



AFRICA CHA PLATFORM



ACHAP Capacity Brief

WASH / IPC

INTRODUCTION

The deficiencies in WASH services extend beyond basic water access, affecting hygiene practices, sanitation, and healthcare waste management. “In 1 in 5 facilities globally, basic water services are lacking, impacting 22% of them, with 857 million people having no access to water in healthcare settings. Furthermore, half of these facilities lack fundamental hygiene services, raising concerns for the care provided to 3.85 billion people”. The gaps in sanitation and healthcare waste management are equally alarming, emphasizing the urgent need for targeted interventions[1].

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goal 6, <https://sdgs.un.org/goals> aims to ‘ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all’ and includes targets for universal access to safe drinking water (6.1), and sanitation and hygiene (6.2).[2]

Access to clean water, proper sanitation, and effective hygiene practices are vital components of public health and well-being. Recognizing the significance of Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) is crucial in promoting global health security and sustainable development. By prioritizing WASH/IPC initiatives, nations can contribute to disease prevention, child health, community well-being, economic growth, and gender equality, ultimately fostering healthier and more resilient societies.

[1] WHO/UNICEF Global progress report June 2023

[2] WHO/UNICEF progress report on Drinking water, Sanitation and Hygiene 2000-2022

ACHAP aspiration:

Improved quality of WASH/IPC in healthcare facilities and communities across the Sub-Saharan Africa

What does ACHAP aim to achieve?

- Enhanced WASH outcomes in Healthcare Facilities (HCFs).
- Reduction in maternal, newborn, and child mortality and morbidity rates.
- Eradication of illnesses associated with inadequate WASH conditions.
- Enhancement of community knowledge, attitudes, and practices regarding appropriate WASH protocols leading to improved Household WASH conditions.

Who is our target?

- Faith communities
- Healthcare workers, support staff and patients.
- Other Community members.
- School going children.

HCFs have improved WASH/IPC services

Approx 32 million people across the SSA have improved Hygiene and sanitation facilities

At least 16.3 million Households across the SSA possess the Basic WASH facilities.

The ACHAP Approach.

Advocacy

- Securing financing and budgetary inclusion for WASH activities in National Budgets.
- Mobilizing donor funding for WASH-related activities.
- Empowering communities to demand high-quality WASH services at Healthcare Facilities (HCFs).
- Advocating for enhanced WASH governance and accountability.
- Facilitating networking opportunities for CHAs to connect with professionals, organizations, and stakeholders in the WASH/IPC domain.

Capacity Building and Training.

- Conducting training sessions for Healthcare Workers and support staff, including cleaners.
- Providing training for CHA staff in WASH data management. (for example, the mWater training).
- Strengthening the capacity of Community Health Workers to address their respective communities' WASH needs. (their role as role models and community champions in advocating and ensuring safe and proper WASH/infection prevention and control practices at the health facilities, reducing the potential spread of infections/diseases especially for mothers expecting to deliver at the linked facilities. They also promote the availability of handwashing stations with soap and water in the households they support).
- Distributing WASH/IPC related resources such as Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials.

Community WASH

- Community Led Total Sanitation.
- Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST)
- Children's Hygiene and Sanitation Training (CHAST)
- Basic WASH facilities and Ideal WASH practices at household level (These practices include using safe drinking water, washing hands with soap and water at key times, safe disposal of excreta, proper solid and liquid waste management, and food hygiene)

WASH in HCFs.

- WASH conditions assessment in Healthcare Facilities.
- Procurement and distribution of WASH/IPC supplies.
- Capacity strengthening for HCWs and cleaners on WASH/IPC standards.



The Africa Christian Health Associations Platform (ACHAP) is a regional faith-based organization providing a platform for advocacy, networking, and capacity building for Christian Health Associations (CHAs) and Church Health Networks in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Established in January 2007 through a declaration of commitment by the 3rd Africa Christian Health Associations Biennial Conference held in Bagamoyo, Tanzania, ACHAP brings together about 40 national level faith-based networks providing services in 32 countries across Sub-Saharan Africa to share resources, establish technical working groups (TWGs), and provide ongoing training and Technical Assistance (TA) to its members.

Members of ACHAP play a critical role in public health as they partner with their governments towards achieving equitable access to quality healthcare in Africa.

CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION

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