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# Stakeholder Community Meeting: WASH & COVID-19 Prevention & Recovery

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APRIL 30, 2020  
3:00-4:30 PM EDT

# — WELCOME

- Introduce yourself in the chat box as you join.
- Use the chat box to share questions and comments throughout the presentation.
- Reach out to Adam Ahmed or Tyler Wellman in the attendees list if you're experiencing any technical issues with the webinar platform.

# — INTRODUCTION



**Jennifer Mack**

**Global Water Coordinator**

**Deputy Assistant Administrator**

Bureau for Resilience and Food Security (RFS)

# — Water Leadership Council Speakers



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**Global Water  
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**Dr. Alma Golden**  
**Assistant Administrator**  
Bureau for Global Health



**Amy Tohill-Stull**  
**Deputy Assistant  
Administrator**

Bureau for Democracy,  
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# Agenda

- I. Introductory Remarks from Water Leadership Council Representatives**
- II. WASH in the Health System**
- III. WASH in Complex Emergencies**
- IV. WASH and Second-Order Impacts**
- V. Moderated Q&A**
- VI. Office of Acquisitions and Assistance Update on Programming Flexibilities**
- VII. Closing Remarks and Next Steps**

# — USAID's Strategic Approaches to WASH & COVID-19



**USAID Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH):  
Strategic Approach to COVID-19 Response**

# Prioritizing Our Response to COVID-19

- **WASH sector priorities:** stopping the spread of disease and saving lives; promoting U.S. leadership and expertise for the benefit of global communities; responding to secondary impacts, including on WASH
  - **Prevention:** WASH services in all settings are an essential part of preventing transmission and protecting human health
  - **Recovery:** WASH services are also critical to long-term economic recovery and mitigating secondary impacts on livelihoods and wellbeing

# WASH & COVID-19: Strategic Approaches

## 1. Respond through the Health System

- Focus on risk communications, continuity of WASH services in health facilities, and infection prevention and control in health facilities

## 2. Respond in Complex Emergencies

- Target vulnerable and population-dense settings such as urban areas or Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps where OFDA and FFP already present
- Support the health response and continuity of WASH services

## 3. Prevent Backsliding and Second-Order Impacts

- Focus on continuity of WASH services and building resilient systems

# — The Role of Global Health



**Dr. Alma Golden**

**Assistant Administrator**

Bureau for Global Health

# Infectious diseases know no borders

- Handwashing is our first layer of defense from COVID-19, at home and in health care facilities (HCF)
- COVID-19 highlights a **urgent health care crisis**:
  - Over 2 billion people use a health facility that lacks even a basic water service
  - 40% of healthcare facilities lack handwashing facilities at points of care
- In the Ebola outbreak, mortality was 103-fold higher in healthcare workers in Sierra Leone than in the general population, and Liberia lost 8% of its health workforce
- 1.3 million children die of infection such as pneumonia and diarrhea, many of which can be prevented with improved WASH.

"Without water, a health care facility isn't a health care facility."

- UNICEF 2019



# USAID Global Health Bureau Response

Seeking to reduce the burden of disease abroad, avoid the collapse of health care in targeted countries, and strengthen global health security.

Focus areas of efforts are:

- Communication on risk and on handwashing with soap
- Continuity of health, water, and sanitation services (with increased focus on services at health facilities with increased demand)
- Infection prevention and control (IPC) in health facilities

As of **April 27, 2020**, nearly **\$775 million** from USAID and the Department of State has been made available to over 100 countries to help address the COVID-19 pandemic

# Global Health Bureau leads USAID's response for WASH in the healthcare system

- USAID's COVID-19 response and recovery approach is well aligned with other key global and local actors in the WASH and health sectors
- USAID is coordinating regularly with key sector stakeholders and partners
- There is a need for stronger cross-sectoral coordination, with health sector leadership and WASH sector support
- Solutions require looking beyond USAID funding to mobilize domestic health sector funds for emergency and continuous quality improvement

# — The Role of DCHA



**Amy Tohill-Stull**

**Deputy Assistant Administrator**

Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance (DCHA)



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# DCHA (future BHA) leads USAID's response for WASH in Complex Emergencies

- DCHA (future BHA) is leading on emergency WASH activities in response to COVID-19, including programming supplemental IDA funding and adapting current WASH programming
- USAID's COVID-19 humanitarian responses target current humanitarian settings where OFDA or FFP are already present and where our health and WASH partners are implementing, and which settings are at risk of widespread transmission in vulnerable population and for severe COVID-19 impacts.
- In emergency contexts, USAID is focusing on reducing the spread of COVID-19 and mitigating the public health consequences of the pandemic, as well maintaining critical WASH services.

# — AREAS OF WASH RESPONSE



Richard Greene  
Director, Office of Infectious  
Diseases  
Bureau for Global Health



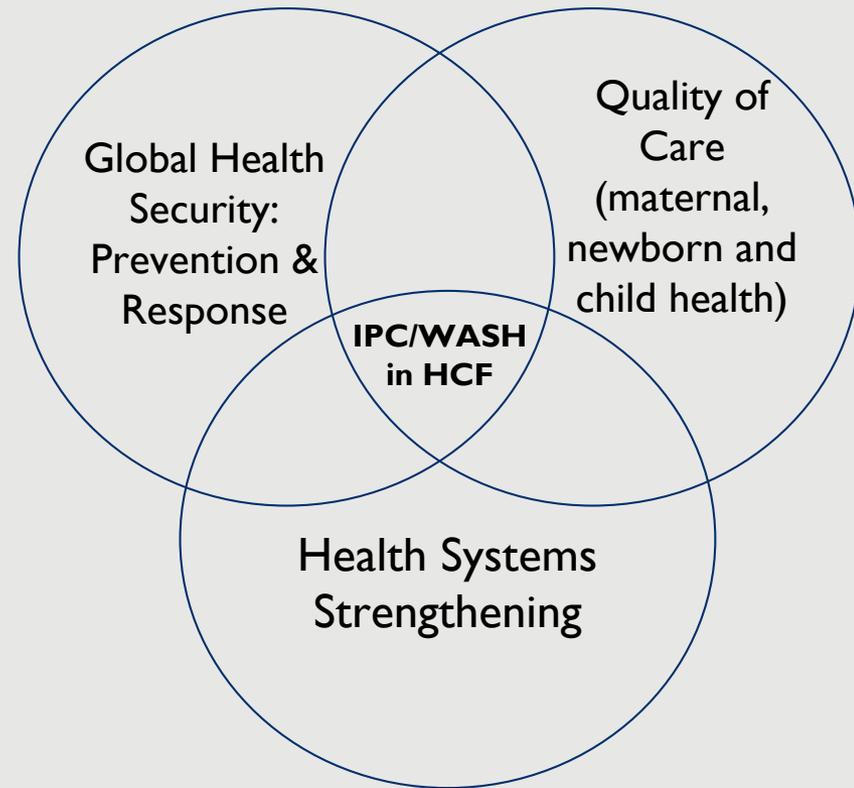
Melissa Opryszko, PhD, MPH  
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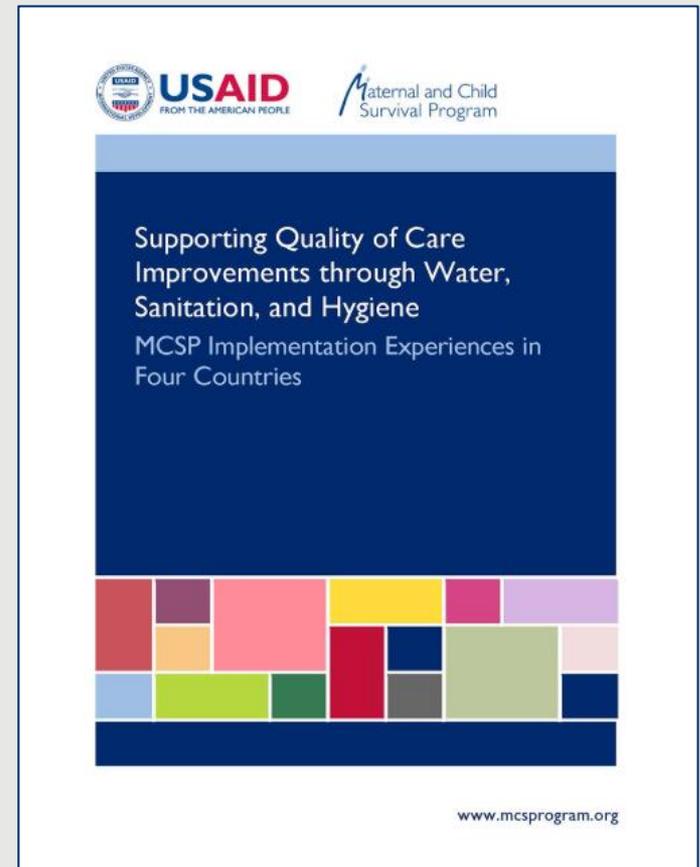
# Why WASH in health care facilities (HCF)?

- **Global health security**
  - Essential role in promoting Infection prevention and control (IPC) programs in Joint External Evaluations
  - IPC reliant on WASH readiness at facilities, especially hand hygiene
- **Quality of care**
  - Clinical procedures and patient safety heavily reliant upon WASH services
  - Care seeking and respectful care require WASH facilities (What Women Want survey)
- **Health systems**
  - Mobilization of financing and human resources for health are important parts of the solution to improving facility readiness (including WASH in HCFs)

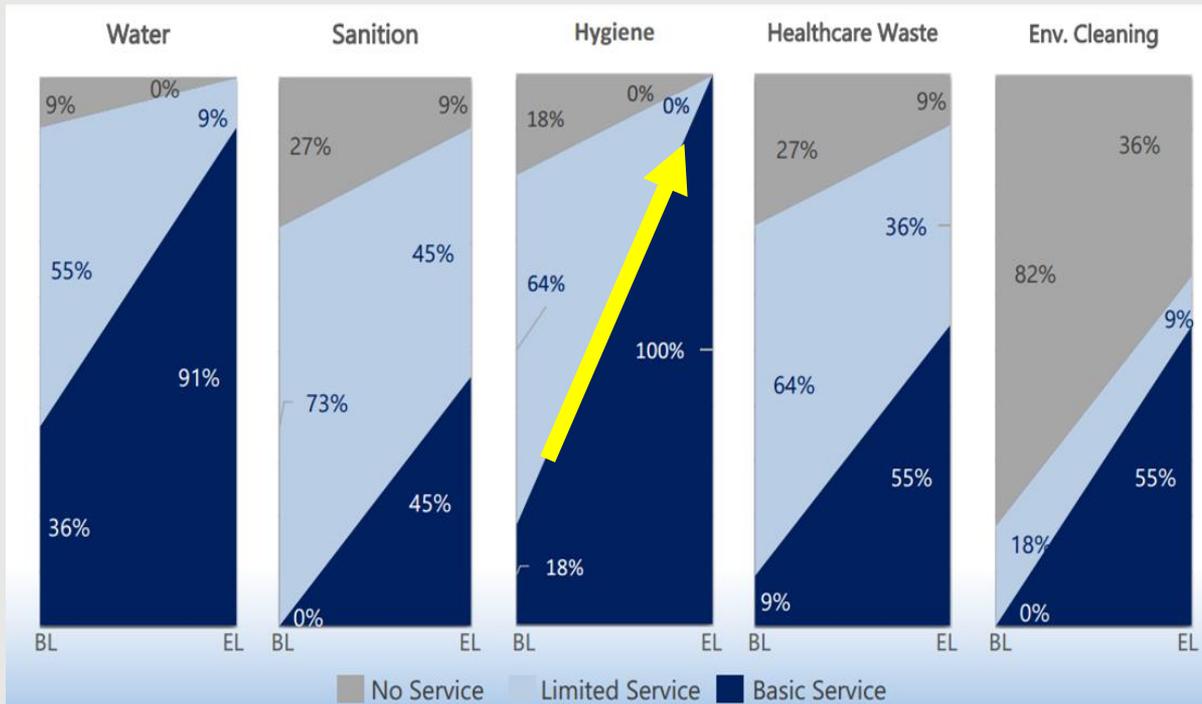


# WASH in HCF challenges are solvable

- Successful solutions are **embedded in the health system** within existing quality improvement (QI) and infection prevention and control (IPC) processes
- Focus on **quick wins** and **ownership** of the issue by the facility in-charge
- Incorporate WASH Action Plans into existing **budget** processes
- **Don't lead with infrastructure.**  
This is a health systems issue to address with support from the WASH sector. Impressive improvements can be made by addressing incentives of HCF managers.



# USAID/MCSP project results in Guatemala (n=11 HCFs)



For more info on the Clean Clinic Approach:  
<https://washforhealthcare.mcsprogram.org/>

- In just one year, “presence of handwashing station with soap and water” improved from 18% to 100%, all WASH categories improved dramatically
- This effort included no construction
- Activities focused on management behaviors, optimizing existing resources, and clarity of staff roles and responsibilities

# WASH in Areas of Complex Emergency

As of April 22, 2020, USAID has allocated **\$195 million in humanitarian assistance** from USAID's International Disaster Assistance (IDA) account to emergency life-saving programs

- Countries are prioritized based on:
  - Existing complex humanitarian crises; or
  - Contexts that have become or are likely to become humanitarian crises due to the outbreak
- Populations prioritized are those who:
  - were already highly vulnerable prior to the outbreak, especially displaced people; and
  - are at high risk for COVID-19 transmission (e.g. high density populations, those along transport routes in proximity to outbreak hotspots)

# WASH in Areas of Complex Emergency: Interventions

BHA-supported emergency WASH interventions must be **evidence-based, rapidly implementable, adaptable** to COVID-19 challenges, **and scalable** across humanitarian contexts.

COVID-19 emergency WASH interventions must support three principal lines of effort:

1. Enable and promote hand washing
  - Includes provision of soap and hand washing stations;
1. Infection prevention and control at health facilities; and
2. Operation and maintenance of existing water and sanitation systems
  - Includes supporting continuity of operations for critical WASH systems where alternatives to water and sanitation services are limited and the loss of functionality would have severe health impacts on the vulnerable populations they serve, e.g. IDP camps

# WASH and Second Order Economic Impacts

- **WASH services are critical to economic recovery following the pandemic**

- Economic activity and jobs are reliant on water services
- Risk of recurring outbreaks if WASH services are not in place as social distancing ends
- Revenue loss to service providers and ministries

- **WASH service providers are already feeling the impact of the pandemic and the policy decisions in response to it**

- Service providers are being directed to provide services even with lack of payment, and, in some cases, expand services to vulnerable areas
- Supply chains for key materials (such as chlorine for water treatment) are being disrupted



# WASH and Second Order Economic Impacts

- **Continuity of operations for water and sanitation service providers is essential for economic recovery**
  - Will require investments in supply chains, pre-positioning key materials, filling financial gaps, supporting operational procedures
  - Serves as a bridge from public health emergency response-- keeping the water on--to improved long term systems strengthening
  - WASH sector needs to pay attention to these long term issues while also addressing immediate needs to mitigate transmission



# — Q&A

**Liz Jordan**

**Water and Sanitation Specialist**

Bureau for Resilience and Food Security



# — Acquisition and Assistance Updates

**Chuck Pope**

**Global Contracting and Agreement Officer**

**USAID COVID-19 Task Force**



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# A&A Updates: COVID-19 Response

## Unsolicited Funding Request Portal

- Reached via [COVID19\\_Concepts@usaid.gov](mailto:COVID19_Concepts@usaid.gov)
  - Organizations seeking COVID-19 funding
  - USAID employees assigned to U.S. based OUs who receive concepts or inquiries related to COVID-19 should direct external parties to this portal
- Field Missions should process unsolicited funding requests unless the proposed scope falls outside the purview of the Mission's review

## Unsolicited Funding Request Process

- All emails in the [COVID19\\_Concepts@usaid.gov](mailto:COVID19_Concepts@usaid.gov) inbox receive an automated response providing instructions to complete a detailed form
- This GC-approved automated response notifies applicants that they will only be contacted again if their unsolicited concept is selected for next phase
- The response states that USAID is looking for unique, innovative, or proprietary concepts of exceptional merit for COVID-19 response funding
- A completed form is required to formalize concept submission
- The COVID-19 Task Force A&A Team logs, reviews, and forwards qualified unsolicited concepts to Bureau COVID-19 Task Force Liaisons for review
- If concept selected, Bureau will work with OAA to move forward with negotiations / award

# A&A Updates: COVID-19 Response

## COVID-19 Guidance for Implementing Partners

- <https://www.usaid.gov/work-usaid/resources-for-partners/covid-19-guidance-implementing-partners>
- Includes a FAQ, information on COVID-19, redirecting resources, disruptions to implementation, allowability of costs, evacuations, Defense Base Act insurance

## USAID A&A Updates

USAID provides guidance updates to the partner community through its A&A Updates email list. Interested parties can sign up here: <http://goo.gl/vlmSas>

## COVID-19 Funding Requests and Unsolicited Proposals

- <https://www.usaid.gov/coronavirus/funding-requests-unsolicited-proposals>
- This site directs partners to [COVID19\\_Concepts@usaid.gov](mailto:COVID19_Concepts@usaid.gov), [grants.gov](https://grants.gov), [beta.SAM.gov](https://beta.SAM.gov)
- Provides resources for those that want to help the COVID-19 response effort directly

# — Closing

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