WASH in Health Care Facilities and COVID-19

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The Reality
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The Current Situation is Critical

In many lower- and middle-income countries:

• 45% of health care facilities (HCFs) lack basic water service
• 60% lack basic sanitation service
• 43% have no handwashing facilities with soap
• 39% lack adequate infectious waste disposal facilities
• Only 2% of facilities provide all these services!!!

Billions of People are Affected

- 900 million people have NO water service at HCFs
- 1.5 billion people have no sanitation at their HCFs
- Fewer than 25% of HCFs have WASH in delivery room
- No dedicated toilets for women, no space for MHM
- Toilets are filthy, with foul smell, virtually unusable
- 40% of HCFs have no hand hygiene at points of care
With Disastrous Consequences for the Community

- Patients and staff at risk for infections
- Poor hygiene causing water- and hand-borne infections
- 20% infant mortality due to unclean water
- 1,200 children under age 5 die each day from poor sanitation
- 300,000 maternal deaths per year, due to unclean facilities
The COVID-19 Action Plan

In May 2020, the World Health Assembly called for:

“All member states to support access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene, giving attention to the promotion of personal hygienic measures in all settings particularly in health facilities.”
And by 2030, every HCF to:

- Have safe drinking water for staff, caregivers, patients
- Provide safe sanitation for all
- Encourage and facilitate frequent hand hygiene
- Implement regular cleaning and disinfecting
- Manage excreta, feces and urine safely
- Safely manage health care waste

This is an opportunity for Rotarians everywhere
Plus, better management and organization:

- Adequate funding for operation and maintenance
- Effective cost-recovery system
- Trained leadership and management at all levels
- Better technical and administrative support
- Educate and motivate towards WASH goals
- Effective monitoring and feedback
Rotarians are helping communities achieve results:

- Building easy-to-maintain toilets and latrines
- Installing handwashing stands
- Funding water systems, filtration, storage tanks, cisterns etc.
- Installing additional water storage tanks
- Developing cleaning protocols
- Funding MHM programs and materials
- Restoring water services to clinics
Many clubs are already achieving results:
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What we can do about it – a program for Rotary clubs in the time of COVID-19:

- Engage the local health care community
- Assess the situation, analyze results, identify gaps
- Understand potential solutions/programs
- Agree on priorities, set targets, prepare a plan and budget
- Seek partners: Rotary clubs, donors, foundations, corporations, WASH Rotary Action Group
- Motivate the HCF community to change
Rotarians, Rotaractors and Rotary Community Corps are qualified to take the lead:

- We have credibility because of Polio eradication
- Rotarians are the community – they have a vested interest
- They understand local values and culture
- They have contacts, relationships in the community
- They can organize and have the skills to lead change
- They have the global reach; get support from anywhere
- They collaborate with others, form effective teams
WASH Rotary Action Group can help you:

• Mentor and train Rotarians to use assessment tools
• Provide expertise and resources to plan the project/program
• Identify international partner clubs and sources of funding
• Prepare applications for global grants
• Assist in designing the monitoring and evaluation systems
• Advocate for change at all political levels
• Provide protocols for cleaning, operating facilities
“Wisdom is knowing the right thing to do. Integrity is doing it.”

JOIN the WASH Rotary Action Group and MAKE A DIFFERENCE