



# **GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN WASH GUIDANCE 2019-2021**



**Save the Children**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

## OUR VISION

A world in which every child affected by an emergency wherever she/he is – at home or displaced; in schools; and in health institutions – has the right and access to safe water supply and adequate sanitation facilities and is enabled to perform basic hygiene.

## OUR MISSION

As a means of achieving the SC Breakthroughs (Survive, Learn, Be Protected) we aim to:

1. Reduce morbidity and mortality of children exposed to poor WASH conditions, wherever they are living (including homes, camps and institutions), and improve quality of care through WASH interventions in health facilities (HFs);
2. Enhance hygiene practices, dignity, attendance and learning outcomes in schools and temporary learning spaces;
3. Design and implement WASH programming in a way that does not put children or their families at risk, and where they are protected against dangerous situations and physical environments.

This mission will be attained through safe, timely, and quality access to essential WASH services and goods.

## OUR VALUES

1. Involve children and their families in decision-making processes, improving their resilience to disasters;
2. Unite humanitarian and development WASH programs;
3. Collaborate with other sectors and external partners across geographic, thematic and operational priorities;
4. Run innovative, effective, efficient and results-focused programs with creativity and environmental protection components;
5. Ensure integrity, enhance motivation of WASH staff and support their technical skills development;
6. Align with the nine Core Humanitarian Standards as they are embraced by SC;
7. Be guided by the WASH Child Safe-guarding and Safe Programming guidance.

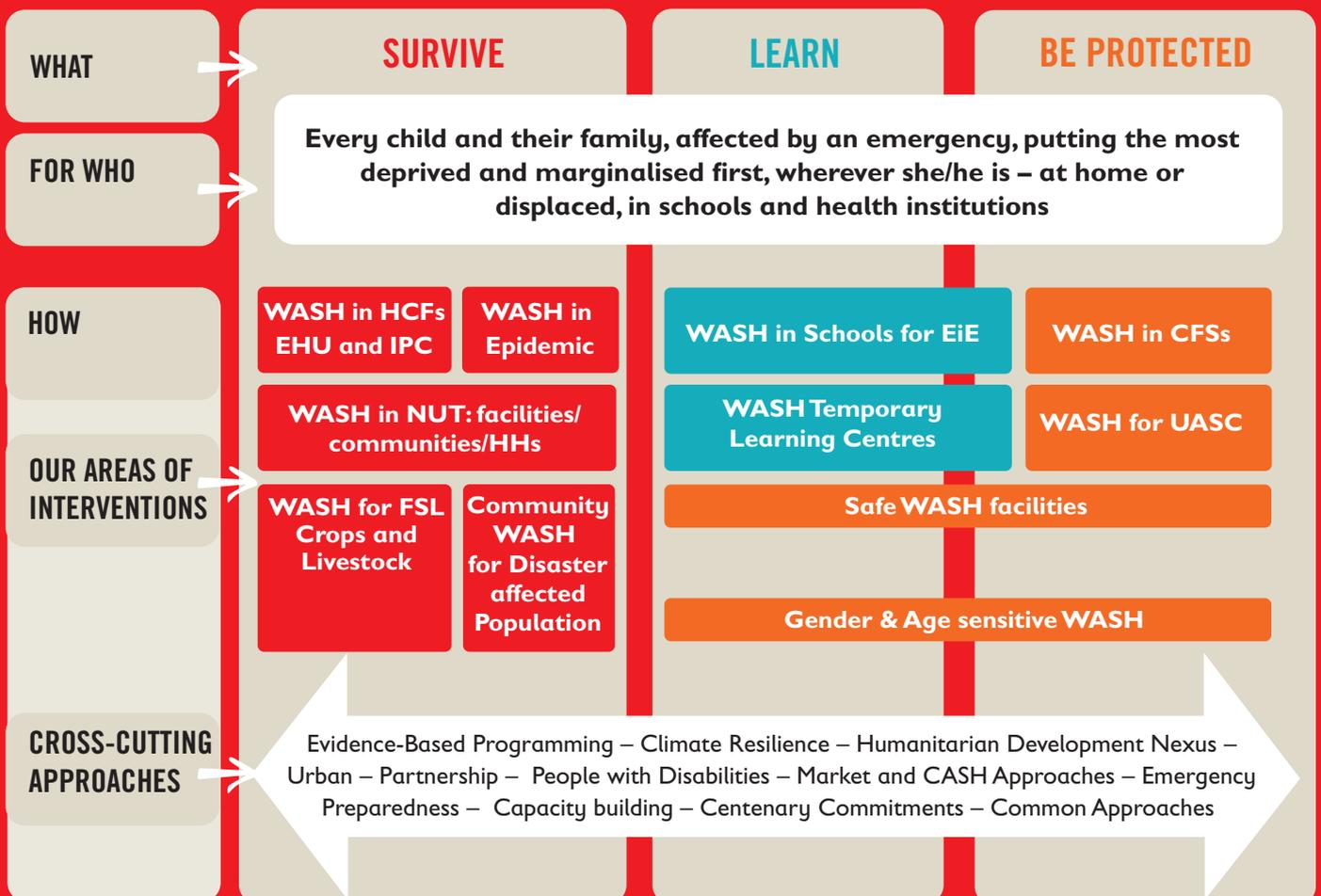
**WASH will proactively integrate relevant WASH activities to achieve HSG areas of focus:**

- Emergency Health Unit;
- CASH and Market based programming;
- Protecting Children in Conflict;
- Education in Emergency.





SC Humanitarian WASH Framework – Alignment of Humanitarian WASH with Ambition 2030



# THE WAY WASH CONTRIBUTES TO THE SURVIVE BREAKTHROUGH

*The Survive Breakthrough aims to ensure that “No child dies from preventable causes before their fifth birthday”.*

WASH programs will contribute to the Survive Breakthrough through a balanced approach of hygiene promotion (motivating practice) and WASH infrastructure activities (improving access) in humanitarian settings.

- **WASH and Infection Prevention and Control in Health Facilities**

During humanitarian crises, functional health care facilities (HFs) are of key importance to deliver effective primary and secondary care, including maternal and neonatal child health, and thus prevent mortality and reduce morbidities across children and other affected populations. **WASH services aimed at functional HFs** are essential for quality medical care and preventing transmission of deadly nosocomial infections.

- **WASH in Nutrition**

WASH in Nutrition focuses on the 3 pillar approach:

1. Reducing WASH-related risks at **household levels** for families with malnourished and sick children;
2. Improving access to protected water points, appropriate sanitation services and capacities for management, operation and maintenance in **communities with high prevalence** of WASH-related diseases, stunting and wasting, and;
3. Improving the quality of care in Health and Nutrition programmes at the **institutional level**.

- **WASH in disease outbreaks, epidemics and pandemics**

By integrating with SC Health programmes, SC Humanitarian WASH will contribute to the preparedness, prevention and control of the major WASH-related infectious diseases. With sets of pre-identified interventions, the WASH teams will strive to tackle the following diseases' transmission routes: i) **faecal-oral** (e.g. cholera), **body-fluids** (e.g. Ebola and other VHF), **airborne** (e.g. influenza), and **vector-borne** (e.g. zika, malaria, etc.).

- **Community WASH for disaster affected population**

For general populations affected by disasters and conflicts, in order to reduce the exposure to negative health consequences, the SC objectives are to i) ensure basic water and sanitation community services, reduce the risk of excreta-related contaminations, iii) promote positive nutrition, hygiene and health behaviours and to iv) facilitates community capacity strengthening and engagement.

- **WASH for Food Security and Livelihood**

To effectively address children morbidity and mortality, the Humanitarian WASH team aims to continue to focus on coordinating and integrating with Emergency Food Security and Livelihood (E-FSL). For SC, WASH and FSL collaborations are unique opportunities to consider cross-cutting themes and modalities and are fundamental in contributing to malnutrition outcomes with a **focus on access, availability and use of food** in fragile countries by working around survival breakthroughs.

- **WASH and Pneumonia (a SC centenary commitment)**

Undernutrition, insufficient handwashing and environmental risks are the main underlying causes of pneumonia globally and particularly in humanitarian contexts. Poor WASH conditions and practices increase the risk of childhood diarrheal, environmental enteric dysfunction, soil-transmitted helminth infections, and undernutrition, which in turn are well known to contribute to the spread of pneumonia across disaster affected populations. SC's Centenary Commitment on Pneumonia aims to set the world on course to eradicate preventable pneumonia deaths by 2030, an aim which cannot be achieved without WASH.

## THE WAY WASH CONTRIBUTES TO THE LEARN BREAKTHROUGH

### *WASH in schools in emergencies*

Our cumulative experience at SC has shown that for WASH in schools and temporary learning centres (TLCs) in emergencies, require, to the extent possible, a balance of technical (hardware) and human development (software) components to be successful. TLC's are vital during the humanitarian response to start or continue children's education and general socio-economic recovery.

## THE WAY WASH CONTRIBUTES TO THE PROTECT BREAKTHROUGH

In emergencies, children's risks and exposure to violence, abuse, neglect, exploitation and physical dangers linked to SC operations are heightened. For example, violations can take place in health clinics, during food distribution or while accessing and using WASH facilities. Many threats to the safety and wellbeing of children can

be diminished or even eradicated through timely and child-sensitive provision of humanitarian aid across all sectors, including WASH. Therefore, mainstreaming child protection in WASH is an essential part of compliance with the 'do no harm' principle that applies to all humanitarian action.

The Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action (CPMS)<sup>1</sup> provides a solid foundation for integration of WASH with Child Protection (CP). SC WASH teams will align with the CPMS, and the 5 Minimum commitments for safety and dignity of affected people.

### *Safe WASH facilities*

The provision of safe WASH facilities are key as a means of avoiding any fatalities and serious injuries SC Humanitarian WASH teams strive at all times to protect children from dangerous situations.

### *WASH in Child Friendly Spaces*

WASH in child friendly spaces is of fundamental importance to ensure suitable and healthy spaces for children, where the water, sanitation and hygiene are delivered respecting minimum standards in emergencies.



<sup>1</sup> Minimum Standards for Child Protection in humanitarian action. Child Protection Working Group (CPWG) (2012). This Strategy already align with the upcoming new edition of the CPMS due on October 2019.

# CROSS-CUTTING

WASH can be divided into a variety of external thematic factors such as children in urban settings, climate resilience and the humanitarian development nexus. Each of these sub-themes play a vital role in our WASH programming.

Similarly gender and age sensitive WASH and disabilities are vital in order to avoid harm caused by children not using certain facilities because they are not adapted to them.

Effective emergency preparedness (EP) ensures SC is better able to save lives, alleviate suffering and preserve human dignity at the onset of emergencies. In our emergency preparedness, SC focuses on placing context-based technical preparation of teams and programmes through WASH.

Emergencies capacity development of staff and partners will play a crucial role at all levels; analysing lessons learned from past emergencies; and engagement with Global WASH cluster members, universities and national organizations.



In addition, in term of transversal programmatic aspects, the Humanitarian WASH teams include



**EMERGENCY  
PREPAREDNESS**



**CAPACITY  
BUILDING**



**MARKET-BASED  
PROGRAMMING**



**PARTNERSHIPS**



**EVIDENCE BASE  
PLANNING**



**SC COMMON  
APPROACHES**

# OUR STRATEGIC APPROACHES OR FOCUS

SC aims to focus on essential recommendations which include:

## **Increasing an emphasis on integrated humanitarian WASH programming for children**

The SC unique mandate as a multi-sectoral, child focused organization can enable the WASH unit to:

- lead integrated WASH and child protection programming, focusing on emergency WASH for children and child-safe WASH programming;
- maintain focus on the Humanitarian Public Health and “survive” related outcomes, including WASH in epidemics and in Health Care facilities;
- sustain the support to Education in Emergencies programming, namely with more resilient schools and in TLCs;
- boosting programmatic linkages between the humanitarian and development WASH sectors.

## **Demand driven and building a further evidence base**

SC will evolve our WASH programming to be adaptive and flexible to meet the demands of various SC workstreams as well as new global challenges, including protracted crises; gender inequality and the humanitarian-development nexus.

The needs of the most vulnerable and marginalised children will be prioritised.

Robust methodologies will be applied to build evidence on best practices and innovative approaches putting children and their caregivers at the centre of our programming.

## **Capacity building**

In line with Grand Bargain recommendations, SC recognises the need of localizing expertise and capacities. SC will strive to build the next generation of WASH experts, capacity development initiatives will be delivered to and coordinated with national, regional and global WASH stakeholders.

The following are SC strategic directions:

- Safe and sustainable programming for children;
- Linking and integrating Humanitarian WASH work with others sectors;
- Using and adapting the existing capacity building modules on Emergency WASH for children;

At Global level SC is co-leading with partners on the Capacity Building recommendation of the Global WASH Cluster.

## **Quality programming**

SC will focus on further improving quality of WASH programming and reporting. This entails better knowledge management, better program data collection and data sharing. Additional efforts will be put in improving, increasing and centralizing WASH documentation and resources with a focus on:

- Diverse tools, approaches, resources and guidelines, adapted to various contexts, as well as standardized and analysed for replicability and scalability (see IMPACT and COMPASS);
- Improving evaluation and monitoring tools such as Humanitarian WASH in Public Health crises;
- Thorough and approved SC WASH knowledge products made more visible to the international humanitarian community.

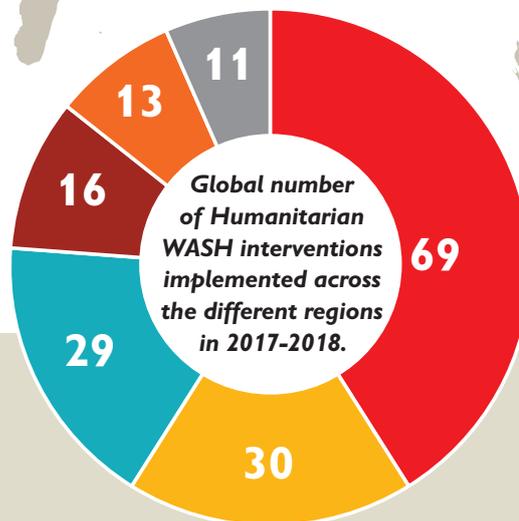
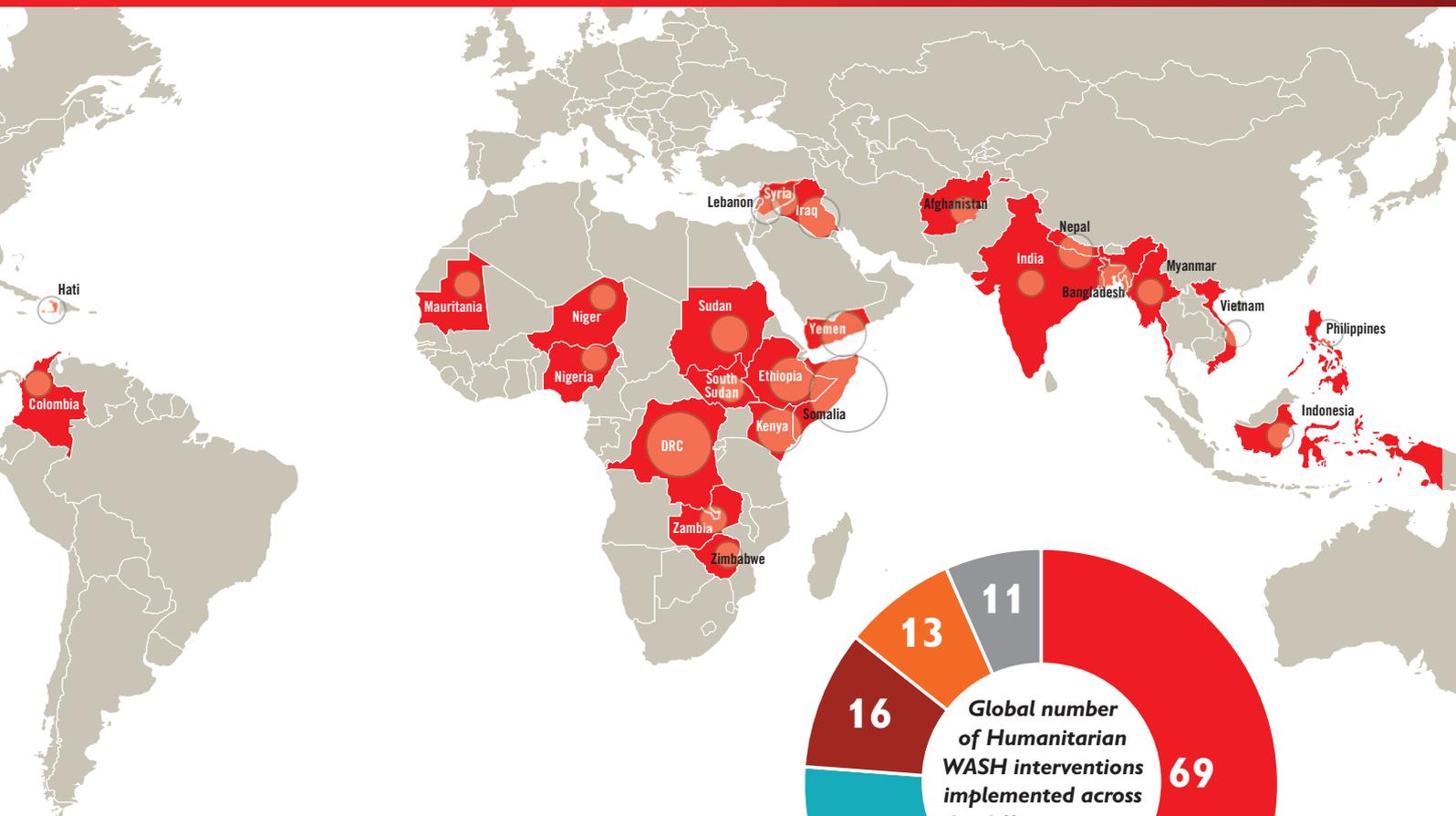
## **Advocacy and thought leadership being the voice for children on Humanitarian WASH**

Further emphasis on increasing advocacy of Humanitarian WASH both within SC and externally:

- SC is in a strategic position to influence WASH for children and must be much more vocal in related advocacy;
- Systematically linking to SC Health and Nutrition, Education and Child Protection programs and with the further emphasizes on articulating these linkages better;
- Articulating the work in WASH as supporting to different extent the three Breakthroughs.



# 8 MILLION WASH BENEFICIARIES



Humanitarian WASH Global portfolio 2017-2018



For information or to get in touch with the team:

[Humanitarian.WASH@savethechildren.org.uk](mailto:Humanitarian.WASH@savethechildren.org.uk)