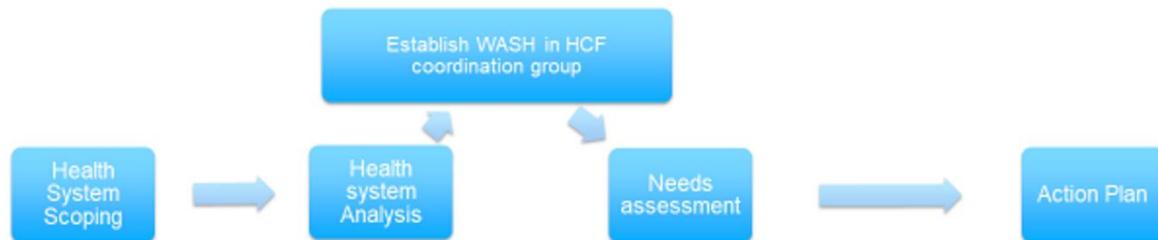




WEBINAR SESSION 1 (AUG 2018) - RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

Strengthening the Health System for Sustainable WASH Improvements: Adopting a Health Systems Approach at All Levels of WASH in HCF Programs

These recommendations provide steps for approaching WASH in HCF through health systems strengthening. These actions are derived from WaterAid's experience with health systems strengthening for WASH in HCF improvements in Cambodia, Uganda, Malawi, and Myanmar, among others.



Needs assessments are critical to identifying WASH gaps in HCF, but four key actions should occur upstream and alongside needs assessments. These actions, listed below, provide insight into the health system in order to design contextually appropriate and sustainable approaches for improving WASH in the HCF:

- 1. Health System Scoping**
 - Understand the health system where your work is operating
- 2. Health System Analysis**
 - Understand what can be utilized within the existing system, what needs to be strengthened, and with/through whom to work
- 3. Establishment of WASH in HCF Coordination Group**
 - Coordinate and align work with multiple actors, including the government and Ministry of Health
- 4. Development of an Action Plan**
 - Use the learning from scoping, analysis, and assessments to work with facility management and staff, community and organization partners, and government to develop an appropriate plan of action that builds on and improves WASH in the existing health system

What works when applying a health systems strengthening approach for WASH in HCF?

- While the environmental/WASH ministry may have certain responsibilities within WASH in HCF, **strong leadership from national government and Ministry of Health is critical.**
- At the patient and service delivery level, **community engagement and awareness is important to hold duty-bearers responsible** for continuing to provide quality care which includes WASH.
- **Encouraging new collaboration** with various types of stakeholders and organizations across both WASH and health ensures WASH is featured across a range of health issues and initiatives.
- **Strong advocacy combined with appropriate technical support** from both WASH and clinical fields assists with effective and efficient policy and program implementation.
- Focusing on strengthening the health system to support WASH long-term rather than providing quick 'one-off' programs and infrastructure upgrades is critical to WASH sustainability in HCF.
- **Advocating for and securing flexible funding mechanisms supports the ability to address a variety of WASH determinants** which may not be apparent at the onset of a project or program.
- **Working through and expanding local initiatives supports the ability scaling of WASH in HCF programs.**