

## [NEW TOOL FOR ADVOCATES!](#)

**All healthcare facilities must have water, sanitation, hygiene (WASH), waste management & electricity**

### [Good news for global health!](#)

Recognizing no healthcare facility can provide safe care without water and sanitation, electricity, and a way to manage human and medical waste, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) passed a landmark [Resolution](#) to get these basics into all healthcare facilities by 2030. This unanimous commitment was made by all countries at the highest level.

### [What does this UNGA Resolution mean for advocates?](#)

This Resolution provides concrete opportunities for you—WASH, health, energy, climate advocates and community members—to join forces to raise awareness, pressure decisionmakers, hold leaders to account, and promote progress.

*Here's how:*

- **Inform** your leaders (local, regional, national) that your country signed onto this [Resolution](#) and companion “how to” documents, the [Global Framework for Action](#) (WHO/UNICEF.)
- **Invite** your leaders to visit healthcare facilities and see conditions for themselves. When they do, many are shocked at what they see and become committed to improving conditions.
- **Highlight the urgency** of this healthcare crisis because it leads to [maternal/newborn illness and death](#), [preventable infections](#), [antibiotic resistance](#), and [unsafe basic healthcare](#). During outbreaks like COVID, Ebola, cholera and more, staff and patients can't even adequately wash their hands.
- **Advocate for smart investment** because studies show the lack of WASH comes at a [tremendous cost](#), amounting to [billions of dollars](#).
- **Engage healthcare facility staff** so they know they can demand a safe and dignified working environment, and training on WASH and infection prevention and control (IPC).
- **Engage communities** to call for a safe and clean healthcare environment for their families.
- **Say thank you** when leaders make progress.

### [Background](#)

Clearly no healthcare facility should ever be expected to operate without WASH, waste management, and electricity. Yet hundreds of thousands do, posing daily danger to patients, staff, and global health. The [numbers](#) are astounding: In the 46 least-developed countries, almost 50% of healthcare facilities lack basic water services, 79% lack sanitation services, 68% lack basic hygiene services like handwashing, and 66% lack basic waste management. Middle-income countries don't fare that much better. Billions of people are impacted, including one billion who have unreliable or no [electricity](#) in healthcare facilities serving low- and middle-income countries.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres issued the first [Call to Action](#) in 2018, then the World Health Assembly passed a [WASH in healthcare facilities Resolution](#) with [WHO/UNICEF's 8 Practical Steps](#) as guidance. This guide helped countries assess facilities to identify needs, costs, and make simple improvements. But far less action has been taken on budgeting, infrastructure, monitoring, and health workforce training.

### [What's next?](#)

Finally! These essential components of healthcare have a place in global health and development. UNGA's Resolution secures government commitments to increase progress with coordination and collaboration, funding and technical support, and by identifying bottlenecks. **Countries** are to integrate WASH, waste, and energy services for healthcare facilities into national health planning, programming, financing, monitoring and evaluation; and to empower their health workforce to secure and maintain these vital services. **Partner governments and organizations** are to increase financing and technical assistance, strengthen existing initiatives, bolster data collection. **UN agencies** are to strengthen their service as hubs for coordinating technical assistance and partnerships, evaluating data, sharing best practices.

The UN Secretary-General is required to provide a global progress report in 2025.