



Nepal Hand Hygiene Snapshot

JMP 2020 data: household, school and HCF overview



Household

62% of households have basic hand hygiene facilities

36% of households have limited hand hygiene facilities

1% of household have no hand hygiene facilities

60% of households have basic handwashing facilities.
Data from a consultation exercise (2021)

81% of households have basic handwashing facilities
Nepal's Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (2019)



School

JMP reports insufficient data.

45% of schools have basic handwashing stations with hand hygiene materials
Data from a consultation exercise (2021)



Health Care Facility (HCF)

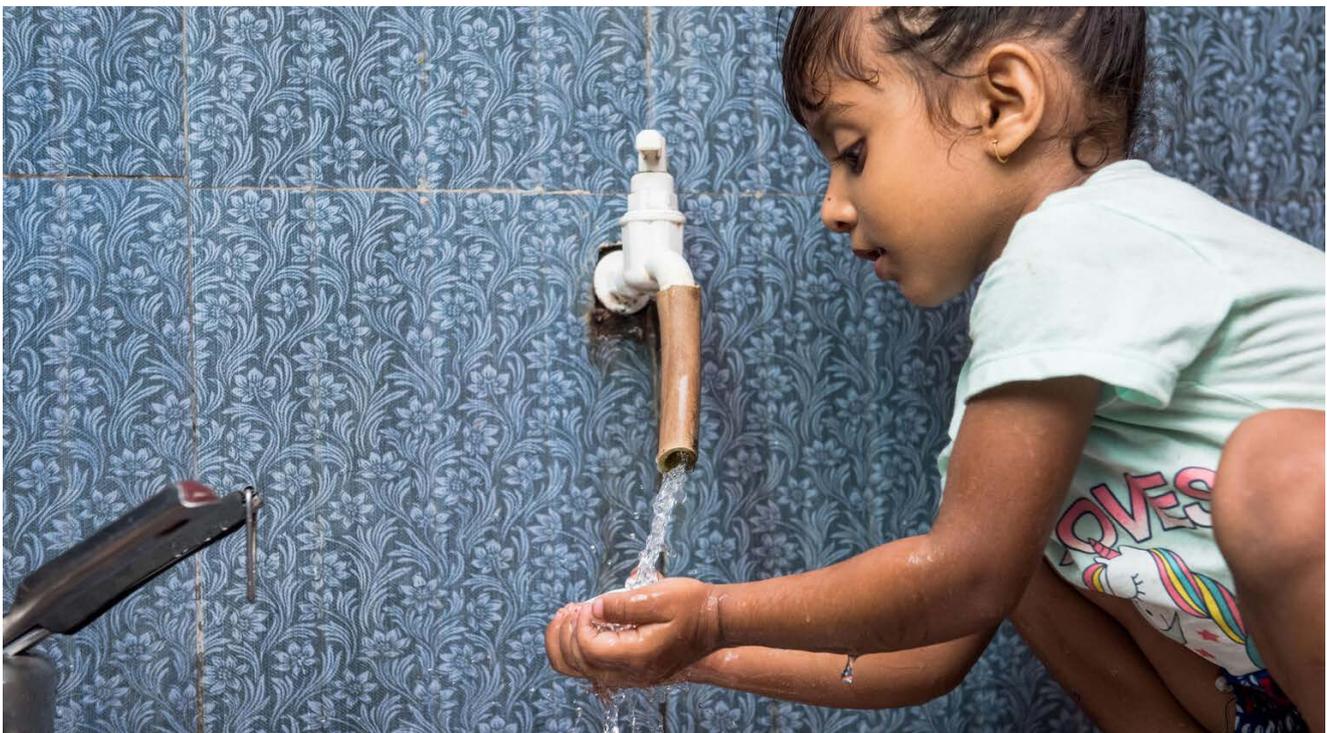
JMP reports insufficient data.

50% of HCF have handwashing stations with hand hygiene materials at the point of care
Data from a consultation exercise (2021)



Public places

30% have basic facilities
Data from a consultation exercise (2021)



Enabling environment

	<p>Policies</p>	<p>Policies that refer to hand hygiene include: Sanitation and Hygiene Master Plan (2011); Sector Development Plan (2016-2030); National Standards on WASH in HCFs (2021); WASH in School Procedures (2018); Nepal Health Sector Strengthening Programme (2017-2022); Total Sanitation Guidelines (2017); National Health Policy (2019); Public Health Regulation (2020); Costed WASH Plans in all 753 municipalities (planned)</p>
	<p>Institutions</p>	<p>Ministry of Water Supply; Ministry of Education, Science and Technology; Ministry of Health and Population; Ministry of Industries, Commerce and Supply; Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration; National Planning Commission; local governments; Municipality Association of Nepal; National Association of Rural Municipalities in Nepal; United Nations agencies; private sector; and civil society organisations</p>
	<p>Financing</p>	<p>The WASH budget includes activities on hand hygiene but there is no standalone budget. However, there are plans for hygiene budget tracking. The private sector has collaborated on hand hygiene through innovative products and corporate social responsibility</p>
	<p>Coordination</p>	<p>An institutional coordination mechanism has been set up for all levels involved in the implementation of Open Defecation Free programmes. This coordination mechanism will be reformed/strengthened for hand hygiene.</p>
	<p>Monitoring</p>	<p>Hygiene activities are to be embedded in government's routine reporting system –NWASH (web-based application).</p> <p>There are plans to establish a joint monitoring action team/task force mechanism. Monitoring of hand hygiene is a routine part of the school improvement plan (SIP)</p>
	<p>Capacity</p>	<p>WASH inspectors and motivators will be trained on hand hygiene. Master Trainers on hand hygiene will be developed at federal and provincial levels. Hand hygiene is already included in training curricula of the National Health Training Centre for health workers.</p>

Hand hygiene behaviour change approaches

Behaviour change approaches will be developed based on an understanding of motivators and triggers. Behaviour change communication materials on hand hygiene are targeted to community, schools and HCFs. Hand hygiene messages are already included in school/curricula. Since 2008, handwashing has been celebrated on Global Handwashing Day in schools and communities.

Hand hygiene technologies and products

Hand hygiene technologies include those that allow for minimum contact such as pedal operated systems, sensor-based taps and wall-mounted handwashing facilities.

Hand hygiene response to COVID-19 pandemic

Rt. Hon'ble President issued a Call to Action for WASH against COVID-19 on 14 May 2020. On Global Handwashing Day, 2020, the Rt. Hon'ble President and Prime Minister appealed to Nepalese citizens to practice and promote handwashing as a behaviour to protect against COVID-19, along with social distancing and wearing a mask. Global Handwashing Day was further leveraged to accelerate the COVID-19 response. UNICEF, with partners, carried out a month-long intensive National Handwashing Campaign (29th September to 31st October 2020). 2.5 million people were reached through 53 organisations and their partners together with community volunteers such as female community health volunteers. All seven provinces and 58 districts (out of 77) were involved. Major activities at sub-national level included: installation of handwashing stations, behaviour change communication via Facebook, radio, YouTube, SMS, street drama, miking, handwashing demonstration as well as distribution of essential WASH supplies.

UNICEF and other development partners supported the installation of low-cost, locally sourced, easy-to-assemble handwashing stations to help health facilities and communities in high-risk areas. The British ambassador attended a handwashing station handover/observed handwashing activities, the German ambassador attended a session on 'Innovation and private sector opportunities for handwashing promotion' virtually. By September 2021, over 361,803 people benefitted from the installation of 2,605 contactless handwashing stations at national borders (26), community centres (96), healthcare facilities (808), and facilities temporarily converted to quarantine centres (639). Further, 136 healthcare facilities received WASH support through provision of supplies, rehabilitation and construction of WASH services. Income generation opportunities for women were created by training on making handmade liquid soap.

On the occasion of Global Handwashing Day 2021, Rt. Hon'ble President and Prime Minister asked all Nepalese citizens to continue practising handwashing to prevent COVID-19 and other diseases and appealed to all stakeholders to implement the forthcoming national roadmap on hand hygiene after its approval by government.



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