

WASH IN HCF NOTABLE QUOTES

See also June 19, 2019 - 17 videos:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1CgubukaTMVAv_Hw4_iEwmp8LKALTltPz?ths=true:

His Holiness the Dalai Lama: On the 50th anniversary of Earth Day 2020, the Dalai Lama wrote: “Our response must be as one humanity, providing for the most essential needs of all... We must ensure that the sick and the valiant health-care providers throughout the world have access to the fundamental necessities of clean water and proper sanitation to prevent the uncontrolled spread of disease.” He called for “sustainable access to properly equipped and staffed health-care facilities” to fight the current pandemic and as “one of the strongest defenses against future public health crises.”

Pope Francis: TBD From his 2015 Encyclical [*Laudato Si'*](#): “Every day, unsafe water results in many deaths and the spread of water-related diseases, including those caused by microorganisms and chemical substances. Dysentery and cholera, linked to inadequate hygiene and water supplies, are a significant cause of suffering and of infant mortality.”

UN Secretary-General António Guterres announced a global Call to Action on World Water Day March 2018, “I am using the launch of the Water Action Decade to make a global call to action for water, sanitation and hygiene – or WASH -- in all health care facilities. A recent survey of 100,000 facilities found that more than half lack simple necessities, such as running water and soap - and they are supposed to be healthcare facilities. The result is more infections, prolonged hospital stays and sometimes death. We must work to prevent the spread of disease. Improved water, sanitation and hygiene in health facilities is critical to this effort.”

Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General, World Health Organization, led passage of a global [Resolution](#) on WASH in healthcare facilities with practical steps in 2019, unanimously signed by all 194 member states; and this January called getting WASH into healthcare facilities a [top priority this decade](#). As Dr. Tedros said, “If you can't do the basics forget the rest. Prevention, prevention, prevention.”

Dr. Tedros: In his opening remarks at the Member State briefing on COVID-19, August 20, 2020, Dr. Tedros listed progress and “worrying gaps”, the very first is “Only about

half of countries have a national infection prevention and control program and standards for water, sanitation and hygiene in all health care facilities.”

Dr. Maria Neira, Director of Public Health and Environment, World Health Organization: “A healthcare facility without WASH is not a healthcare facility.”

Sen. Lindsey Graham, (R-SC) recognized the strategic importance of water and health back in 2013: “Improving life [in Africa] is a real blow to radical Islamists. You know if you can provide schooling, a health clinic, clean drinking water, that really is a blow to their agenda.”

Peter Laugharn, President/CEO of the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation: “It is good health care to have good water in every facility. In fact, it is both scandalous and illogical that we should have so many healthcare facilities in the world that do not have access to clean water... It is a solvable problem. It's a pretty straightforward fix, when you look at the range of global development problems... It is not costly. The governance and ownership of the problem is pretty straightforward. So, I would say this should be a real push.”

“Americans should care for a number of reasons. First, just concern for fellow humanity, compassion. But secondly, infectious disease can be amplified in healthcare facilities. We saw this with the Ebola outbreak in 2014. The health of everyone on the planet is related to everyone else. Getting WASH into healthcare facilities is an effort that will help keep us all safe.”

Cathy Leslie, PE, F. ASCE, Executive Director, Engineers Without Borders-USA: “When people do not have the front lines of defense — clean water and soap at healthcare facilities, all bets are off. It's critical in ensuring good outcomes for everyone — patients, professionals, those caring for loved ones, and the communities patients will return to.”

Bruce Wilkinson, President/CEO, CMMB: “By laying the foundation of clean water and sanitation, we are providing for a long-term solution that will not only increase the likelihood of saved lives in the face of COVID-19, but will address other imminent pandemics as well as infectious diseases like TB, Malaria and HIV. In addition, clean water and sanitation is essential at the community level as it will sustain the gains provided by a well-functioning health system... This is a moment of global awakening to the injustice and indignity of life without access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene.”

John Barsa, USAID Administrator: “Clean water is an essential health service.”

September 25th 2018, Concordia Annual Summit in New York City,

President Iván Duque Márquez (Peru):

"I'm actually taking the opportunity here in Concordia to say that Colombia is going to support the action plan that has been launched by the Secretary General of the UN, that is called WASH. to promote water and sanitation and hygiene in different countries. And for us, it is the right tool and the right mechanism so that we can get to low-income communities, provide them a water source and sanitation, and with that have a positive impact on health so that we can reduce the diseases that are transmittable, and at the same time have an impact on things that are very hurting like children dying in the first 1000 days of life. So supporting WASH as a global initiative and applying it in Colombia goes back when I told you we have to think globally and act locally with this program of water and sanitation."

PQMD 2-Panel Event: The Intersection of WASH and Health Systems Resiliency June, 16, 2020:

Alma Golden, USAID

"We recognize there are also leaders that need to be there [in healthcare facilities] that also address the broader issues, including WASH."

"If we don't get this right, then we're not going to be able to address infection prevention control...If we don't get this right it's reasonable that people would not trust going to a healthcare center."

Quoting Peter Laugharn (below), WASH "can be said to be a slice of a slice of an SDG but is actually the foundation of so many efforts we have underway."

Peter Laugharn, Hilton Foundation

- "It is good healthcare to have water in every facility, in fact, it's both scandalous and illogical that we should have too many healthcare facilities in the world that do not have access to clean water."
- "It's [WASH in HCF] a solvable problem, it's a pretty straightforward fix when you look at the range of global development problems, it can be approached systematically, relatively speaking, it's not costly, the governance and ownership of the problem is pretty straightforward."
- "We're talking about the financing of a slice of a slice of a sustainable development goal, so this is not a trillion-dollar agenda as we often hear about individual SDGs."

- “Every partner has a different superpower.... In the private sector, Pharma...Think of breweries, think of Coca-Cola, they have tremendous distribution networks and could be wonderful partners in this work.”

Carmen Villar, Merck for Moms

- “For the company [Merck & Co.] to require and rely on so much water usage to maintain clean and sterile environments for manufacturing, for example our vaccines, it’s a very important piece of maintaining quality vaccines and being able to produce quality vaccines for the world.”
- “We know access to clean and safe water in a clinical setting is not always easy to come by in some settings, so I really think that it’s important to elevate these discussions at every level and, even we all know this, but even when our focus might be maternal mortality or it may be something else that we’re working on, WASH plays a key and integral component of being able to provide those services or those interventions.”
- “I think that COVID has brought to light for us, you know, this basic thing that many people have taken for granted around being able to wash your hands if you don’t have clean or running water you can’t really do that.”
- “We as advocates and as leaders in this realm have to remind everyone that at the core of everything we do there needs to be a WASH pillar, or a WASH component.”
- “We know that WASH is critical for everything we do, we know that, but it doesn’t always make the top of the priority list and as leaders we need to remind people across all sectors that this is key to what we do and how we perform well.”

Will Zeck, UNICEF

- “WASH for UNICEF is a prerequisite of quality of care, it’s particularly important to ensure that, you know, childbirth and newborn care is safe.”
- “WASH is an enabler for health system, it’s a force multiplier for, you know, health system improvement.”
- Midwives “can act as role models for practicing handwashing in healthcare facilities... they are the link between WASH systems and the healthcare systems.”

John Borrazzo, World Bank Global Financing Facility

- The absence of WASH in healthcare facilities is both a symptom of and part of, you know, the manifestation of weak health systems and also it relates very directly to the quality of care agenda.”
- We know that shortcomings of sanitation are a real problem in terms of just the respect afforded to patients and facilities.”
- “WASH in healthcare facilities as part of a broader IPC agenda is compliment to the work that has to be done around universal availability of personal protective equipment.”

PAHO, Oct. 14, 2020:

Madam Fabiola Yáñez, First Lady of Argentina

*Water, sanitation and hygiene services are essential to prevent and control infections and guarantee the quality of care, **they are essential to respect the dignity and human rights of anyone who needs medical care and also of the health workers themselves.***

Madam Silvana Abdo, First Lady of Paraguay

*Today more than ever we are aware that water, sanitation and hygiene services, particularly in health facilities, **are essential** for the fulfillment of the SDGs, thus guaranteeing a healthy life and promoting the well-being of all at all ages and the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.*

Her Excellency María Juliana Ruiz Sandoval First Lady of Colombia: “We in Latin America will be leaders... ensuring that these essential services [like WASH] will be available in healthcare facilities for all of our citizens... As Goodwill Ambassador for the 17th SDG [Sustainable Development Goals]... **I call on First Ladies throughout Latin America to join me in championing this cause**...As we commit to champion this regional effort we will also benefit greatly from the support and investment of public and private organizations worldwide.”

Madam María Juliana Ruiz Sandoval, First Lady of Colombia

In this articulated, multisectoral, propositional, solidarity work that we social managers can do, the first ladies, so that in our countries, universal access to health services is a fact and a reality. But above all to that quality, access under principles of adequate use of safe water, sanitation, and hygiene and were of course all health services institutions take on a relevance they deserve.

Senator Bill Frist

- We're all vulnerable when infection prevention, pandemic containment, and antibiotic resistance become deadly uphill battles. **Health emergencies can become catastrophic when illnesses and diseases, easily prevented with soap, clean water and basic sanitation, instead spread and require treatment with overused and misused antibiotics.**

- Federal budgets are tight, which is precisely why, at this time of budget concerns and global health threats, Congress should fully fund WASH and our government should specifically prioritize it in foreign assistance. It's highly effective, cost-efficient, and quite literally a life saver.

U.S. Surgeon General Jerome Adams: The Case for Global Health Diplomacy:

- We talked about remdesiver, we talked about steroids, we talked about vaccines, and those are important. But we have to remember that the way you defeat an infectious disease are those basic tried and true public health practices: Washing your hands, making sure you're staying home if you're sick, keeping your distance from one another.
- The CDC has declared that fresh water, good sanitation is one of the 10 greatest public health achievements, one of the 10 greatest public health achievements globally, in the last 50 years in this country. And we have to remember that still across the globe not everyone and not even every healthcare facility or healthcare professional has equitable access to clean water. To the tools such as PPE to be able to protect themselves. It really is basic. As much as we want to talk about expensive drugs and new innovations, it's washing your hands, it's making sure you have clean water. I think that's something we all need to continue to focus on. We can't forget that because some of us are very fortunate and live in developed countries and have access to these things that that's the norm. we can't assume that's the norm for everyone else out there."

Panel II: The Road to a COVID-19 Vaccine – a Global Public Good - Special Session of the General Assembly in response to the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) Pandemic 12/4/2020

Henrietta H. Fore, Executive Director, United Nations Children's Fund:

"Lastly, they need to make sure they are continuing their everyday health services. Health is not just one vaccination against COVID. It is also everything else that happens at a community health center. Babies still need to be born safely, and their mothers need to survive and be healthy after birth. We need to be sure there is nutrition. We need to be sure there is education and clean water. So it's a community activity, it's an ecosystem, and countries need to be prepared and ready for this."

12/14/2020 Launch: UNICEF/WHO REPORT: *Fundamentals first: Universal water, sanitation, and hygiene services in health care facilities for safe, quality care*

"Working in a health care facility without water, sanitation and hygiene is akin to sending nurses and doctors to work without personal protective equipment. Water supply, sanitation and hygiene in health care facilities are fundamental to stopping COVID-19. But there are still major gaps to overcome, particularly in least developed countries."

- Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General

“Sending healthcare workers and people in need of treatment to facilities without clean water, safe toilets, or even soap puts their lives at risk. This was certainly true before the COVID-19 pandemic, but this year has made these disparities impossible to ignore. As we reimagine and shape a post-COVID world, **making sure we are sending children and mothers to places of care equipped with adequate water, sanitation and hygiene services is not merely something we can and should do. It is an absolute must.**”

- UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore

“For millions of healthcare workers across the world, water is PPE. It is essential that financing keeps flowing to bring water and sanitation services to those battling the COVID crisis on the frontlines. Funding WASH in healthcare facilities is among the most cost-effective investments that governments can make.”

- Jennifer Sara, Global Director for Water at the World Bank Group

“Millions have no option but to seek care from the 50% of health care facilities in the developing world which don't have clean water on the premises. This cannot continue. Every day both healthcare workers' and patients' lives are being put at risk. Without frontline health workers being able to wash their hands; provide their patients with clean water; or have somewhere decent to go to the toilet, a hospital is not a hospital at all - it's a breeding ground for disease.”

- Tim Wainwright, Chief Executive, WaterAid