

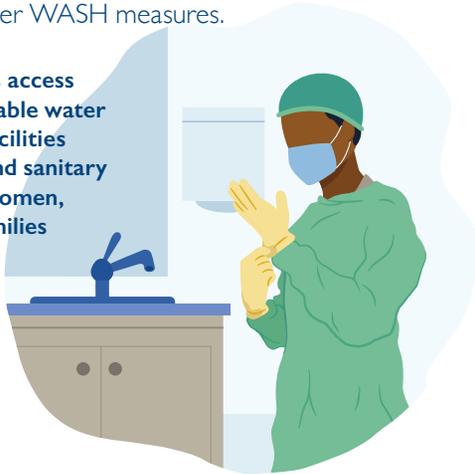
IMPROVING WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE IN HEALTH FACILITIES FOR BETTER SAFETY & QUALITY OF CARE

Clean water, safe sanitation, and good hygiene are critical for preventing and controlling infectious diseases. Yet in many countries, poor water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) conditions in health facilities expose pregnant women and newborns to illness and infection, discourage families from seeking lifesaving care, and force health workers to deliver services in unsafe and unpleasant working environments.

1 in 2 health care facilities lacks basic water services.

Receiving safe drinking water with oral medication or giving birth in a clean, welcoming room with water readily available can significantly improve quality care and patient satisfaction. Ensuring potable water is available from an improved source on the premises of a health facility critically underscores all other WASH measures.

- ▲ USAID provides access to clean and reliable water in health care facilities to ensure safe and sanitary conditions for women, children, and families seeking care.



2 in 3 health care facilities lack basic sanitation services.

Patients and health workers need access to a safe and functioning toilet whether they are receiving or delivering care. Good sanitation in health facilities means that there is at least one toilet dedicated to staff, one sex-separated toilet with menstrual hygiene facilities, and one toilet accessible to people with limited mobility.

- ▲ USAID supports women and girls to safely manage their menstrual cycles in privacy and with dignity, including at health facilities.



USAID recognizes that basic water, sanitation, and hygiene services within health care facilities are the cornerstone of **quality, equitable, and respectful services.**

1 in 2 health care facilities lacks basic hand hygiene services.

Good hand hygiene is one of the most effective ways to prevent infections and reduce the spread of pathogens, including COVID-19. Functional hand hygiene stations, that include water and soap or an alcohol-based hand rub, should be available at all points of care throughout a health facility, and within five meters of toilets.

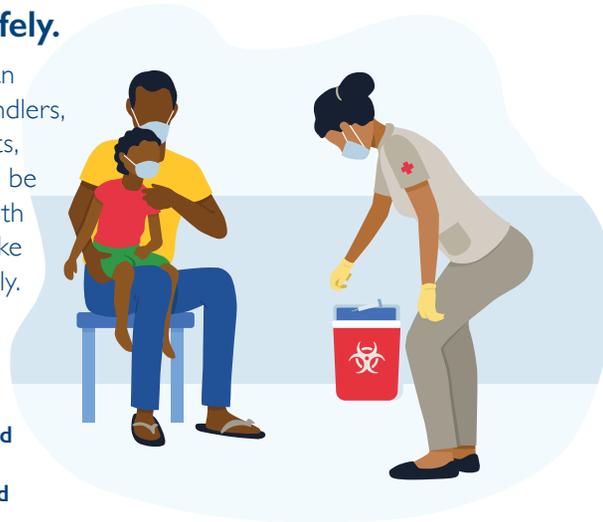
- ▲ **USAID promotes hand hygiene during all stages of labor, delivery, and postnatal care to ensure a clean and safe childbirth.**



7 in 10 health care facilities do not segregate waste safely.

Poor waste management practices can expose healthcare workers, waste handlers, and patients to infections, toxic effects, and injuries. Healthcare waste should be segregated into at least three bins, with sharp objects and infectious waste (like needles) treated and disposed of safely.

- ▲ **USAID works with the private sector to strengthen WASH supply chains in health facilities, such as by developing safe waste treatment and disposal infrastructure at facilities or transporting waste to centralized treatment plants.**



Many countries need better data collection on environmental cleaning for health facilities.

Sustained improvement of WASH in health facilities requires creating a culture of hygiene at all levels of the health system—from the patient, to the provider, to the community. To ensure a clean environment, staff roles and responsibilities should be clear, basic protocols for cleaning available, and regular training for staff provided.

- ▲ **USAID strengthens WASH and infection prevention capabilities among the health workforce through training and mentoring that includes and engages everyone, including custodial staff.**

