

Situation update

w/c 1 June 2020



The latest programme updates from across our work during COVID-19



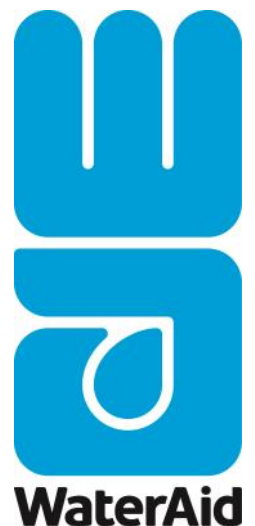
WaterAid/Signus/Edson Artur

WaterAid Mozambique is running a mobile billboard campaign across 43 municipal districts of Maputo to raise awareness of good hygiene and handwashing with soap as the first line of defence against COVID-19.



WaterAid Zambia

WaterAid Zambia is working with local partners to construct handwashing stations that can be operated by wheelchair users.



Global overview and country programme updates



The latest COVID-19 global status

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases now stands at 5.9m across 215 countries and territories, an increase of about 1.45m over the past two weeks, or about 100,000 new cases a day.

A third of those cases, (1.73m), are in the US, where over 15m tests have been conducted. The World Health Organization (WHO) says that the focus of the COVID-19 outbreak has now shifted to the Americas, where the US and Brazil now contribute more than half of all global cases.

In Nicaragua - where WHO has declared that it has entered phase 4 (local transmission) - there are accusations of underreporting. While the impact of the virus is still to be determined, we are scaling up our efforts to ensure that hygiene and handwashing with

soap is promoted as the first line defence against the spread of infection.

Globally, there have been 362,000 deaths, an increase of 60,000 over the past two weeks. Some 2.5m people have recovered from COVID-19 since Johns Hopkins University began tracking data.

Elsewhere, countries are looking at easing or tightening lockdown restrictions, depending on where they are in the trajectory of the epidemic and what political or economic pressures they are responding to. WHO has pointed to new clusters or spikes of cases in some countries as indicative that the pandemic has not yet passed its peak, and cautioned countries against lifting restrictions too fast.

Work continues on the search for a vaccine, with several pharmaceutical companies predicting they are close to a breakthrough, although none are expected to be available for use for at least 18 months. Scientists have expressed caution that the world has never been able to develop a coronavirus vaccine.

The latest global statistics on COVID-19 can be found at [Johns Hopkins University](https://www.jhu.edu/).

WaterAid Burkina Faso held a signing ceremony outside their office in Ouagadougou. Ambassadors of Denmark and Sweden committed to a package worth US\$1.4m for post-COVID-19 programmes across seven regions over six months.



Country programme updates



WaterAid country update

The majority of country teams continue to report new cases of COVID-19. However, **Cambodia** and **Timor-Leste** are reporting far fewer cases. In **South Asia** there are 263,000 cases. **India** has been recording consistently high case numbers, with 6,535 new infections on Tuesday, raising its total to 145,380, including 4,167 deaths.

Pakistan, which had begun easing restrictions, has seen new spikes and is considering reinstating some lockdown measures. There are about 60,000 cases in Pakistan, and 40,000 in **Bangladesh**.

However, WHO has warned that the number of reported cases does not tell the whole story, as testing and surveillance in many countries is poor. **India** has carried out just 2,135 tests per million, compared to 44,200 in the **US**. Eid holidays, Cyclone Amphan and ongoing monsoon rains have compounded the situation in **Nepal**, which has extended lockdown and re-instated a ban on inter-district travel due to a spike in cases.

Across **Africa**, reported cases of COVID-19 have increased by 31% to 100,000. Despite the increase, many governments are easing lockdowns, and making preparations for schools, businesses and shops to reopen. However, responses remain intensely politicised and this has increased the risk of insecurity.

Uganda has lifted its lockdown, with shops, businesses, schools and public

transport resuming in June. **Tanzania** advised schools, universities and sporting events will reopen in June. But opposition politicians have accused the government of covering up the extent of the crisis since reporting stopped in April. In **South Africa**, places of worship will open from June, but with restricted numbers. In **Malawi** and **Mozambique**, due to rapidly escalating cases, it's expected that measures to restrict movement will be increased. **Liberia** has seen infighting over who is included in the COVID-19 task force, and security forces are on the streets in **Sierra Leone** policing the wearing of face masks.

A new handwashing station installed by WaterAid Pakistan and local partners.



WaterAid Pakistan

Our response to COVID-19



WaterAid/ Kate Holt

As countries have been forced into lockdowns to fight the spread of COVID-19, women and girls across the globe are struggling to access the products and facilities they need to manage their periods hygienically and with dignity.

The pandemic has exposed and exacerbated gender inequalities. As part of Menstrual Hygiene Day (28 May) we took the opportunity to call for menstrual health, water and sanitation to be prioritised as part of the long-term response to COVID-19.

Globally, one in four women and girls do not have access to a decent toilet. Thérèse

Julianna hangs up her cotton sanitary towels to dry. These were given to young girls and women in the community as part of a hygiene awareness project in Morondavo, Madagascar.

Mahon, Regional South Asia Manager at WaterAid, said: "Periods do not stop during pandemics. Disrupted water and sanitation services and supply chains for period products means many people are finding it much more difficult to access everything they need to manage their periods. Combined with a lack of privacy under lockdown and the closure of services at schools, health centres and communities that provide

menstrual health products, information and help tackle menstrual stigma, it all risks halting or even reversing the enormous progress that has been made towards better menstrual health globally.”

We are continuing our work to provide clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene to people living in poverty, including helping vulnerable people to access menstrual hygiene products and information.

In **South Africa**, for example, we are working with the Ministry for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, the UN and other partners to provide hygiene products. This has included more than 30,000 sanitary pads and posters with vital messaging on how to stay safe from infection.

These products have been distributed among vulnerable communities including child and youth care centres, shelters for the victims of crime and gender-based violence, and vulnerable girls who would normally rely on schools to get period products.

Our recent [survey results](#) show the increased challenges women face to manage their periods under lockdown.

After intense lobbying to secure the inclusion of water, sanitation and hygiene into the draft resolution, we welcomed the World Health Assembly's inclusion of the importance of clean water and hygiene in the Resolution on the global response to COVID-19.



Programmatic, technical and country updates

- A [full comprehensive document of WaterAid's hygiene behaviour change materials](#) has been developed. It includes examples, media tools, and assets from across the WaterAid Federation.
- We have a [Concept Note](#) and a [Theory of Change](#) building on our advocacy and programme framework.
- Our COVID-19 activities in Nepal were featured in the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine **Hygiene Hub's** weekly [news bulletin](#).
- We have contributed to two briefs on the **Hygiene Hub** about why and how to deliver [inclusive COVID-19 programming](#).



Country programmes in action



All countries are working with WASH coalitions on advocacy and are calling for governments to prioritise this in the COVID-19 response.

East Africa

Following our water utility webinar, UNICEF has asked the **East Africa** regional team to summarise the discussion with water utilities about their challenges and responses to COVID-19, and present the findings to its chiefs of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

Our teams in **Rwanda** and **Uganda** are looking at how to support their border areas with handwashing stations, hygiene materials and messages, as many truck drivers are reporting positive.

WaterAid **Ethiopia** has developed three new TV ads for promoting life-saving hygiene behaviour habits.

Southern Africa

WaterAid **eSwatini** joined other international non-governmental organisations in advocating for more investment in Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) and policies that integrate MHM into their COVID-19 prevention work.

WaterAid **Malawi** has lobbied for prioritisation of WASH in health care facilities in the COVID-19 response budget.

WaterAid **Mozambique** carried out an assessment of WASH in quarantine centres for the government.

Meanwhile, WaterAid **Zambia** completed the construction of hands-free handwashing stations for people in wheelchairs.

West Africa

The team in **Ghana** has been working with a coalition of NGOs on a new paper, one they hope will pressure the government to prioritise WASH in their COVID-19 response.

Teams are making increasing use of radio to share hygiene messages. The **Liberia** country director hosted two radio talk shows on prioritising WASH, while the team in **Nigeria** reached around 2.5m people with hygiene radio jingles.

Niger finalised the design of a hands-free handwashing station for public spaces and shared the design with the ministry.

South Asia

WaterAid **Bangladesh** has developed a rap song and music video for the COVID-19 response and also shared their messaging through mosques, radio broadcasts and TV.

The team in **Pakistan** has started third-party monitoring of construction projects, while in WaterAid **Myanmar**, the team has developed a contactless handwashing station and launched a competition for the best design.

News and views



#BringWater campaign launches

A host of stars from stage, screen and the sporting and arts worlds are creating and sharing rainbows for us. These are all part of our new #BringWater campaign to help get clean water and good hygiene to everyone everywhere—because you can't have a rainbow without water.

WaterAid ambassador **Tobias Menzies**, star of *The Crown* and *Game of Thrones*, said: "I'm delighted to support WaterAid's #BringWater campaign, getting clean water, good hygiene and toilets to vulnerable communities so they can protect themselves from deadly diseases."

[Watch our new campaign film](#)

Webinars

- Re-opening businesses after lockdown cannot be done safely without handwashing facilities and clean water. We gave advice on the issue during a global webinar with [WASH for Work](#).
- We presented what we've learned about hygiene behaviour change and the COVID-19 pandemic at the [National Business Compact in Kenya](#).



Actor and WaterAid ambassador Tobias Menzies supports our COVID-19 campaign by sharing a rainbow—a symbol of hope and unity amid the pandemic.

Our next situation update will be available from the week commencing Monday 15 June.

For the latest updates: [wateraid.org/global-covid-19-response](https://www.wateraid.org/global-covid-19-response)

