



The Water and Health Advisory Team
and WaterAid present:

SEMINAR SERIES: **SCALING UP WASH SERVICES IN A PANDEMIC**

Handwashing with soap and proper hygiene are the first lines of defense against the spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19). ADB, together with world leaders and heads of international organizations, in a joint statement, recognize that water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services must be prioritized at the local, regional, and global levels. In this regard, to support developing member countries (DMCs) in improving their WASH services, the Water and Health Sector Groups, led by the recently formed Water and Health Advisory Team, are collaborating with WaterAid – an international development agency specializing in WASH and behavior change – to provide needed knowledge and insights that can inform project design and implementation as part of a response to the COVID-19 pandemic and longer-term safety.

To dive deep into the subject, the seminar series will cover 4 sessions, each focusing on a specific field relating to WASH:

PART 1

COVID-19 Response

9 June 2020 • 3:30 p.m. (GMT+8)

PART 2

Urban Sanitation

11 June 2020 • 3:30 p.m. (GMT+8)

PART 3

WASH, IWRM, and Climate Change

18 June 2020 • 3:00 p.m. (GMT+8)

PART 4

A Health Systems-Strengthening Approach to Improve WASH in Health Care Facilities

23 June 2020 • 3:00 p.m. (GMT+8)

PART 1

COVID-19 Response

Tuesday, 9 June • 3:30 p.m. (GMT+8)

For the first part of the series, WaterAid will present their response to COVID-19 in Asia and the Pacific. Given the changing dynamics of the pandemic, WaterAid has taken a context-specific approach to support government-led action plans, prioritizing the most marginalized groups in the eight countries they work in: Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, and Timor-Leste. They will also share their approach to on how to implement a strong WASH response against COVID-19, as well as their longer-term planning to ensure WASH is prioritized.

This will be an opportunity for the ADB Community to learn more about WaterAid's COVID-19 programming approaches in Asia Pacific, and to identify synergies with ADB's response and support for member countries.

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PART 3

WASH, IWRM, and Climate Change

Thursday, 18 June • 3:00 p.m. (GMT+8)

The impacts of climate change are being felt across the Asia and Pacific region and threaten to reverse progress made in WASH. Services must be urgently extended and strengthened in the face of the severe and unpredictable impacts of a warming world. However, little attention and investments have been given to the effects of climate change on clean water and decent sanitation services.

In the third session of the series, Virginia Newton-Lewis, Director of Policy and Advocacy for WaterAid Sweden, will discuss mitigating climate risks for WASH; interlinks between WASH and integrated water resources management (IWRM); and approaches to climate resilient WASH and securing water resources.

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PART 2

Urban Sanitation

Thursday, 11 June • 3:30 p.m. (GMT+8)

At current rates of progress, universal access to safely managed sanitation – the aim of the Sustainable Development Goal 6 – won't be achieved until 2107. WaterAid's urban sanitation work, through policy and programming, aims at accelerating the pace of progress across Asia and the Pacific.

In this second part of the seminar series, Andrés Hueso, Senior Policy Analyst for Sanitation, will provide a snapshot of WaterAid's approach, including:

- (i) WaterAid's framing of citywide inclusive sanitation (CWIS);
- (ii) town-wide modelling: the experience in Sakhipur, Bangladesh;
- (iii) research and influencing to address the working conditions of sanitation workers (global and India); and
- (iv) a study on the functionality of wastewater treatment plants (global and plans in Cambodia).



This session will be an opportunity for ADB staff to learn more about WaterAid's urban sanitation work and to identify potential areas for collaboration.

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PART 4

A Health Systems-Strengthening Approach to Improve WASH in Health Care Facilities

Tuesday, 23 June • 3:00 p.m. (GMT+8)

WASH is a critical part of infection prevention and control. Despite this, two in five health care facilities worldwide lack a safe place to wash hands at points of care. Without these fundamentals in health care settings at all points of care, quality of care will not be achieved. WaterAid has been programming and advocating for increased action and integration of WASH in health care facilities.

In this last seminar of the series, Alison Macintyre, Technical Lead for Health, will present on:

- (i) a health systems-strengthening approach to improve WASH in health care facilities;
- (ii) hand and environmental hygiene behavior change in health care facilities; and
- (iii) how WASH links to health security and antimicrobial resistance.

Given the state of the pandemic, this is an important avenue to potentially integrate the work of the water and health sectors, as well as strengthen integrated solutions under Strategy 2030.



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