



PAHO

REGIONAL SYMPOSIUM

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene in Healthcare Facilities

"An Urgent Action"

14 October 2020 – from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. EDT

[Watch the via YouTube](#)

The safe provision and management of drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services in healthcare facilities (HCF) is essential to reduce the risk of infection in patients, caregivers, health workers, and communities. This need has become more critical during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Universal access to and sustainable management of WASH services is a central component of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, reflected in several of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) including SDG 1 (Guarantee equity and equality for all in access to basic services), SDG 3 (Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages), and SDG 6 (Ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation). The World Health Assembly resolution "Water, sanitation and hygiene in health centers" (document EB144.R5), and the Pan American Health Organization's (PAHO) Directing Council resolution "Strategy and Plan of Action to Improve Quality of Care in Health Service Delivery 2020-2025" (document CD57.R13) of 2019 demonstrate the commitment of the countries to provide safe WASH services in all HCF.

The countries of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) have made progress toward providing safe WASH services in HCF in recent years. However, there are still significant gaps that urgently need to be addressed. For example, 17% of HCF do not access water through a public network, and of those that do, 54% have quality issues. About 12% of HCF do not have operational toilets for patients and 40% of HCF lack soap for hand washing. In addition, 17% of HCF do not classify their solid waste and 15% do not treat the waste, disposing it in unsafe places such as dumps, open burning, and bodies of water.

The purpose of this symposium is to motivate LAC countries to advance toward access and sustainable management of WASH in all HCF in a partnership between the health and water/sanitation sectors under the guiding values of the right to enjoy the highest attainable standard of health, equity in health, Pan-American solidarity, universality, and social inclusion.

I. GOAL

Improve quality of care in health service delivery in the countries of the Latin America and the Caribbean by reducing the risk of infections in patients, caregivers, health workers, and communities through access to safe WASH services in all HCF.

II. OBJECTIVE

Motivate the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to implement a coordinated and collaborative initiative of national health authorities and national entities responsible for the management of water and sanitation services to improve WASH services in HCF.

III. PARTICIPANTS

National authorities

- Ministers of health of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.
- National authorities responsible for the management of water and sanitation services of the countries of the Region.

Technical and financial partners

- Agencies of the United Nations System
- Academic institutions
- National agencies for international development
- Non-governmental organizations
- Financial institutions

Secretariat

- PAHO/WHO

IV. PLACE AND DATE

The symposium will be held using the Zoom platform on 14 October 2020 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. EDT at the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84734884793?pwd=UUw2UDY2OEFkbzFOOTNoWUUh2STMvQT09>

Moderation of the event: Dr. Marcelo Korc, Unit Chief, Climate Change and Environmental Determinants of Health, PAHO

| TIME | AGENDA |
|-------------------------|--|
| 10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. | <p>Opening: Welcome Remarks</p> <p><i>Message of United Nations Secretary General, Mr. António Guterres (Video)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Mary Lou Valdez, Deputy Director, PAHO/WHO • Dr. Hanan Hassan Balkhy, WHO Assistant Director-General, Antimicrobial Resistance • Mr. Youssouf Abdel-Jelil, Deputy Director for Latin American and Caribbean Region, UNICEF |
| 10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. | <p>The Goal: Universal Access to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Health Care Facilities by 2030</p> <p><i>Motivational words of the First Ladies</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Madam Silvana Abdo, First Lady of Paraguay • Madam Fabiola Yáñez, First Lady of Argentina • Madam María Juliana Ruiz Sandoval, First Lady of Colombia <p><i><u>Stories of patients, caregivers, health workers, and communities (Video)</u></i></p> |
| 10:30 a.m. – 10:50 a.m. | <p>The Road: Global and Regional Initiatives to Achieve the Goal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Practical steps to achieve universal access to water, sanitation, and hygiene in health care facilities.</u> Ms. Margaret Montgomery, WHO and Mr. Alban Nouvellon, UNICEF • Containment of antimicrobial resistance in health care facilities. Water, sanitation and hygiene: essential for containing antimicrobial resistance. Lessons from the Global Action Plan against AMR. Dr. Pilar Ramón-Pardo, PAHO/WHO • <u>Water, sanitation and hygiene: essential conditions for the safety and quality of care in the provision of health services.</u> Dr. Amalia Del Riego, PAHO/WHO |

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| <p>10:50 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.</p> | <p>The Action: National Commitments</p> <p><i>Panel on the presentation of the countries moderated by Ms. Patricia Segurado, PAHO/WHO</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infographic presentation of the situation in committed countries. Dr. Leo Heller, UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation • Panel with national health, and water and sanitation authorities from two countries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bolivia: Dr. María Eidy Roca de Sangüeza – Minister of Health • México: Dr. Blanca Jiménez Cisneros, General Director of the National Water Commission and Dr. Alethse de la Torre Rosas, General Director National Center for Control and Prevention in HIV and AIDS |
| <p>11:30 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.</p> | <p>A Shared Responsibility: The Support of Technical and Financial Partners to Achieve the Goal</p> <p><i>Panel with financial institutions and non-governmental representatives moderated by Mr. Sergio Campos, Inter-American Development Bank</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Rita Cestti – Practice Manager, Latin America and Caribbean Water (SLCWA), Water Global Practice, World Bank • Mr. Jean-Louis Dufresne, Chief Executive Officer, One Drop Foundation • Dr. Julie Varughese, Chief Medical Officer and Technical Unit Vice President, Americares • Mr. Tebaldo Vinciguerra, Official of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development (Holy See) |
| <p>11:50 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.</p> | <p>Closing: The Call for Urgent Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Marcos Espinal, Director, Communicable Diseases and Environmental Determinants of Health Department, PAHO/WHO |