

Situation update

w/c 20 April 2020



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



WaterAid Ernest Randriarimalla

A health worker disinfects a classroom at a primary school which is now becoming a shelter for the homeless in Antananarivo, Madagascar.



WaterAid/ Bangladesh

Handwashing promotion and COVID-19 prevention campaigns in Bangladesh.



Our response to COVID-19



In many low- and middle-income countries, high numbers of people do not have soap and water to wash their hands or clean with, and practising handwashing at key moments is not widespread.

In the least developed countries, nearly 3 in 4 people have nowhere at home to wash their hands with soap and water. This creates a higher risk of illnesses and diseases spreading – including COVID-19.

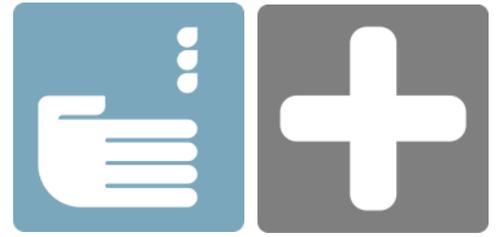
Promoting good hygiene has been a core part of our work since we began. We are experts in working with governments,

WaterAid Pakistan has installed four handwashing stations at various locations in Muzaffargarh, Punjab, with over 5,000 estimated daily users.

communities and partners to improve clean water and toilet facilities, and instill hygiene behaviour changes that mean people can get the most out of improvements.

What are we doing?

We are moving quickly to stem the spread of COVID-19 in the countries where we work, supporting governments on hygiene promotion campaigns, installing



handwashing stations and scaling up our existing work to change hygiene behaviours:

- We have been working closely with our country programmes to begin lobbying **governments** to ensure access to water for the most vulnerable communities.
- Many of the countries where we work have stepped up their **hygiene behaviour change campaigns**: WaterAid Bangladesh has so far reached 17 million people and WaterAid Pakistan has reached over 22 million people with hygiene messaging.
- **WaterAid South Africa and WaterAid Madagascar** have focused on the most vulnerable communities, **supporting women and girls** in shelters, and supplying homeless communities with essential hygiene kits.
- **WaterAid UK** has joined the Hygiene-Hub, a coalition of experts who are working together to help other countries design evidence-based hygiene behaviour change campaigns. WaterAid UK has also started updating its **Programme and Advocacy Framework**, to support country programmes with response programmes for the next 12 months.
- The **Global Policy Team** is leading the process of a policy change agenda on behalf of WaterAid globally.



WaterAid Malawi Country Director Mercy Masoo demonstrates how to wash hands during the handover ceremony of supplies to Lilongwe City Council, Malawi.

- Our **Global COVID-19 Hub** webpage is now live, and features a new blog on water security amid COVID-19. Visit wateraid.org/global-covid-19-response

WaterAid India: Hygiene behaviour change campaign

WaterAid India has completed an intensive eight-day hygiene behaviour change campaign in seven different languages. They worked together with partner organisations, community groups and other key stakeholders to raise awareness of 'Good Hygiene Practices to Prevent COVID-19'. To help spread the word, they created digital posters, audio messages and video messages to distribute across their networks, reaching over **1 million people** with their messaging.

Global overview and country programme updates



The latest COVID-19 global status

The number of confirmed global COVID-19 cases has exceeded 2 million this week, doubling in less than 2 weeks. The global death toll stands at over 150,000. While the global rate of transmission continues to accelerate at approximately 100,000 new confirmed cases per day, some countries (mainly those in Europe, and China) are starting to see rates of new confirmed cases either plateau or decrease.

WaterAid country update

Most WaterAid countries continue to report new cases of COVID-19 on a daily basis. While person-to-person transmission has been reported in most countries, the World Health Organisation (WHO) indicates that a majority of these cases occur in 'clusters', rather than through the widespread community transmission being seen in the US and Europe. However, given that most countries in Africa and Asia do not have

adequate surveillance and testing facilities, the true number of confirmed cases is likely to be much higher.

For the last two weeks, most affected countries have been under a state of lockdown or partial lockdown, including restrictions on movement, public gatherings and dusk to dawn curfews. Many of our offices are either fully or partially closed and most staff are working from home.

Social distancing

The term "Social distancing" has been renamed "physical distancing" by WHO, to underline the physical distance (2m) between people, and not that they should be cut off from others.



WaterAid Nepal

WaterAid Nepal has provided 50 gallons of surface disinfectant, 17,000 surgical masks and 100 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to the Management Division of the Ministry of Health and Population. They have also distributed soap and surgical masks to the Dalit communities in Lahan, Siraha district, Nepal.

Country programmes in action



Hygiene behaviour change programmes

All countries where we work are running hygiene awareness or behaviour change campaigns, using social/digital/mass media to disseminate the messaging.

Broadcast media

South Africa, Rwanda and Nepal teams are all using leaders, celebrities and musicians in handwashing videos, and radio dramas about COVID-19.

WaterAid Madagascar is airing TV spots and radio jingles on handwashing and hygiene specifically for young people and children.

In **Malawi**, the team are using a public broadcaster to air COVID-19 messages.

Policy and advocacy

Countries are pushing governments to ensure continuity of water supply, especially for the most vulnerable.

WaterAid Nigeria published a policy brief, calling on the government to urgently provide WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) facilities to marginalised populations and health facilities.

In **Uganda**, the team are advocating for water supplies to be extended to marginalised populations; and in **South Africa** we are providing hygiene kits to women and girls in domestic abuse shelters.

Our **Liberia** team are supporting the government in response efforts with communication messages, distribution of handwashing and hand hygiene materials, supervision and implementation.

Senior WASH Manager, Vincent Casey, has written [a blog](#) which outlines the key threats to water services during the COVID-19 pandemic, and how to mitigate against challenges to ensure more people can access vital supplies.

WaterAid Ethiopia has offered 50 water tanks with 5,000 litre capacity, 2,500 litres of alcohol and over 1,000 bars of laundry soap to be distributed to health centres and temporary COVID-19 treatment sites in Addis Ababa.



WaterAid Ethiopia

Sharing first-hand experiences

Rwandan radio stars spread hygiene message

A group of young people in Rwanda have been writing and producing a series of radio dramas to teach listeners about the vital role handwashing and sanitation play in preventing the spread of diseases such as COVID-19.

Photographer Elena Heatherwick has created a series in collaboration with WaterAid to show the radio producers at work.

Read the full story:

[bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-52292618](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-52292618)



WaterAid/Elena Heatherwick/People's Postcode Lottery

Lockdown diaries

Over a third of the world is currently in lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Experiences of lockdown differ vastly from country to country. Our Voices from the Field officer Sibtain Haider gives us his account of what lockdown is like in Pakistan.

Read Sibtain's lockdown diary:

[wateraid.org/uk/blog/lockdown-from-a-basement-apartment-in-pakistan](https://www.wateraid.org/uk/blog/lockdown-from-a-basement-apartment-in-pakistan)



Our next situation update will be available from the week commencing Monday 4 May.

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

