

Situation update

w/c 15 June 2020



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



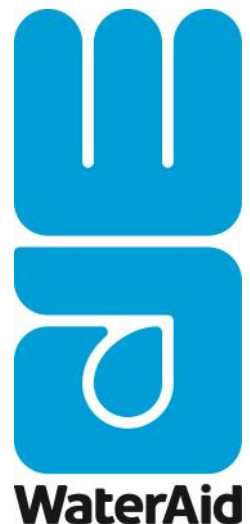
WaterAid/ Mani Karmacharya

WaterAid Nepal has been working with the national Government for many years to integrate hygiene training into vaccination programmes. Such an approach could help other countries' long-term response to COVID-19. Pictured: hygiene session, Dhime Health Post, Nepal, April 2018.



WaterAid Pakistan

Handwashing remains the first line of defence against COVID-19. A man tests a WaterAid Pakistan foot-operated handwashing station in Hyderabad, Sindh, June 2020.



Global overview and country programme updates



The latest COVID-19 global status

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases now stands at 7.6m across 215 countries/territories. This represents an increase of about 1.7m over the past two weeks, or over 100,000 new cases a day.

The US and Brazil still account for close to half of all cases (2m and 800k respectively). India has the fourth largest case load (308k), this week surpassing the UK, but it has a much lower death rate (8,800 versus the UK's 41.5k). Globally, there have been 425,870 deaths, an increase of 60,000 over the past two weeks. The president of Burundi, Pierre Nkurunziza, became the first head of state to die of COVID-19. The country had not had a lockdown or implemented any control measures.

The decision to impose lockdowns across

the globe prevented tens of millions of people from contracting COVID-19, and averted over 3.1m deaths in 11 European countries, according to two papers published in *Nature* magazine. Meanwhile, some 3.5m people have recovered from COVID-19 since [Johns Hopkins University](#) began tracking data.

New Zealand, which had some of the world's strictest lockdown measures, declared itself "virus free" on June 8 after more than two weeks with no new cases. Australia, too, said it had almost entirely eliminated COVID-19 and would allow crowds in concerts and sports events, and allow overseas students back into the country from July. Many European countries have also begun re-opening borders, but initially only to other European countries. Some countries will require a health certificate while others will require passengers to self-quarantine. Few EU countries (except Greece) have decided to allow international visitors yet.

Taking stock of the economic impact lockdowns have had on global economies, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) predicted the global economy would shrink at least 6.6% this year, a contraction which will have implications for trade partners and recipients of foreign aid.



WaterAid Mali presents soaps, disinfectants, handwashing devices, surgical masks and more to Bla District health teams, June 2020.



Country programme updates



WaterAid country update

The majority of countries where we work continue to report new cases of COVID-19. However, **Cambodia**, **Timor-Leste** and **Papua New Guinea** have declared themselves “COVID-free”. **Tanzania** has also declared itself nearly COVID-19 free, although the government stopped reporting cases on April 29. It's widely believed that there is a substantial number of cases and deaths in the country and several media organisations have been shut down after criticising the government.

In South Asia, **India** has been recording consistently high numbers, with more than 11,000 new infections in one day, raising its total to 308,000, including 8,800 deaths (more than doubling the number of deaths in two weeks). Inter-district travel remains restricted, but the government has been easing lockdown measures since June 1. **Pakistan**, which had begun easing restrictions, has seen new spikes and has been urged by the World Health Organization (WHO) to reinstate its lockdown. There are around 125,000 cases in Pakistan, and 81,000 in **Bangladesh**. Both countries have seen case numbers double in the past two weeks. There are 5,000 cases in **Nepal**.

Across the 54 countries in Africa, reported cases of COVID-19 have increased from 100,000 to 216,000 in just two weeks, with South Africa accounting for the largest surge (62,000). Both **Ghana** and **Nigeria**

have surpassed 10,000 cases, according to the Africa Centres for Disease Control.

Africa accounts for less than 3% of global cases, but our teams have remained hard at work reaching communities with essential handwashing facilities and hygiene information. However, despite accelerating infection rates, many governments have eased lockdowns and are preparing for schools, businesses and shops to reopen. In **Uganda**, which had eased restrictions on public transport but limited the number of passengers per vehicle, fares tripled and streets became gridlocked, prompting the Government to consider re-imposing lockdowns. **Rwanda** is also discussing re-imposing lockdown after an increase in cases. In **Sierra Leone**, religious services can take place as long as people wear masks, and mass gatherings are allowed as long as there is not more than 100 people. Schools have reopened in **Mali**, **Burkina Faso** and **Niger**, although in **Senegal** schools were told to close again after an outbreak among teachers. In **Ethiopia** and **Malawi**, there have been reports of people fleeing quarantine centres due to the poor sanitary conditions.

The focus for many of our teams now is on how to deliver fieldwork safely. The UK team has developed a set of mandatory operating procedures to support teams in this planning amid such a complex and changing context.

Our response to COVID-19



WaterAid/ Mani Karmacharya

Governments and institutional donors have long neglected to invest adequately in the basics of clean water, soap and decent toilets. Even now, hygiene investment to bolster weak health systems is largely absent from COVID-19 national responses and donor support.

Earlier in June, the Global Vaccine Summit met virtually to secure funds for the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI). We took the opportunity to promote the critical role of these basic human rights in supporting life-saving health services, such as immunisation.

WaterAid Nepal has been leading research on integrating hygiene and immunisation for many years in partnership with the Nepal Ministry of Health. Pictured: Samjhana and her son Aasik in Matela, Nepal, April 2018.

To mitigate the long-term impacts of COVID-19 on global public health, joint delivery of hygiene and immunisation services is essential. Immunisation programmes reach more people than any other health intervention, so they are a crucial entry point to integrate water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) into services – with particular emphasis on hygiene behaviour.



Our Chief Executive, Tim Wainwright, said: “Research has shown that combining water, toilets and hygiene with routine childhood vaccinations and nutrition support could save nearly 700,000 children’s lives every year and prevent billions of cases of diarrhoeal illness and pneumonia in children under-five.

“Preventing the spread of infection and strengthening health systems has never been more important. Alongside much-needed investment in vaccines, we want to see equal commitment to hygiene to enable integrated programmes to be the norm and countries to be more resilient to future health crises.”

Compounding the challenges of minimising the impact of COVID-19 on global health, immunisation services have been delayed or disrupted since the pandemic began, in part to avoid spreading disease at crowded clinics and putting frontline health workers, carers and patients at risk.

According to UNICEF, GAVI and WHO, this has put 80 million children under the age of one at risk of vaccine-preventable diseases including measles, diphtheria and polio.

Read more about how clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene can help build resilience to future health and environmental crises at: [WASHMatters.org](https://www.washmatters.org)

\$8.8bn was pledged at the global GAVI summit, but without water, sanitation and hygiene the delivery of health services is undermined. Pictured: Midwife Lennie provides diarrhoea medicine to babies in communities living without clean water. Monze District, Zambia, 2018.

National advocacy for GAVI

- Our Bangladesh, Burkina Faso and Ethiopia teams addressed their health ministers, and Bangladesh shared [video statements](#) from frontline health workers and WASH officials.
- Unilever CEO Alan Jope emphasised the need for an integrated approach combining hygiene and vaccines.
- Unilever and GAVI committed €6 million to increase their existing Lifebuoy ‘Safal Shuruuat / Successful Beginnings’ integrated project in India, and 2.9 million bars of Lux soap to the Pakistan immunisation programme.



Country programmes in action



South Asia and Asia Pacific

Nepal officially launched its Hygiene Behaviour Change Coalition project, funded by the Department for International Development and Unilever, with a video to promote the 'Clean Family, Happy Family'. **Pakistan** has received soap from Unilever as part of the same fund.

Cambodia developed a [video](#) on adapting COVID-19 information and prevention messages for people with disabilities.

East Africa

Our teams in East Africa, working with the East African Community (EAC), submitted a concept note to the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to fund WASH facilities at posts along borders and main transport corridors in the region.

Ethiopia and Tanzania are set to launch their DFID/Unilever-funded hygiene promotion projects mid-June. Ethiopia was also seeking to influence health ministers during the GAVI conference.

West Africa

Nigeria is developing a new project to reach four non-focal states with hygiene behaviour change campaigns and to install contactless handwashing stations in health centres, markets and government offices.

Sierra Leone has distributed hygiene behaviour change information in communities and is supporting Government efforts to increase hygiene promotion in communities.

Liberia has provided 500 hygiene kits to quarantine centres and installed water facilities at one of the centres.

Burkina Faso is focusing on increasing WASH in health centres and schools, including installing handpumps and providing hygiene kits.

Southern Africa

Our **Southern Africa** regional team is working with retired Mozambican athlete Maria Mutola to highlight the need for clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene in COVID-19 responses.

Eswatini collaborated with popular comedian Smallz to develop a [comedy skit](#) showing how integrating waste management and disinfecting surfaces can prevent COVID-19.

Madagascar, Malawi and Mozambique have all focused on advocacy, pushing their governments to increase finance for WASH to tackle COVID-19.

Federation

WaterAid UK has supplied the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine's Hygiene Hub with [information](#) on designing hygiene behaviour change interventions.

For the latest news from our country teams, visit [wateraid.org/covid](https://www.wateraid.org/covid)

Donor updates



- **DFID** has released two research papers on the measures and impact of social distancing in [Africa](#) and [South Asia](#).
- The **European Commission** announced a new campaign with international advocacy organisation Global Citizen, "[Global Goal: Unite For Our Future](#)", which will culminate in a Global Pledging Summit on June 27. This follows the original EU-led event on May 4 where €9.8bn was pledged. WaterAid America CEO Kelly Parsons has been invited to participate, providing us with an opportunity to highlight the critical role of clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene.
- In partnership with more than 20 INGOs, we signed a complaint to the US Government that "little to no" COVID funding has reached implementing countries, despite **USAID** pledges of funds and equipment.
- **WHO Foundation** launched on May 27 to support global public health needs, from prevention, mental health, and non-communicable



Our teams delivering vital supplies to support returnees from South Africa as they wait in quarantine in Nalikule College, Lilongwe, June 2020.

diseases to emergency preparedness, outbreak response and health system strengthening. Some 30% of funding from the foundation will go to partners, mainly civil society.

- **World Bank** Global Water Practice Director Jennifer Sara responded to our Chief Executive Tim Wainwright's letter on the need for increased financing for WASH as a COVID-19 response priority, providing an opportunity for follow-up discussions.



News, views and updates



Uniting against racism

Recent tragic events in the US have sparked a global reaction against racism. At WaterAid, everything we do is guided by our values. We stand against all forms of racism, injustice and inequality.

In response, and on behalf of the WaterAid Federation, CEO Tim Wainwright, said: "In the diverse communities where we work, we know that making safe water, decent toilets and good hygiene normal for everyone, everywhere depends upon identifying and addressing the reasons why the poorest and most marginalised people live without these basic services, and we are committed to tackling and challenging these inequalities."

Read Tim's full article on [WASHMatters](#).

Live COVID-19 Q&A on 3 July

We are hosting the second episode of our COVID-19 live Q&A with Tim Wainwright, CEO, and Olga Ghazaryan, Director of International Programmes on 3 July, 2-3pm. Olga will be providing an update on how our global expertise is tackling the pandemic and Tim will answer questions on how we are looking ahead as an organisation. To find out more, email: KatrinaKilkenny@wateraid.org

Merger of DFID and FCO

On 16 June, the UK government announced the merger of DFID with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to create a new

department, the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Department. Tim Wainwright responded, stating that it was imperative the world's poorest and most vulnerable people remain at the heart of all decisions, are the sole recipients of the legally consecrated aid budget, and that funds are not subsumed by what is regarded as in British interests. Read the [statement](#).

Mobile messaging

We are collaborating with mobile phone company [Viamo](#) on new voice messages and games that remind people of the importance of good hygiene.

Fundraising single from KT Tunstall

'Wash Ya Hands' is out now and raising money for WaterAid and War Child. Visit: ffm.to/washyahands

