



## Solutions for Improving Essential Environmental Conditions in Healthcare Facilities in Low- and Middle-Income Countries

Guest Editors:

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Deadline for manuscript  
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### Message from the Guest Editors

One of the most critical issues hampering health systems in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) is the lack of essential environmental conditions in healthcare facilities (HCFs). Essential environmental conditions include adequate environmental health infrastructure (e.g., water supply, sanitation facilities, waste management), sufficient environmental hygiene items for infection prevention and control (IPC) (e.g., soap, gloves), clean surfaces, and appropriate hygienic behaviours. A lack of essential environmental conditions can impede the delivery of quality healthcare and contribute to healthcare-acquired infection (HAI). Rates of HAIs in LMICs are estimated to be 16% and contribute to an estimated 1 million maternal and neonatal deaths each year from unhygienic practices at or after birth. The 2019 report from the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation, and Hygiene (JMP) indicated that one in four HCFs in LMICs lack a basic water service, one in five has no sanitation facility, two in five have no hand hygiene at points of care, and two in five have no systems for waste segregation.





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## Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Addressing the environmental and public health challenges requires engagement and collaboration among clinicians and public health researchers. Discovery and advances in this research field play a critical role in providing a scientific basis for decision-making toward control and prevention of human diseases, especially the illnesses that are induced from environmental exposure to health hazards. *IJERPH* provides a forum for discussion of discoveries and knowledge in these multidisciplinary fields. Please consider publishing your research in this high quality, peer-reviewed, open access journal.

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