standards In Health Care (2008)

- Universal access to basic WASH in HCF by 2030 - included in proposals and action plans in the context of the post-2015 development agenda

- WHO commissioned review of the global status of WASH in HCF to guide those efforts and key actors

- WHO/UNICEF Madrid meeting April 2014 – drafting of a global action plan
WHO normative guidelines

Essential Environmental Health Standards in Health Care

1. Water quality
2. Water quantity
3. Water facilities and access to water
4. Excreta disposal
5. Wastewater disposal
6. Health care waste disposal
7. Cleaning and laundry
8. Food storage and preparation
9. Building design, construction and management
10. Control of vector-borne disease
11. Information and hygiene promotion
Global monitoring mechanisms

- WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme
- Service Availability and Readiness Assessment Rationale
- UN-Water GLAAS: Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water
WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme on Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP)

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) are essential for health, welfare and livelihoods. Increased access and better services lead to higher levels of school achievement and improved economic productivity. Yet too many people do not have these basic human rights. After 2015, we must do better.

**The vision**
Universal access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene

**The target**
By 2030:
- to eliminate open defecation;
- to achieve universal access to basic drinking water, sanitation and hygiene for households, schools and health facilities;
- to halve the proportion of the population without access at home to safely managed drinking water and sanitation services; and
- to progressively eliminate inequalities in access.

These recommendations have been developed through an extensive technical consultation; over 100 experts from over 60 organizations worldwide have debated them during the last three years. They are ambitious, yet achievable.

More information about the consultation process, corresponding definitions of terms and indicators, and the ways these targets contribute towards progress on poverty, health, nutrition, education, gender and economic growth can be found at www.washinfo.org
A standard health facility assessment tool for measuring Service Availability and Readiness
- Availability: Physical presence of services
- Readiness: Capacity to deliver services

Builds on experiences and best practices of other surveys (e.g. SAM, SPA)

Routine system for annual verification of service delivery (minimum service standards) and data at facility level (public and private)
UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS)

GLAAS objectives

- Monitor the inputs required to extend and sustain WASH systems and services to all, especially the unserved and disadvantaged groups
- Support country-led processes that bring together the many institutions and actors that are involved in delivering WASH services
- Identify drivers and bottlenecks of progress, highlight knowledge gaps and assess strengths and challenges across countries

Includes WASH in HCF questions on:

- Policy/plan development and implementation
- Policy and plan coverage targets
40+ WASH and health professionals
- Governments, UN agencies, NGOs, development partners, academia

Agreed on urgent need for concerted efforts

Drafting of global action plan
- Advocacy and partnerships
- Standards and policies
- Strengthening monitoring
- Research needs
Moving forward

- Global strategy for improving WASH in HCFs
  - Advocacy and partnerships
  - Linkages with other health and WASH initiatives

- Supporting Member States and partners on the implementation of Environmental Standards in Health Care

- Strengthening monitoring mechanisms
  - Existing WHO monitoring systems (SARA, JMP, GLAAS)
  - Ministries of Health - HMIS
Resources

http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/

- Essential Environmental Health Standards in Health Care (2008)
- International strategic meeting to improve WASH services in health care facilities, Madrid. Meeting report. (2014)
- Report on the global status of WASH and environmental conditions in health care facilities in low income settings. (2014)
Thanks!

Source: AGUASAN, 2013
WASH in health care facilities – Water and Health Conference, UNC | 16 October 2014