

WASH in Health Care Facilities and COVID-19

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The Reality



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The Current Situation is Critical

In many lower- and middle-income countries:

- 45% of health care facilities (HCFs) lack basic water service
- 60% lack basic sanitation service
- 43% have no handwashing facilities with soap
- 39% lack adequate infectious waste disposal facilities
- Only 2% of facilities provide all these services!!!

Source: WHO, UNICEF, Global Baseline Report 2019



Billions of People are Affected

- 900 million people have NO water service at HCFs
- 1.5 billion people have no sanitation at their HCFs
- Fewer than 25% of HCFs have WASH in delivery room
- No dedicated toilets for women, no space for MHM
- Toilets are filthy, with foul smell, virtually unusable
- 40% of HCFs have no hand hygiene at points of care



With Disastrous Consequences for the Community

- Patients and staff at risk for infections
- Poor hygiene causing water- and hand-borne infections
- 20% infant mortality due to unclean water
- 1,200 children under age 5 die each day from poor sanitation
- 300,000 maternal deaths per year, due to unclean facilities



The COVID-19 Action Plan

In May 2020, the World Health Assembly called for:

*“All member states to support access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene, giving attention to the promotion of personal hygienic measures in all settings particularly in **health facilities.**”*



And by 2030, every HCF to:

- Have safe drinking water for staff, caregivers, patients
- Provide safe sanitation for all
- Encourage and facilitate frequent hand hygiene
- Implement regular cleaning and disinfecting
- Manage excreta, feces and urine safely
- Safely manage health care waste

This is an opportunity for Rotarians everywhere



Plus, better management and organization:

- Adequate funding for operation and maintenance
- Effective cost-recovery system
- Trained leadership and management at all levels
- Better technical and administrative support
- Educate and motivate towards WASH goals
- Effective monitoring and feedback



Rotarians are helping communities achieve results:

- Building easy-to-maintain toilets and latrines
- Installing handwashing stands
- Funding water systems, filtration, storage tanks, cisterns etc.
- Installing additional water storage tanks
- Developing cleaning protocols
- Funding MHM programs and materials
- Restoring water services to clinics



Many clubs are already achieving results:



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What we can do about it – a program for Rotary clubs in the time of COVID-19:

- Engage the local health care community
- Assess the situation, analyze results, identify gaps
- Understand potential solutions/programs
- Agree on priorities, set targets, prepare a plan and budget
- Seek partners: Rotary clubs, donors, foundations, corporations, WASH Rotary Action Group
- Motivate the HCF community to change



Rotarians, Rotaractors and Rotary Community Corps are qualified to take the lead:

- We have credibility because of Polio eradication
- Rotarians are the community – they have a vested interest
- They understand local values and culture
- They have contacts, relationships in the community
- They can organize and have the skills to lead change
- They have the global reach; get support from anywhere
- They collaborate with others, form effective teams



WASH Rotary Action Group can help you:

- Mentor and train Rotarians to use assessment tools
- Provide expertise and resources to plan the project/program
- Identify international partner clubs and sources of funding
- Prepare applications for global grants
- Assist in designing the monitoring and evaluation systems
- Advocate for change at all political levels
- Provide protocols for cleaning, operating facilities



***“Wisdom is knowing
the right thing to do.
Integrity is doing it.”***

***JOIN the WASH Rotary Action Group
and MAKE A DIFFERENCE***

