

HEALTH CARE FACILITIES



Health care facilities are the operational heart of service delivery. Limited access to water, sanitation and hygiene and poor waste management impede the ability to maintain hygienic environments and prevent health care-acquired infections. Reliable energy supply is fundamental for maintaining the quality, range and population coverage of essential health services. Yet many health care facilities in low- and middle-income countries currently lack water, sanitation, and energy, as well as occupational health services. Ensuring climate resilience and environmental sustainability of health systems can generate considerable health gains.

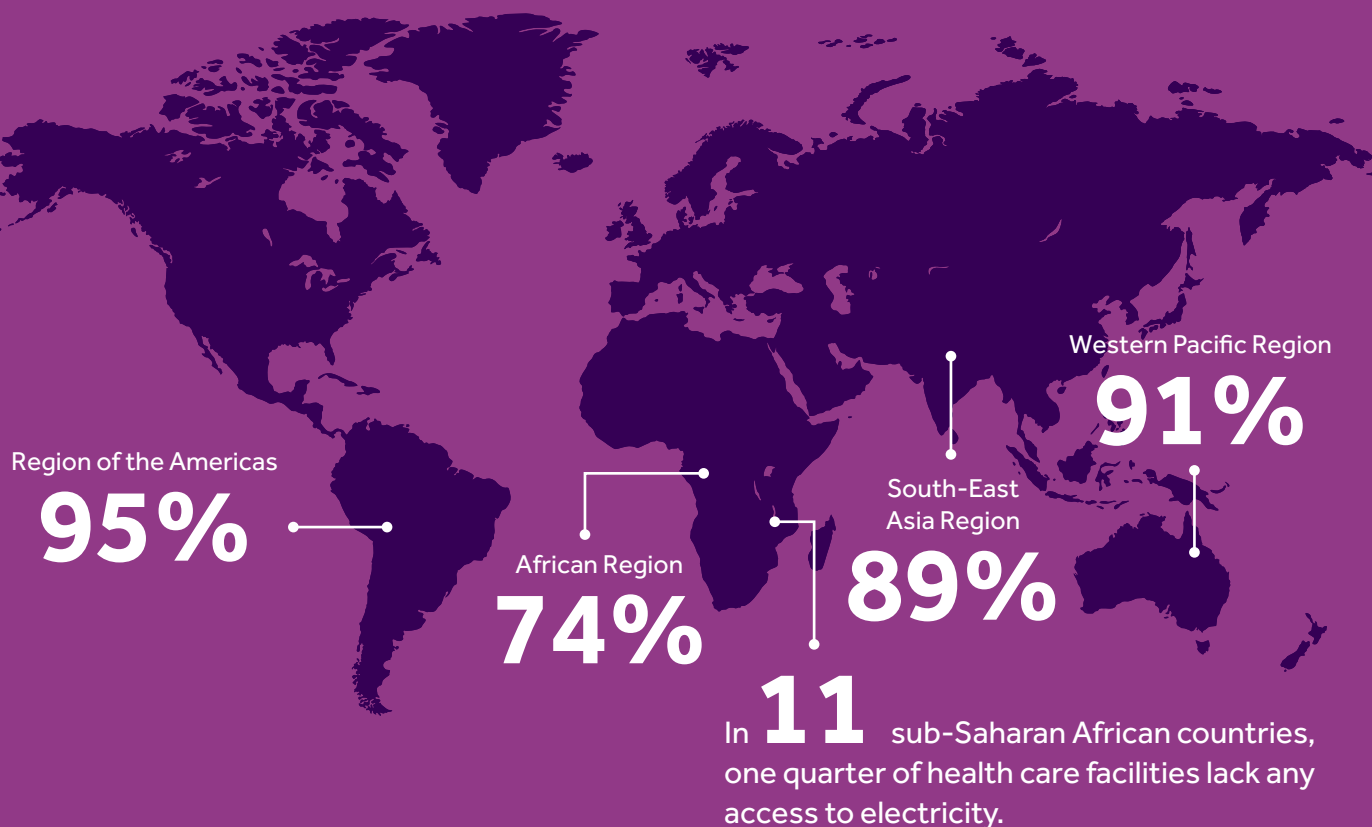
Many health care facilities around the world are lacking basic services, hindering routine medical procedures.

PRIORITY SETTINGS FOR ACTION

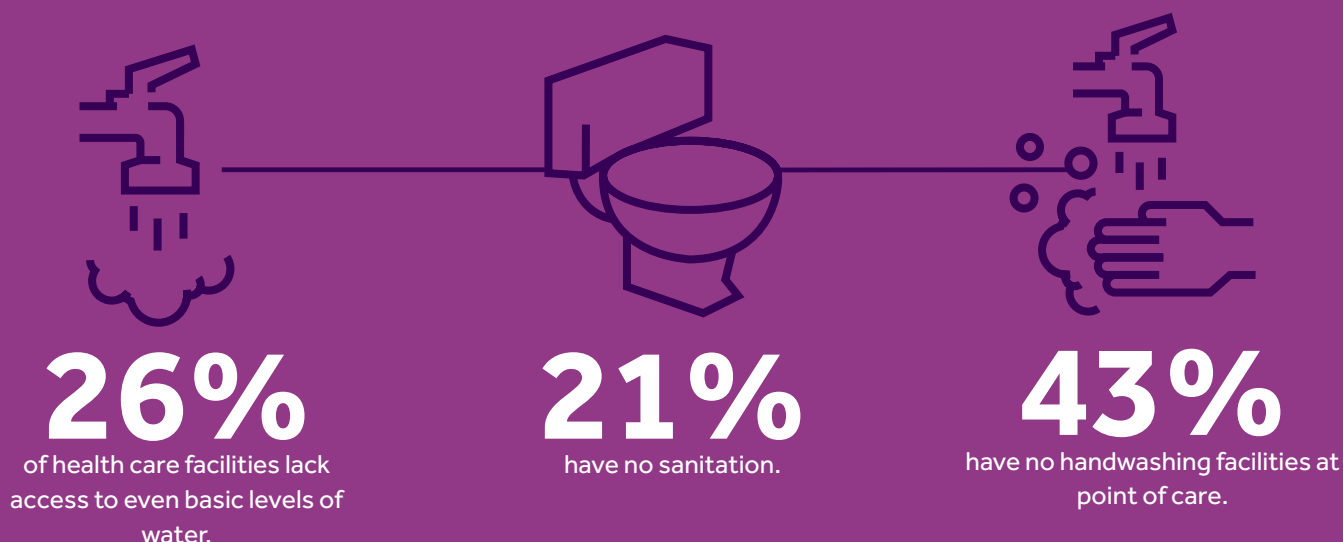
IMPROVED WATER IN HEALTH CARE FACILITIES BY WHO REGION

Source: WHO and UNICEF.

88% of all health care facilities have water services



BASED ON A REVIEW OF 125 LOW- AND MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES:





WHAT ARE KEY ACTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT?

Key actions on health care facilities include the following:

1.

National assessments

Conduct national assessments and set appropriate targets for improving WASH in health care facilities.

2.

Adequate water and sanitation

Prioritize the provision of adequate water and sanitation to ensure infection prevention and quality care in health care facilities.

3.

Electricity

Ensure that hospitals and health care facilities are equipped with an adequate and reliable supply of electricity for essential health care services.

4.

Workers

Protect health care workers.

MAIN WHO ACTIONS

WHO actions on health care facilities include the following:

Global call to action

Drive coordinated global action to effectively respond to the United Nations Secretary-General's global call to action for WASH in all health care facilities.

Energy-efficient medical devices

Identify energy-efficient medical devices for resource-constrained settings.

Gaps

Assess the gaps in water and sanitation services, handwashing with water and soap, and sustainable energy access in health care facilities.

Implementing standards

Support countries in strengthening and implementing standards and embedding WASH indicators in health monitoring information systems.

Advice and guidance

Provide advice and guidance on the power demands of essential health care services.

Health facility improvement tool

Support training and implementation of the water and sanitation for health facility improvement tool (WASH FIT) in collaboration with health efforts.

SECTORAL POLICIES INTERACTING WITH HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

Cooperation with the following sectors may be required to sustainably reduce risks to health:



Energy



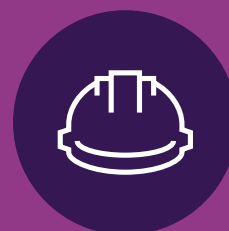
Health



Water and
sanitation



Industry



Labour

Further information: www.washinhcf.org;
http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/facilities/en/.

Source: <http://www.who.int/phe/publications/healthy-environments/en/index.html>, WHO, 2019



World Health
Organization