

Institutional water, sanitation and hygiene: Strengthening WASH in healthcare facilities

Working Group on Water and Health
Geneva, 3-4 April 2019

Protocol on Water and Health



Objectives of PA 3.2

- (a) **Support baseline analysis** of the situation of WASH in health-care facilities
- (b) Organize a **regional workshop** on WASH in health-care facilities to call for national action
- (c) **Support pilot projects** in selected health-care facilities

Lead countries: Georgia, Hungary and Moldova

Regional policy-development: WASH in HCF

Ostrava declaration



- * ensuring and sustaining the provision of adequate WASH services in and health care facilities through systematic situation assessments and by setting national targets and action plans
- * Ensuring that action plans on AMR address WASH in HCF and reduce wastewater discharge
- * Develop and implement national plans to achieve environmentally sustainable health systems

SDGs



Scope of WASH in HCF

- * Infection prevention and control (IPC)
(e.g. hand hygiene, cleaning, clean birth)
- * Water availability, accessibility and safety
(e.g. legionella, lead)
- * Sanitation availability and accessibility
- * Safe disposal of HCF waste and wastewater
(e.g. link to antimicrobial resistance)

Pilot survey on WASH in health care facilities in Kazakhstan

* Results:

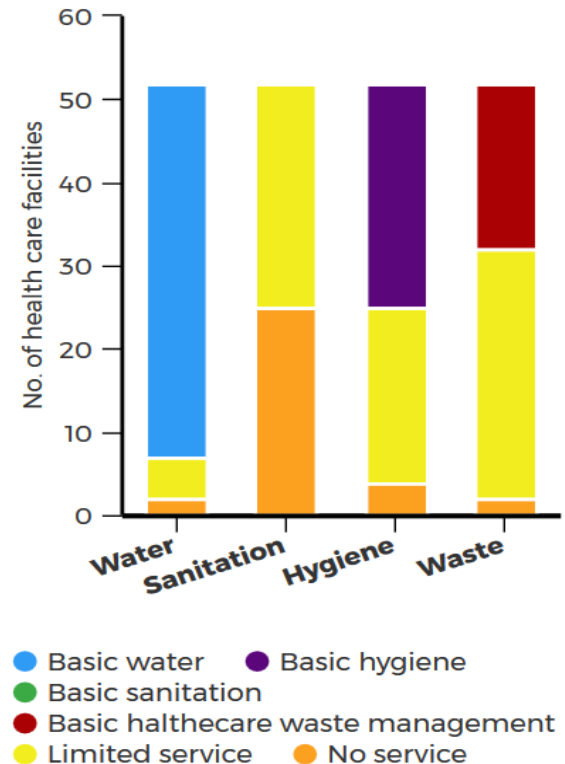
* Progress in the two assessed regions:

- basic water services
- Hand hygiene at the point of care

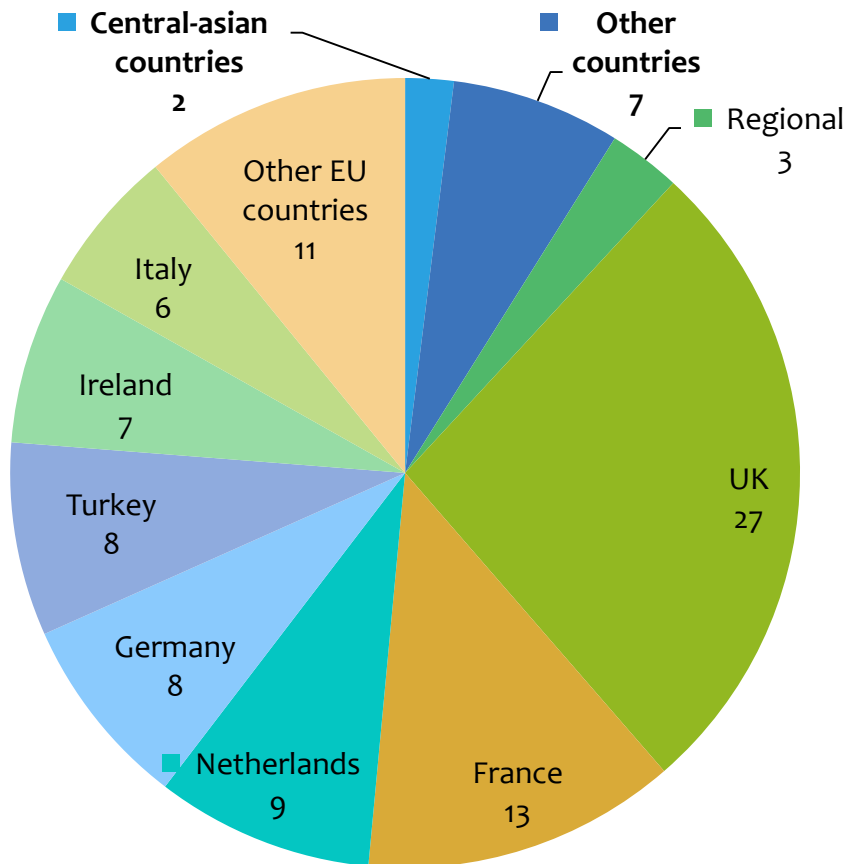
* Future priorities:

- Sanitation
- Waste

* Could serve as **basis for scale-up** in the country and target settings



Review of the evidence in the pan-European Region – preliminary results



- * There is **need of more evidence** from:
 - Non-EU countries;
 - non-hospital settings (medical posts, polyclinics, etc.).
- * There is **useful evidence** about health consequences of poor WASH, environmental pollution from healthcare wastewater, infection prevention control, policy efficiency and recommendations.
- * Limited evidence is available on waste, sanitation facilities, and hygiene.
- * **Member states are invited to collect evidence and contribute to the evidence review**

Review of the evidence in the pan-European Region – preliminary results

- * **IPC** practices are often observed not appropriate;
- * **Communication** between general practitioners and hospital is inefficient;
- * **Knowledge of and behavior** by healthcare staff is reported as insufficient on hand hygiene, infection control, and waste, affecting compliance;
- * **Care policies and clinical guidelines** are not always available;
- * **Waste procedures** are adequate in many facilities, posing a risk for contamination and injuries, especially due to inappropriate separation and handling of medical waste, in health care facilities as well as in municipal waste areas;
- * Current hospital and municipal systems for **wastewater treatment** are insufficient to remove pathogens.



- **Continuing education** lead to higher likelihood of correct infection prevention measures;
- **Policies in place** in some countries proved to be efficient, increasing compliance and reducing infections.

Review of the evidence in the pan-European Region – WASH and Healthcare associated infections

- * **Healthcare associated (or nosocomial) infections and antimicrobial resistance are common issues in all countries.**
- * **Often reported causes are:**
 - * Ineffective infection control protocols and organization;
 - * Poorly maintained drinking water systems of hospitals.
- * **High decrease of hospital associated infection incidence, including from resistant and multi-resistant bacteria, is observed in association with WASH, policies and national and in-hospital surveillance:**

Uncontrolled infections



Increase length of stay



Increase mortality



Increase health costs

From €10000
To €3.2 million

Regional meeting on WASH in health care facilities

- * Bonn, 27-28 September 2017
- * First of its kind in the WHO European Region
- * Attendance:
 - * 44 delegates from the Ministry of Health from 21 Member States
 - * WHO experts from several offices
 - * Academia and nongovernmental organizations
 - * Donor organizations
- * **Aim:**
 - * Position WASH in HCFs as a priority
 - * Appraise evidence and country experience
 - * Link to global initiatives (WHO global action plan and indicators)

Regional meeting on WASH in health care facilities – Outcomes

- * All participating countries already have some relevant policies and regulations (e.g. sanitation, healthcare specific requirements, etc.) in place, but
 - **the regulatory framework needs to be strengthened to address the various gaps, and foster enforcement.**
- * Programmes targeted at health care facilities rarely include a WASH component.
 - **Countries should explore the range of policy options for integrating WASH into national health and other relevant strategies, regulations and action plans** in areas such as maternal and child health, quality health care, infection prevention and control, AMR and the environmental sustainability of health systems.

Regional meeting on WASH in health care facilities – Outcomes

- * Many countries conduct some routine or ad-hoc surveillance, but very few countries have a full picture of the national situation of WASH in health care facilities.
 - Countries should should **make use of situation assessments and strengthen routine and ad hoc surveillance** (including for AMR and nosocomial infections) that should be **supported by a regulatory framework**.
- * Few countries use surveillance data and have established specific targets on WASH in health care facilities within the framework of the Protocol on Water and Health.
 - **WASH indicators for health care facilities should be incorporated in national baselining, and used for target-setting and for reporting under the Protocol on Water and Health.**

Proposed work for 2020-2022

- * Develop a review of evidence on WASH in health care facilities
 - * Identify data gaps and improvement needs
 - * Support target setting
- * Develop a practical surveillance tool on WASH in HCFs
 - * Support national surveillance
 - * Support reporting (Protocol, SDGs)
- * Regional meeting on WASH in HCF
 - * Disseminate the findings of the evidence review
 - * Introduce the surveillance tool
- * Capacity building in countries: WASH FIT
- * Support country action
 - * Integrate WASH in national health strategies
 - * Action planning on AMR