

Understanding barriers to quality of care

**An approach for
conducting a situational
analysis of water,
sanitation and hygiene
(WASH) and quality in
health care facilities**

WASH
in Health Care Facilities



**World Health
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for every child

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Abbreviations

AMR	antimicrobial resistance
IPC	infection prevention and control
MCH	maternal and child health
MoHSPP	Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
QI	quality improvement
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
TWG	technical working group
UHC	universal health coverage
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WASH	water, sanitation and hygiene
WHO	World Health Organization

Background

This document describes an approach for conducting a national **situational analysis** of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) as a basis for improving quality of care (herein referred to as quality, as defined in Box 1). A situational analysis is the first of the eight practical steps recommended by WHO and UNICEF as a means to trigger action to improve and sustain WASH in health care facilities, a prerequisite for providing quality care (1).

This document describes the process from the initial preparatory stages, including triggers for action, through data collection and analysis to the dissemination of results. Each element of the approach is described and possible limitations and mechanisms to mitigate these are explored. The document is intended for use by national governments, UN organisations and partners wishing to better understand how to conduct a national situational analysis of WASH in health care facilities and quality in order to understand policy gaps, raise awareness of problems, tailor interventions and advocate for additional financing. It also helps identify strengths, weaknesses and opportunities for action.

The approach described here is based on the experiences of previous analyses undertaken in Cambodia (2017), Ethiopia (2016 and 2018), Ghana (2019), Hungary (2019), Rwanda (2019), Serbia (2019) and Tajikistan (2018) (2–6). In addition, this approach was discussed and improved during the 2019 WASH in health care facilities global meeting held in Livingstone, Zambia (7).

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