**Global Health Gains Critical New Momentum!**

***"A healthcare facility without WASH is not a healthcare facility."*  
- Dr. Maria Neira, director of Public Health and Environment, World Health Organization  
  
*"If you can't do the basics forget the rest. Prevention, prevention, prevention."*   
- Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General, World Health Organization**

With outspoken support from 50 countries and non-governmental groups, World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and the 72nd World Health Assembly (WHA) passed the landmark [Resolution EB144.R5](http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/EB144/B144_R5-en.pdf): “Water, sanitation and hygiene in health care facilities”.

Make sure to [share Dr. Tedros tweet](https://twitter.com/DrTedros/status/1132279786842263552) and thank him and the WHA for this important step forward!

This Resolution is the very first time the 194 WHO Member States have joined together to publicly acknowledge this global health crisis and encourage concrete action. Assuring access to clean water, basic sanitation and hygiene (WASH) inside hospitals and health clinics is the foundation for maternal/child health; infection prevention and control; pandemic prevention; antibiotic resistance; and of course Universal Health Coverage (UHC). Multiple Sustainable Development Goals, including #3 Health and Wellbeing and #6 Water and Sanitation cannot be achieved without it.

This Resolution is also a fundamental move toward achieving UN Secretary General António Guterres’ Call to Action to address the pervasive and dangerous lack of WASH inside healthcare facilities around the world.

The WHA Resolution was initially sponsored by Zambia and Tanzania, with Australia, Brazil, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Kenya, Nigeria and the U.S. joining. Thirty-two additional countries gave strong statements in support, as did eight non-state actors that included [WaterAid](https://www.wateraid.org/?global=1), [World Vision](https://www.worldvision.org/) and [Global Water 2020](globalwater2020.org).

This problem is solvable if we work across sectors. For our part, in partnership with the Global Health Council, Global Water 2020 is organizing a convening that will include dozens of specific commitments in funding, technical assistance, implementation and advocacy by donors, non-governmental organizations, faith-based organizations, U.S. government agencies, technical and research institutions will be announced in Washington, DC on June 19. (For information, contact Lindsay Denny at [ldenny@GlobalWater2020.org](mailto:ldenny@GlobalWater2020.org).)

Every year in the Least Developed Countries, [17 million women](https://www.washinhcf.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/9789241515504-eng.pdf) give birth in healthcare facilities without adequate water, soap and toilets. The risk to mothers and newborns is devastating. Simply washing hands with soap before touching babies can prevent more than [40 percent of neonatal deaths](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2587156/). But healthcare providers and parents can’t wash if they don’t have soap and water. The first-ever global report, [WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme](http://www.unwater.org/publication_categories/whounicef-joint-monitoring-programme-for-water-supply-sanitation-hygiene-jmp/) for Water Supply, Sanitation, and Hygiene, analyzed data from over 560,000 healthcare facilities in 125 countries and found that 2 billion people use healthcare facilities that lack basic water services and 1.5 billion people have no sanitation services in their healthcare facilities.

Find the full text of the [Resolution here.](http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/EB144/B144_R5-en.pdf)