Clean birth, safe birth
Water, sanitation and hygiene for maternal and newborn health

The World Health Organization’s ‘six cleans’ for a safe birth

1. Clean hands
2. Clean mother
3. Clean delivery surface
4. Clean cord cutting
5. Clean cord tying
6. Clean cord care

A clean birth requires water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH):
Convenient and consistent access to sufficient quantities of safe water for hygiene and consumption.
Safe disposal of wastes from delivery, and access to basic sanitation facilities for patients and staff.
Access to and use of disinfecting materials for washing hands, bodies, laundry, surfaces and instruments.

The current situation

In more than 66,000 health-care facilities across 54 low- and middle-income countries...

- 38% do not have an improved water source
- 19% do not have improved sanitation
- 35% do not have water and soap for handwashing

Where there is poor WASH coverage, death rates from infection are high...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Water Coverage</th>
<th>Newborn Mortality Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Namibia</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


To address this crisis, we need a bold and ambitious action plan

Joint implementation and monitoring to achieve Goal 3 (health) and Goal 6 (water & sanitation) in the new 2030 Agenda.
Consistent methods for measuring WASH in health-care facilities on an international scale.

Joint action from national governments, health-care providers, WASH practitioners, academics and research institutions, donors and civil society.
National plans and standards for WASH in health-care facilities.

Leadership from the health sector and strong political will and commitment to WASH.
Increased funding for WASH infrastructure in health-care facilities and building staff capacity.

www.wateraid.org/healthystart