

WEBINAR SESSION 5 (JAN 2019) – RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

Practice-Relevant Research: Identifying WASH in HCF Gaps to Reduce Healthcare-Associated Infections

These recommendations provide insight for identifying and addressing gaps in WASH in HCF research to reduce healthcare-associated infections. These actions are derived from two studies in Uganda and Ethiopia on the factors associated with neonatal healthcare-associated infections and a study of health-seeking behaviors of mothers in Uganda as it relates to hospital environmental contamination.

1. Continue to close the WASH in HCF research gap
 - Additional research can inform stakeholders to defend critical WASH in HCF services, promote policy change, engage local communities to demand better WASH in HCF services and inform funders and donors
 - Further systematic reviews linking WASH and healthcare-associated infections are needed to establish attributable burden
 - Explore healthcare-associated antimicrobial resistance in future research
2. Promote improvements in WASH conditions in HCF through a multisectoral approach.
 - Work in collaboration with Minister of Health, NGOs and communities to encourage stakeholders to continue lobbying for improvements in WASH
 - Promote policy changes, including incorporating WASH in the health management information system (HMIS) and completing the drafting of WASH indicators that can be included in the health management information system
3. Reduce home deliveries and mitigate associated factors
 - Address transport challenges and increase sensitization of pregnant mothers in order to increase hospital deliveries.
 - Improve infrastructure for caesarean deliveries and recruit more health workers in all facilities.
4. Develop, test and evaluate low-cost, sustainable WASH solutions targeted towards different levels of HCFs
 - Promote laboratory capacity in low-income countries
 - Fund WASH in HCF research and initiatives
5. Address priorities in leadership and governance of facilities to improve health systems and health system processes.
 - Leaders must invest and sustain WASH in HCF, which can lead to cost benefits for HCF and patients
 - Improve health systems and health systems processes