

WHO GLOBAL WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE ANNUAL REPORT 2019



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WHO global water, sanitation and hygiene: annual report 2019

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Acronyms and abbreviations

AMCOW	African Ministers' Council on Water
AMR	antimicrobial resistance
BMGF	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
COVID-19	coronavirus disease 2019
CR-SSP	climate resilient sanitation safety planning
CR-WSP	climate resilient water safety planning
DFID	Department for International Development, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
DHS	demographic and health survey
ECH	WHO department of Environment, Climate Change and Health
ESA	external support agency
ETRAS	Equipo Técnico Regional de Agua y Saneamiento (Regional technical team on water and sanitation) for PAHO
GDWQ	Guidelines for Drinking-Water Quality
GLAAS	UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water
GPW 13	WHO Thirteenth General Programme of Work 2019–2023
GTFCC	WHO-led Global Task Force on Cholera Control
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (German agency for international development)
HWT	household water treatment
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMI	UN-Water Integrated Monitoring Initiative for Sustainable Development Goal 6
IPC	infection prevention and control
IWA	International Water Association
JMP	WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene
MNCH	maternal, newborn and child health
NBS	National Bureau of Statistics
NGO	nongovernmental organization
NTD	neglected tropical disease
OIE	World Organisation for Animal Health
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
PMAT	Policy Monitoring and Assessment Tool
RegNet	International Network of Drinking-Water Regulators
RWSN	Rural Water Supply Network
SSP	sanitation safety planning
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
Sida	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency

SWA	Sanitation and Water for All
TrackFin	methodology for tracking finance in the WASH sector
UHC	universal health coverage
UNC	University of North Carolina
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WAAW	World Antibiotics Awareness Week
WAPT	WASH Accounts Production Tool
WASH	water, sanitation and hygiene
WASH FIT	WASH for Health Facility Improvement Tool
WHO	World Health Organization
WSH	WHO water, sanitation, hygiene and health unit
WSP	water safety plan (planning)
WSSCC	Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council

Executive summary

With COVID-19 having swept across the world in early 2020, and the global community focusing on its prevention, including through the rapid scale up of hand hygiene, respecting physical distancing and the use of masks, 2019 seems like the distant past. Yet, in the midst of this pandemic, the World Health Organization (WHO) water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) strategic objectives and progress made during 2019 are as relevant now as when envisaged.

In 2019, the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP) and UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS) reports signalled significant underinvestment in hand hygiene and the lack of handwashing facilities even in places where they are most needed (1, 2, 3). Not only did this contribute to excess burden from WASH-related disease, but as understood with the hindsight of 2020, this situation has impeded countries from effectively responding to and recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic.

WHO's standard-setting function for drinking-water, sanitation and hygiene was exercised to its full extent in 2019, with publication of over 35 high-quality publications ranging from comprehensive guidelines, training tools and materials to major global reports as well as websites providing technical support, information and data. These global publications are complemented by numerous publications by WHO regional offices. Please see Annex 1 for a list of all 2019 publications.

These documents contributed to guidance on how to safely manage drinking-water and sanitation and promote hygiene as demanded by the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 global indicator and accountability framework.

Highlights of 2019 results and impacts

- Publication of the **first JMP report on WASH in health care facilities (1)** and the **2019 JMP report on WASH in households (2)**, establishing national, regional and global baseline estimates that contribute towards global monitoring of SDG targets 6.1 and 6.2 – universal access to WASH.
- In May 2019, **all 194 WHO member states unanimously approved World Health Assembly Resolution 72.7 on WASH in health care facilities (4)** and committed to practical actions to improve and sustain WASH services in health care facilities. More than 40 countries are already implementing the resolution. **The document WASH in health care facilities: practical steps to achieve universal access (5)** presents eight practical actions that Member States can take at the

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