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

Clean hands 1

Clean mother 2

Clean cord care 6

The World Health Organisation's 'six cleans' for a safe birth

Clean delivery surface 3

Clean cord tying 5

Clean cord cutting 4

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...[1]

38% do not have an improved water source
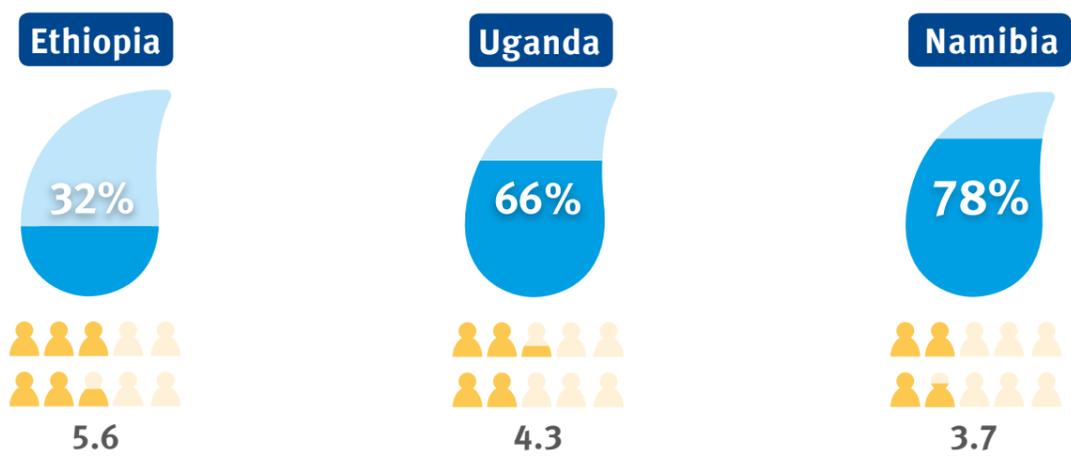
19% do not have improved sanitation

35% do not have water and soap for handwashing

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

Water coverage of health care facilities:[1]

Newborn mortality rate from sepsis and tetanus per 1,000 live births:[2]

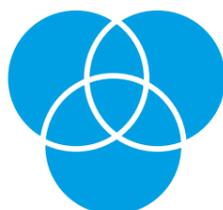| Ethiopia	Uganda	Namibia
32%	66%	78%
5.6	4.3	3.7

[1] World Health Organisation & United Nations' Children's Fund. (2015). Water, sanitation and hygiene in health care facilities: Status in low- and middle – income countries and ways forward.

[2] Liu L et al. (2014). Global , regional, and national causes of child mortality in 2000 – 13, with projections to inform post-2015 priorities: An updated systematic analysis .

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

A dedicated water and sanitation goal in the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and **inclusion of WASH in targets** on gender equality, maternal and child mortality and universal health coverage.

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 staffing capacity.

Mamaye! evidence for action

Healthy Start

WaterAid