

Financing WASH in HCF as part of COVID-19 response

Dear WASH in HCF Colleagues,

We have received requests for information regarding funding opportunities to improve WASH in healthcare facilities as LMICs prepare and respond to the outbreak. **Our team has [compiled a Google Sheet summarizing COVID-19 funding opportunities](#)**, which we will continue to update as more opportunities become available.

In addition, we have noted [key takeaways](#) from our research:

- Large funders are primarily donating directly to countries, the WHO, or pre-existing partners
- Funders are currently looking to protect their own countries
- At the moment, there is a lack of investment for COVID-19 related initiatives in LMICs, particularly in Latin America and Africa.
- Emergency relief efforts are largely void of WASH considerations, perhaps because this outbreak began in countries where WASH is not a major concern. We need to make the case for why WASH must be included when addressing COVID-19 in LMICs!
- Funding opportunities are opening and closing rapidly

Leading organizations and individuals are allocating funds for COVID-19 response. Now is a unique opportunity to connect these funders of the COVID-19 response to development partners like you who are gearing up to address immediate needs in healthcare in LMICs. As we fight the spread of COVID-19 and protect our healthcare workers, we are simultaneously working to build a foundation of preparedness and stronger health facilities for the long-term.

This protracted crisis will require development partners to assist in this shift from response to resiliency. Organizations that are experienced in implementing WASH programs can provide clean water and hygienic capacity immediately, while at the same time providing training and operation & maintenance expertise for transitioning from emergency response to longer-term health systems strengthening.

How should non-profits move forward in these circumstances?

- Speak with existing funding partners about opportunities to expand programming, with a focus on COVID-19.
- Work with in-country donors: for instance, Nigerian donors who want to donate to causes within Nigeria. Where there is a match with a donor in terms of geographic location or other factors, we encourage you to describe the benefits of integrating WASH into these responses and preparedness measures.
- As the pandemic intensifies in LMICs and the news picks up on it, it is expected that we will see a larger response from donors. Keep checking back on opportunities.

For more information, please contact me or Global Water 2020 Principal Hank Habicht (hhabicht@globalwater2020.org).

Warm regards,

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