

Globally, an estimated **2.3 billion people are at risk of contracting infectious diseases** simply because they do not have handwashing facilities at home, and **1.8 billion people risk illness** because they use or work in a healthcare facility without basic water services.

In Ethiopia

92% of the population

42% of health care facilities

85% of the primary and **75%** of the secondary schools lack access to a basic handwashing facility with a water supply and soap.



Hand hygiene is one of the personal hygiene components and is believed it highly contributes in improving health, saving lives by preventing infections, and thereby guaranteeing good health and contributing to social and economic development. Ethiopia, for a long time, has been an example of political will and cross-sector coordination on WASH interventions and programs like the Health Extension Program, Hygiene & Environmental Health strategy, CLTSH guideline, Infection Prevention & Control strategy, School WASH strategy, and implementation guideline. Additionally, since the commencement of the ONE WASH National Program a series of promotions on hand hygiene at community, health care facilities, and schools have been done as an intervention package along with campaigns.

Despite the continued effort of the government and development partners, hand hygiene practice and service coverage remains low. To alleviate the low coverage and increase political commitment, Hand Hygiene for All (HH4A) national roadmap was developed with the leadership of the Ministry of health and the engagement of other sectors and stakeholders. In the development process, the COVID-19 pandemic was a key driver to strengthen the existing interventions toward hand hygiene. COVID-19 galvanized and focused political commitment and engagement for the development of national hand hygiene for all-costed roadmap.

The roadmap is designed to address the existing gaps in hand hygiene access and practices, and serves as a guiding document for achieving global and national commitments. It also shows the pathway from the current low status of hand hygiene practice to the desired goal of achieving universal access to handwashing facilities and services and a culture of practice. The roadmap includes three major strategic actions that will be the game-changers in terms of scaling up handwashing practice. The roadmap's interrelated strategic objectives will be contributing to meeting the broader goal. These strategic objectives include.

1. Sustainable Behaviour changes interventions
2. Functional and well-organized service delivery
3. Strong enabling environment



WaterAid/Behailu Shiferaw

The roadmap was designed to 'Respond' to the pandemic in the short term, 'Rebuild' the system for hand hygiene in the medium term, and 'Reimagine' a fundamental shift in attitude and behavior, so that hand hygiene becomes habitual and a culture.

The major government sectors that are responsible for the successful implementation of this roadmap are the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, and OWNP (ONE WASH National Program) that are expected to provide hand hygiene facilities at health care facilities and schools including hygiene behaviour change activities. The Hand hygiene roadmap implementation will be coordinated under the existing WASH coordination platform – One WASH National Programme – which integrates the Water, Education, Health, and Financing sectors.

The total estimated cost for the realization of this HH4A roadmap is \$2,789,668,096.43 over a ten years period. Successful implementation of the HH4A campaign will require the committed involvement of different stakeholders that including the community, government, donors, and development partners. The government will cover 14.6% of the estimated budget and play the leading role, another 14.6% of the overall budget is expected to come from different partners and the remaining 71% budgetary contribution is expected from the community.

WaterAid is delighted to announce that Ethiopia's Ministry of Health has launched the National Hand Hygiene for All Roadmap. The roadmap vision aligns with WaterAid's vision to end the water, sanitation, and hygiene crisis together – for everyone, everywhere and accessing everyone everywhere with clean water and soap to wash their hands which will achieve productive and healthy citizens. WaterAid believes this roadmap will serve as a guiding document to accelerate the hand hygiene practices of Ethiopians and will make our vision a reality.

Finally, we call every stakeholder of the HH4A roadmap to invest in hand hygiene in order to improve health, safeguard against infectious diseases, and protect communities from future health crises.

Together we can unlock people's potential with clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene. Without all three, people can't live dignified, healthy lives.