

WEBINAR SESSION 2 (SEP 2018) - SUMMARY

How Bad Is It?

Using the 'Right' Tools for WASH in Healthcare Facilities Assessments

Presentation by John Brogan, Terre des Hommes

Commentary from Arabella Hayter, World Health Organization

Purpose of this Webinar

A 2015 report from UNICEF and WHO found that limited data exists on the status of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in healthcare facilities (HCF)¹. Few assessments have been conducted and even fewer collect data beyond the basic coverage of WASH within a HCF. In order to determine the extent of the problem and develop an action plan to address gaps, more comprehensive assessments are needed. Specific assessment tools tailored for WASH in HCF, such as FACET and WASHCon, are based on the WASH in HCF monitoring indicators developed in 2016 by the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP). Using the "right" kind of WASH in HCF assessment tools means choosing tools that integrate WASH in HCF indicators in order to collect meaningful data.

Summary of Presentation

Key statements from John Brogan (Terre des Hommes)

- Data collected through WASH in HCF assessments can be used to make improvements, advocate for stakeholder action, monitor effectiveness of interventions, support HCF clinician and staff training by local health authorities, and promote accountability from those responsible for establishing and maintaining WASH in HCF.
- WASH in HCF assessments should be guided by national standards for WASH in HCF, or if none exist, the Joint Monitoring Program's core questions and indicators can be adapted to the local context. In either case, data that depicts the level of various WASH services is important to collect.
- As much time as possible should be allowed for planning assessments, as training assessment teams, adapting a selected tool to the context and assessment objectives, and determining when and where to perform assessments will take time, but these are necessary steps to ensure the assessment produces meaningful data.

Who should perform WASH in HCF Assessments?

- Ministry of Health should take the lead on WASH in HCF assessments, or at a minimum, be a close collaborator. Working with other national authorities such as Ministry of Water or Environment can also be beneficial.
- Many national WASH in HCF assessments benefitted from third-party contractors collaborating with national ministries and local authorities to perform assessments; including expert external groups increases transparency, and promotes dialogue and understanding of the assessment standards and criteria.
- Importance of enumerator training cannot be under-stated as it is important to ensure the entire team has an objective understanding of definitions and application of terms such as 'usable toilet' and how they apply to different service level criteria.

What assessment tools currently exist that are specific to WASH in HCF?

- Facility Evaluation Tool for WASH in Institutions (FACET)
 - Based on JMP service indicators and used for both schools and health facilities, FACET is freely available in English, French, Arabic, and Nepali.
- WASHCon
 - Aligned with JMP indicators, this tool provides a comprehensive overview of WASH conditions and infrastructure in HCF and is employable at any facility level.
- Programming tools with embedded assessments
 - WASHFIT
 - Clean Clinic Approach
 - WASH and Clean by Soapbox Collaborative

Important Discussion Points

- Measuring changes in behavior overtime related to infection prevention and control (IPC) is challenging. WASHFIT developers encourage adapting the tool to include IPC related behaviors where possible. WASHCon was developed to measure facility conditions over behaviors because measuring conditions allows for a more rapid assessment, and behaviors are challenging to integrate into a standardized tool.
- WASH in HCF national conferences can be organized to share data and results with multiple levels of stakeholders and policymakers. A conference of this nature in Bangladesh gave credibility to national action plans and strategies under development by the Ministry of Health.
- In determining if a particular tool is 'right' for the intended assessment, important factors to look for are integration of JMP indicators and service ladders which are appropriate for WASH in HCF and not other settings (such as community access to WASH). Additionally, it is important to ask if the questions, content, and analysis functions of the tool will meet the objectives of the assessment; assessment objectives are likely very different depending if the assessment is for research purposes or for developing programs and interventions for improvement.
- The JMP is working on a global baseline report for WASH in HCF which includes over 400 data sources and 99 country files. Anyone with knowledge of current WASH in HCF assessments and reports that are near completion are encouraged to share results to info@washdata.org for inclusion in the global baseline report.

Summary of Action Items

A detailed 'Action Document' PDF can be found in the resources for this webinar on WinHCFaction.org. The recommended actions include:

- Health System Scoping and Analysis
- Select assessment tool, and if needed, adapt to context and assessment objectives
- Develop and train enumerators and assessment team
- Perform assessment
- Link results to WASH in HCF program and development efforts

References

1. World Health Organization, & Unicef. (2015). Water, sanitation and hygiene in health care facilities: status in low and middle income countries and way forward.