



## WASH in Emergencies — Minimum Standards Card

*When the water stops, the power fails or the population doubles: the minimum quantities, the priorities, and the first 48 hours*

| Need                                  | Minimum in an emergency                                                     | Note                                           |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Water — outpatients                   | 5 L per consultation                                                        | Drinking and hand washing                      |
| Water — inpatients                    | 40–60 L per patient per day                                                 | Includes cleaning and laundry                  |
| Water — operating theatre / maternity | 100 L per intervention                                                      |                                                |
| Water — cholera treatment             | 60 L per patient per day                                                    | Plus 0.5 % chlorine for surfaces               |
| Toilets                               | 1 per 20 inpatients; 1 per 50 outpatients; separate by sex;<br>1 accessible | Within 30 m of wards                           |
| Hand-washing stations                 | 1 per 10 beds and at every toilet and point of care                         | Soap, or hand rub (Toolkit 2 local production) |
| Free chlorine at the tap              | 0.5–1.0 mg/L in outbreaks                                                   | Test twice daily                               |
| Waste                                 | Segregation maintained; protected pit and burning as a last resort          | Never open dumping                             |
| Power                                 | Backup for delivery, theatre, emergency, cold chain — 72 h                  | Fuel log                                       |

### First 48 hours

1. Assess: what works — water, toilets, power, waste? What is the population now?
2. Protect drinking water first: chlorinate or boil; label safe points.
3. Hand hygiene everywhere: distribute hand rub; set up buckets with taps and soap where water is short.
4. Toilets: repair, or dig trench latrines at the ratio above, 30 m from water and wards.
5. Waste and sharps: keep segregating; secure the store; no burning near wards.
6. Request support with the WASH FIT plan (Tool 2) attached: quantities, not adjectives.

Quantities from the Sphere Handbook (2018) and WHO Essential environmental health standards in health care (2008).

**ASF standards:** Crisis category — adapted criteria (means of verification: this card in the emergency plan); Standard 3