

Situation update

WaterAid
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The latest programme updates from across WaterAid's work during COVID-19.



WaterAid India

WaterAid India is launching an eight-day campaign to encourage life-saving hygiene habits.



WaterAid/ Malawi

WaterAid Malawi speaks to the media about how the team is promoting hygiene messages and donating vital hygiene supplies.



WaterAid responds to COVID-19



WaterAid/ Sibtain Haider

The global pandemic of COVID-19 is a public health emergency creating high levels of public anxiety and having devastating effects on people's health, education and livelihoods.

The situation is unfolding rapidly, so we wanted to start sharing regular updates with you every two weeks with more specific details from across our work.

Many of the countries in which we work are reporting their first cases of the virus. Not only do these countries have painfully fragile health systems, but many people don't have anywhere to wash their hands

Roshna helps her child Kainat to wash her hands in their village in Sindh Province, Pakistan. She has been helping spread good hygiene messages as part of WaterAid's project in the district.

making it both alarmingly easy for the virus to spread and harder to treat.

What are we doing?

We will increase our support in the communities where we work:

- While we can, we're installing handwashing facilities in areas where people need them most, making it easier for them to keep their



hands clean and reduce the spread of the virus.

- We're launching handwashing campaigns across all the countries where we work, making sure that people know how important it is to wash their hands with soap, when to do it and how to do it right.

Hygiene behaviour change

Tackling COVID-19 requires a comprehensive approach. We are not a medical agency, but as a water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) agency, we can play a key role in helping to prevent the spread of COVID-19 by focusing on hygiene promotion.

We know that promoting good hygiene is one of the most cost-effective health interventions.¹ We will be focusing primarily on promoting key hygiene behaviours such as handwashing with soap, respiratory hygiene and promoting social distancing by using mass, social and digital media to reduce transmission. We have strong partnerships with national governments and civil society groups in the areas where we work. In many countries we are already working with the government to roll out large-scale hygiene promotion initiatives.

We are committed to continuing our work wherever possible throughout this time, building lasting services that will ensure good health for the future. We know that lives will depend on it, as they always have.

Blogs: washmatters.wateraid.org

News: wateraid.org/uk/media



WaterAid/ Mani Karmacharya

"I think every school should have these type of hand washing stations for students."

**Samrakshya, 12, Kavre, Nepal.
Handwashing facilities were installed in 2018.**

Inequality in handwashing

We know it is life-saving but globally 40%² of households still don't have handwashing facilities with soap and water. Almost half of healthcare facilities (43%)³ lack basic handwashing facilities with soap and water, and nearly half of schools (47%)⁴ in developing countries lack handwashing facilities. This makes good hand hygiene impossible for millions of people, contributes to the spread of infections, and crucially makes controlling this pandemic very difficult.

¹ World Bank, Disease Control Priorities, third edition (volume 2), 2016;

^{2,3,4} WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) Report 2019. Progress on household drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, 2000-2017.

Global overview and country programme updates



The latest COVID-19 global status

- As of 2 April, all WaterAid countries had confirmed cases of COVID-19 and most are now reporting local transmission (meaning that the virus is passing from person-to-person within the country). Most governments in implementing countries have now introduced a number of public health measures, such as full or partial lockdowns, physical distancing measures, as well as international and domestic travel bans. Subsequently, all WaterAid offices are now closed, and staff are working from home. The latest numbers of confirmed COVID-19 cases and operational status in all WaterAid country programmes can be found at the end of this update.
- Nearly all WaterAid country programme teams have developed, and many are delivering, response plans for the short term and many are now considering a longer 12-18 month response.
- Assessment of WaterAid's existing programmes shows more than 70% will be

affected with the majority needing to be rescheduled or amended.

- WaterAid has joined the strategic WASH in Schools network to produce water, sanitation and hygiene-related guidance and resources for children and the education sector.

Updates from our country teams

- All our country programme teams are continuing to run digital/social/media hygiene behaviour change campaigns.
- Country programme teams are working closely with ministries of health and water resources to utilise opportunities to install handwashing stations in healthcare facilities, crowded and public areas, and in rural areas ahead of an anticipated increase in COVID-19 cases. Many are also procuring hygiene essentials such as soap, rubbing alcohol, and disinfectant for government health facilities. For example, Zambia, Malawi and Nigeria are installing foot pedal handwashing stations.

Country programmes in action*

Bangladesh

We are aiming to reach eight to ten million people with our hygiene promotion activities. We'll be promoting handwashing with a social media campaign, sharing awareness videos and placing banners in schools and hospitals. We'll be providing free handwashing



Country programmes in action



facilities in public areas (see below) such as bus stops, stations and markets to reach 100,000 people. We'll also be working with radio channels to deliver messages during peak hours reaching one million people.

India

We have started an eight-day campaign using digital images and posters, audio messages and video in six Indian languages and English.

Visit: www.wateraidindia.in/covid19

Nigeria

We are continuing to promote and lead the Clean Nigeria Campaign while adapting messaging to focus on COVID-19. We're using mainly social media to promote these messages and raise awareness. We have developed press releases and engaged with partners in different states

to share the information through broadcasts including translation into local dialects.

Nepal

We are a key member of the government's campaign. We have created flyers, placed banners on 70 bus routes, notices in public toilets, and are using radio to share translated government messages in local languages to reach over one million people.

Pakistan

We are working with the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF and the government. We have built 60 handwashing facilities in main centres where people travel. We've been putting up advertisements, developing an animation in Urdu for social media, creating public service announcements and working with celebrities – for example, creating a radio campaign delivered by a well-known DJ.

Zambia

We are working with local authorities and the Ministry of Health to provide hands-free washing stations and materials including sanitisers. Jingles have been produced for radio to promote good hygiene and social distancing stickers have been created for public spaces such as supermarkets. We are also working with celebrities and artists including Pompi (a popular musician) who made a video and promoted a #handwashingchallenge.



*This is a selection of some of the activities going on across our country programmes.

WaterAid countries: stats



Country	No. cases (No. deaths)	Rate of new cases
US America	273808 (7020)	Rapidly increasing
Australia	5635 (34)	Steadily increasing
Bangladesh	70 (8)	Steadily increasing
Belgium	18431 (1283)	Moderately increasing
Burkina Faso	302 (15)	Steadily increasing
Cambodia	114 (0)	Steadily increasing
Canada	12938 (214)	Steadily increasing
Colombia	1267 (25)	Steadily increasing
Eswatini	9 (0)	No new cases reporting
Ethiopia	38 (0)	No new cases reporting
Finland	1882 (25)	Steadily increasing
Ghana	205 (5)	Steadily increasing
India	3374 (77)	Moderately increasing
Japan	3271 (70)	Steadily increasing
Liberia	10 (1)	Steadily increasing
Madagascar	70 (0)	Steadily increasing
Malawi	3 (0)	New cases reporting
Mali	39 (4)	Steadily increasing
Mozambique	10 (0)	No new cases reporting
Myanmar	20 (1)	Steadily increasing

WaterAid countries: stats



Country	No. cases (No. deaths)	Rate of new cases
Nepal	9 (0)	Steadily increasing
Nicaragua	5 (1)	No new cases reporting
Niger	144 (8)	Steadily increasing
Nigeria	210 (4)	Steadily increasing
Pakistan	2880 (45)	Steadily increasing
Papua New Guinea	1 (0)	No new cases reporting
Rwanda	102 (0)	Steadily increasing
Senegal	219 (2)	Steadily increasing
Sierra Leone	4 (0)	Steadily increasing
South Africa	1585 (9)	Steadily increasing
Sweden	6443 (373)	Moderately increasing
Tanzania	20 (1)	No new cases reporting
Timor-Leste	1 (0)	No new cases reporting
Uganda	48 (0)	Steadily increasing
UK	41907 (4313)	Rapidly increasing
Zambia	39 (1)	Steadily increasing