

# **PLUMBING FOR HEALTH: PHILIPPINES COLLABORATION**

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## **CONCEPT NOTE: PILOT PROJECT / LAUNCH 2023—2024**

### **Overview**

- **What:**

A pilot *Plumbing For Health* collaboration, emerging from the WHO-UNICEF *WASH in HCF* Global Summit in Amman, Jordan (June 2023). This pilot project will demonstrate and deliver a range of practical infrastructure improvements in one or more healthcare facilities, with specific focus on providing new or improved plumbing systems. This collaboration will initiate a 'country model for scale up' intended for the WHO-UNICEF *WASH in HCF* 2023-30 Global Action Plan; and will also map to the Philippines Healthcare Facility Development Plan 2020-2040, the Green and Safe Health Facility Manual (2021); and WASH FIT Guidelines (2023).

- **Where:**

This project will be launched in the Philippines, initially targeting a range of healthcare facilities located in the Manila metro area. Selected site(s) will be strategically best positioned to involve professionals, other industry and educational institutions in close proximity.

- **Why:**

Demonstrating plumbing industry engagement in order to build plumbing system implementation into the WHO-UNICEF WASHFIT framework and overall 'greening' process. Creating a framework for CSR supports from other sectors, for adoption in the Global Action Plan 2023-30; i.e. the international plumbing industry stepping up and leading the way.

- **When:**

Scoping visits and meetings will be carried out in November 2023, targeting a first *Plumbing For Health* project or implementation activity in the first half of 2024; likely Q2, and before wet season in the region. Partners intend to establish a multi-year/long-term ongoing *Plumbing For Health* program based on this 2024 pilot project.

- **How:**

This initiative will be co-ordinated under the WHO-World Plumbing Council (WPC) Collaboration Plan 2024—2026, engaging partner and member organizations in the Western Pacific Region. The Philippine Society of Sanitary Engineers (PSSE) will be established as the main delivery mechanism in-country, with WHO Philippines/Department of Health *WASH in HCF* team as local hosts and co-ordinators. IWSH Foundation will act as primary international organizer, drawing resources and supports from IAPMO hubs in Australia and Indonesia. Necessary MOU(s) will be established between respective parties to enable this collaboration.

The 2024 pilot project will feature renovation or upgrade of plumbing facilities at healthcare facility location(s) identified by PSSE and WHO Philippines partners, nominated following initial scoping visits in November 2023. Each renovation component will be documented against existing building codes, standards and WHO guidelines agreed, creating a case study and framework for broader healthcare facility plumbing improvement works elsewhere in the country, in future. The pilot project will also involve side activities promoting vocational education and training, and public health information/awareness to gain maximum engagement and exposure for the *WASH in HCF* program and the plumbing industry partners involved.

## Partners / Stakeholders — Roles and responsibilities

- **World Plumbing Council (WPC)**  
WPC is a non-state actor in official relations with WHO. WPC will support financing and promotion of the new *Plumbing for Health* initiative in the Philippines, plus further recruitment of volunteers and technical expert participants from across its international member network.  
More info: <http://www.worldplumbing.org/>
- **Philippines Society of Sanitary Engineers (PSSE)**  
PSSE will provide local and national co-ordination in the Philippines, including community liaison, technical services, labour, and procurement. PSSE is a WPC member.  
More info: <https://psse.org.ph/>
- **International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO)**  
IAPMO will deploy its charitable foundation, IWSH (see below) as delivery platform for the initiative. IAPMO will provide further governmental relations, code development and compliance supports via regional offices. IAPMO is also WPC member.  
More info: <https://www.iapmo.org/>
- **International Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Foundation (IWSH)**  
IWSH will work closely with PSSE to organize and co-ordinate the *Plumbing for Health* initiative, to include project management and technical services on behalf of WPC plus further international fundraising, marketing and communications. IWSH is also a WPC member.  
More info: <https://iwsf.org/>
- **Philippines Department of Health**  
PSSE will direct connection and co-operation as necessary.  
More info: <https://ncroffice.doh.gov.ph/>
- **WHO Philippines national office**  
PSSE will direct connection and co-operation as necessary.  
More info: <https://www.who.int/philippines>

- **WHO West Pacific regional office**  
PSSE will direct connection and co-operation as necessary.  
More info: <https://www.who.int/westernpacific/>

### Other potential / target partnerships:

For further development between PSSE and IWSH project managers in due course —

- UNICEF Supply Division.
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia (DFAT).
- U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).
- Mapua University — Environmental and Sanitary Engineering departments.
- Philippine Water Works Association (PWWA).
- Professional Regulation Commission — Board of Sanitary Engineering.
- Water Environment Federation's Technical Exhibition and Conference (WEFTEC).
- Water Environment Association of the Philippines (WEAP).
- WorldSkills Philippines — operated via TESDA / The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority.
- Financial partners including World Bank, Global Fund, Asian Development Bank (ADB), Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC).
- Regional Master Plumbers associations — as directed by PSSE.

### Objectives

- Present and share an ongoing series of *Plumbing For Health* implementation case studies and experiences back to the WHO-UNICEF *WASH in HCF* network / Global Summit network via recommended WHO communications platforms, to include the following aspects and approaches:
  - Engineering / design and construction (plumbing-focussed but incorporating further building trades particularly re. electrical/energy)
  - Labor organization
  - Workforce development, education and training (promoting the skilled trades)
  - Costing and financing
  - Supply chain (tested and certified quality products, tools, materials)
  - Operations and maintenance
  - Community engagement, awareness and behavioural change
  - Marketing, communications and promotional approaches for further public outreach including media and local authority / policymaker engagement (inc. UN SDGs)
- Leverage the collaboration to address further updates to the Uniform Plumbing Code Philippines (UPCP), specifically related to climate resiliency (i.e. 'Green Plumbing').
  - Create specific update/addendum for UPCP re. *WASH in HCF*. (e.g. *Plumbing Standards for Health Facilities*)

- Leverage further *WASH in HCF* /WASHFIT awareness and capacity in the region, via WHO Western Pacific Regional Office (WPRO) network, supporting and building on the current DFAT Australia-supported program.

## Timeframe

- July-Nov 2023: Concept Note development in Consultation with IAPMO, PRC, PSSE and WHO
- Oct 2023: WHO Philippines / WPRO feature presentation at World Plumbing Conference 2023 (Shanghai, China)
- Nov 2023 TBC: Scoping visit and meetings to identify target healthcare facilities for 2024 pilot project, including presentation at PSSE National Convention.
- Q2 TBC: *Plumbing for Health* pilot project/event delivery.
- June 2024: Update presentation to twice-annual PSSE National Convention of Sanitary Engineers (location TBC).
- Recurring annual / potential target dates and milestones include World Plumbing Day / World Water Day (every March), national Hospital Week (every August), national Environmental Health Day (every Sept); World Toilet Day (every November).

## Other opportunities (to be explored)

- Developing a WASH education and awareness campaign re. *Plumbing for Health* for Philippine schools, connecting and collaborating with UNICEF and the Philippines Department of Education.
- Involving and engaging Philippine student organizations from the Sanitary Engineering field.
- Continuous advocacy to the Philippines Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) for UPCP as the National Building Code reference code for plumbing.