



Creation of a New WASH in Health Care Facilities Data Sharing and Decision-Support Platform

WASH Health Facility Data Exchange (WHdx)

Developed by Global Water Challenge in partnership with Millennium Water Alliance and funding from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation

The Issue

Globally, poor access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services impacts the provision of quality healthcare services. Approximately 50% of health facilities in the Least Developed Countries lack basic water services, while 63% lack basic sanitation and 26% lack hand hygiene facilities at points of care (JMP, 2020). These inadequacies expose billions of people to greater risk of infection. While data about this issue are beginning to be more readily available, stakeholders often are limited in their capacity to compile all available data, manipulate it as needed, or narrow in on specific facility or district needs.

The Data Solution

The WASH Health Facility Data Exchange (WHdx) will offer decision-makers an open data platform from which they can gather insights on the WASH conditions in the healthcare facilities and determine how best to allocate resources. With input from a Working Group of WASH in HCF experts, the platform is working with pilot stakeholders to determine what questions they need answers to in order to take action.

Key features of the WHdx platform include:

- Harmonization of WASH datasets from different partners (e.g., NGOs, health centers, water officers) into a singular dataset
- Free data cleaning and storage, available through the open data access
- Analysis of data by JMP service ladder, as well as additional insights including key WASH FIT indicators
- Granularity of data analysis, including analysis at the facility and district-levels
- Tools to guide policy decisions and investments

The platform will receive for data to submitted for individual health facilities. It then will provide analytics which allow for local governments and partners to answer key questions, including where resources should be allocated. Data for a facility can be updated by more than one organization, allowing for the likelihood of more up-to-date information.

Anticipated Outcomes

Through WHdx, stakeholders will be better able to understand where the largest gaps exist, what issues are consistently problematic (e.g., non-functionality or stock outages), and where resources may be most influential for progress. WHdx will provide a record of WASH facilities at a specific institution over time, allow for comparisons across geographies as small as villages or as large as countries, and show where the biggest needs and opportunities are.