

# WaterAid: A WASH strong COVID-19 response

## Seminar Series: Part 1

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## Who are we?

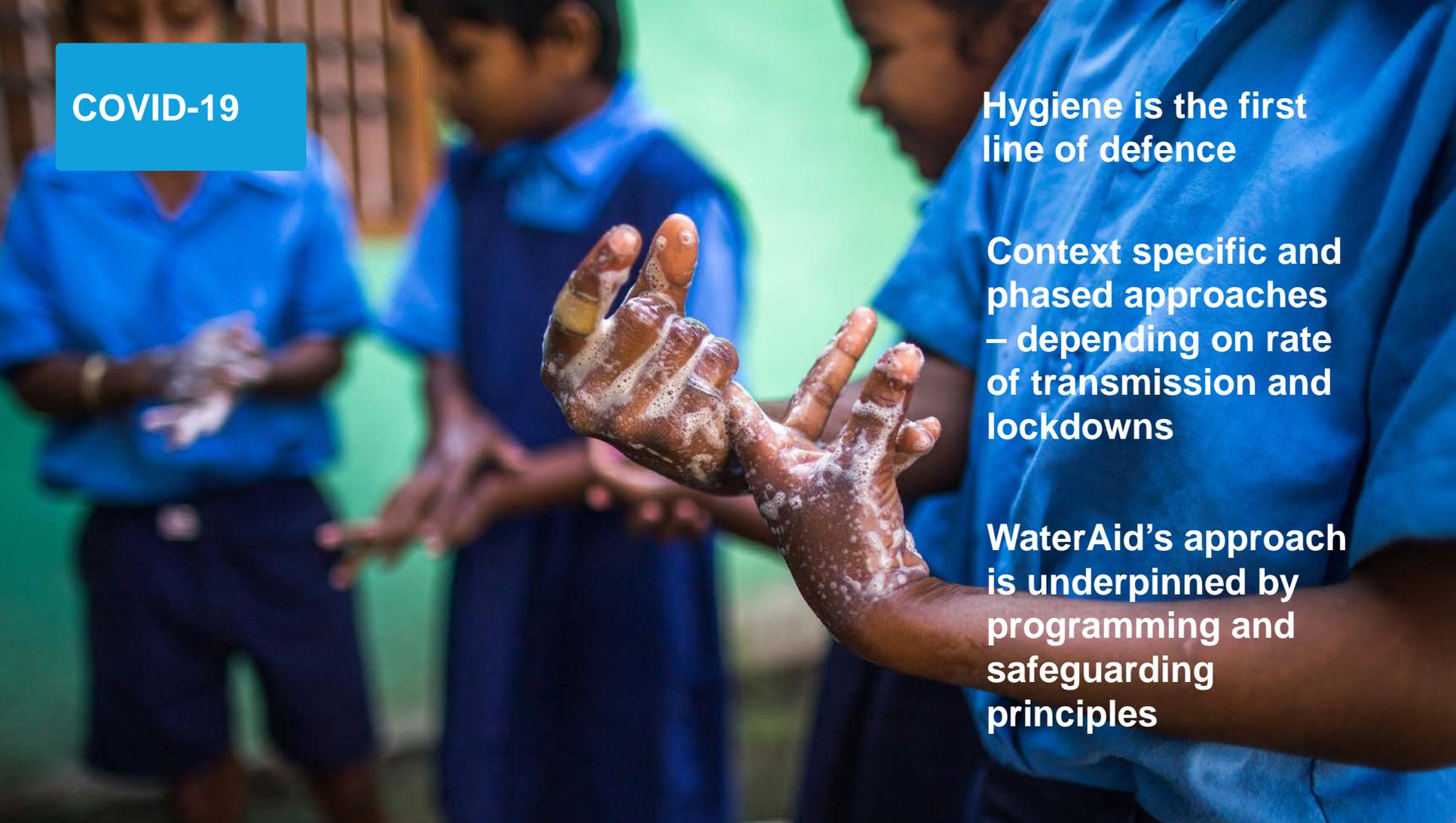


WaterAid/ Tom Greenwood

**Leading global WASH organisation**

**Operating globally, and in 8 countries across Asia Pacific region**

**Systems strengthening approach to achieving universal access by 2030**



**COVID-19**

**Hygiene is the first  
line of defence**

**Context specific and  
phased approaches  
– depending on rate  
of transmission and  
lockdowns**

**WaterAid's approach  
is underpinned by  
programming and  
safeguarding  
principles**

## Introduction to Seminar Series



Session 1 – A WASH strong COVID-19 response



Session 2 – Urban sanitation - Andrés Hueso –  
**11 June**

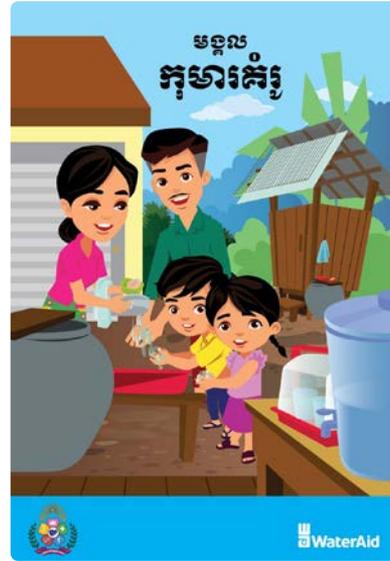


Session 3 – Climate, IWRM and water security -  
Virginia Newton Lewis – **18 June**



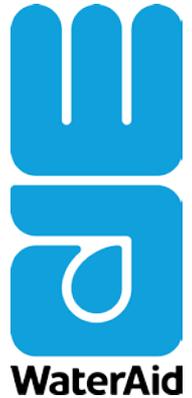
Session 4 – WASH and health - Alison Macintyre –  
**23 June**





# Responding to Covid 19 in Southeast Asia Pacific

Meredith Hickman, Head of Strategy



# Systems Strengthening Change that lasts



## Strong context and systems awareness is essential

Understanding barriers, motivations, and where capacity is high from local through to national level government is needed to take action that will achieve the stated health goals.

## Data driven and collaborative action in PNG

- Reached 45,000 people in rural areas by first week of May, projected urban and rural 90,000
- Reinforcing and strengthening government roles as well as coordination groups with civil society
- Strengthening of official approaches to include more GEDSI
- Guidance on building low-cost handwashing stations
- Dispelling myths and addressing frequently asked questions

## Men and women working together for a safer community

The way to protect against and slow COVID-19 is **washing hands with soap, social distancing, and hygiene.**



**COVID-19 Hotline**  
If you are worried you or someone in your community has COVID.  
1800 200

**COVID East Sepik Hotline**  
456 2044 and 7229 2522

**National Family Violence hotline**  
Support for family and domestic violence  
National 1-Tok Counselling Helpline  
7150 8000

**East Sepik Family Violence Services**  
East Sepik Provincial Council of Women  
7236 1363 and 7198 8987

**Family for Change - Wewak**  
71418913



# Leave no one behind



**Marginalised groups must be part of planning and decision making for COVID-19 response initiatives, not just the target of pre-designed activities**



Including representatives of marginalised groups in COVID response coordination mechanisms, and ensuring resourcing for these groups to adapt and deliver activities is showing rapid results



**In Cambodia, WaterAid is identifying and elevating marginalised groups who may not be able to directly access or implement broad national guidance as issued**



- Brick kiln workers and construction workers continued operation throughout shut-down periods
- People with disabilities representatives required resourcing to adapt and deliver vital information





# Leave no one behind

## Principles and practice

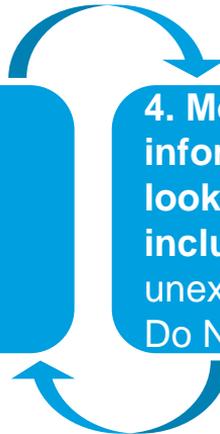
**1. Analysis & focus on who is most at risk, missed out or adversely affected by crisis and response:** Rapid analysis of who is vulnerable, marginalised and at risk of exclusion

**2. Work with representative groups in planning and delivery (sustainability) in order to:**

- Identify practical steps to reach and include marginalised groups;
- Include different voices in decision-making, and advocate for others to do the same

**3. Design inclusive and empowering Behaviour Change Campaigns:** which also tackle stigma, discrimination and exclusion

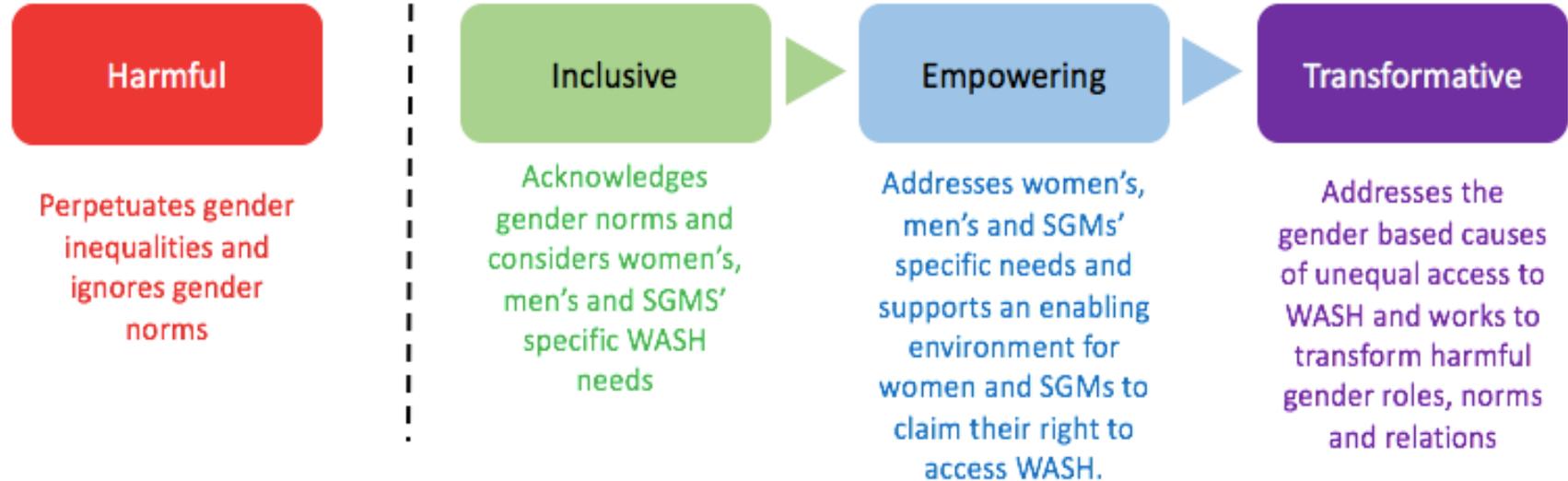
**4. Monitoring, data & information systems which look at inequalities and inclusion:** also monitor unexpected consequences to Do No Harm





# Leave no one behind

## Principles and practice



# Leave no one behind

## Principles and practice

Approaches that cause harm	Inclusive Approaches	Empowering Approaches	Transformative Approaches
<p>BCC/Hygiene messaging:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• perpetuates stigma or some groups;</li><li>• causes harm because there is backlash or other violence;</li><li>• reinforces gender norms and stereotypes such as women doing more WASH work than men.</li></ul>	<p>BCC/Hygiene messaging is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• positive, builds community spirit</li><li>• reaches diverse audience; addresses diverse needs</li><li>• continues to reinforces gender norms/stereotypes</li></ul>	<p>BCC/Hygiene messaging is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• positive, builds community</li><li>• reaches diverse audience &amp; addresses diverse needs</li><li>• aims to shift gender and power norms; no stereotypes and we explicitly advocate for this</li></ul>	<p>Covid-19 and WASH is leveraged as an opportunity to shift gender and power norms, roles, responsibilities in the longer term. This is captured in BCC/hygiene approaches as well as sector strengthening.</p> 

# Integration

## WASH is essential to achieving COVID-19 response goals across sectors



### WASH must be prioritised and resourced in COVID-19 response plans

WaterAid is prioritising engagement in COVID-19 response coordination mechanisms at all levels to ensure WASH is integrated into health and economic response plans



### WASH in Healthcare Facilities in Timor-Leste

- Assessments to understand risks and capacities to managing COVID-19
- Identifying operational and process changes, training and triggers, and hardware needs to improve water, sanitation, medical waste management, cleaning, and hand hygiene.





**COMMON WATER POINTS** Wash your hands with soap and water before going to collect water and immediately on returning home

**WaterAid**

Volunteers can dispense water to all. Wash the water container and mug regularly to keep it clean. Help everyone in the community get water for drinking and handwashing.

We can all keep healthy and protect ourselves, our families, and communities from Coronavirus and COVID 19 by washing hands with soap and water. Need to be ready to wash our hands with water and soap. For this we need to collect water safely.

Maintain a physical distance of 6 feet from others at common water points like handpumps and taps.

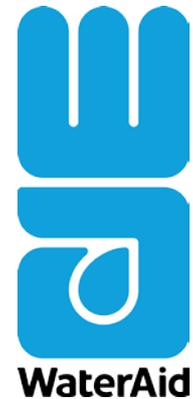
They must wash hands with soap and water before dispensing water. Clean hand pump handles, taps with soap before and after dispensing water. You can use a fresh mix of a little bleaching powder mixed with water to wipe them.

**REMEMBER**  
Protect yourself and your family from Coronavirus and COVID-19, and keep healthy!



# Responding to Covid 19 in South Asia - strengthening resilience in WASH services

Therese Mahon, Regional Programme Manager  
South Asia Regional Team



# South Asia Covid response priorities

1 Mass promotion of Covid related hygiene behaviours

2 Continuity and expansion of WASH services

3 Integrating WASH in health system strengthening

4 Supporting the rights of sanitation workers



Sustainable and inclusive WASH services contribute to resilience and mitigating the impacts of climate, disasters and public health crises



## Mass promotion of Covid 19 related hygiene behaviours



# Pakistan - hygiene promotion at scale



- Working with Provincial Disaster Management Authorities
- Countrywide awareness campaign in regional and local languages - radio, local cable networks, SMS reaching 22.6m people
- Handwashing facilities at healthcare centres, public places, quarantine centres. Provision of hygiene kits
- Rapid learning to assess effectiveness and gaps including barriers to hygiene behaviour change

## کورونا وائرس۔ احتیاط کریں!



ہاتھوں کو وقفہ وقفہ سے صابن سے ۲۰ سیکنڈ تک اچھی طرح دھوئیں۔ اور اس دوران پانی کا تل بند رکھیں تاکہ پانی ضائع نہ ہو۔

بہنیں قرنا نہیں لڑنا ہے۔ ہاتھ دھو کر کورونا سے بچھڑنا ہے۔

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## کورونا وائرس۔ احتیاط کریں!



کسی انتہائی ضروری کام سے باہر جاتے ہوئے دوسروں سے کم از کم 6 فٹ کا فاصلہ رکھیں۔

بہنیں قرنا نہیں لڑنا ہے۔ ہاتھ دھو کر کورونا سے بچھڑنا ہے۔

WaterAid



## کورونا وائرس۔ احتیاط کریں!



کھانسی یا چھینک آنے پر اپنے منہ اور ناک کو ہاتھوں سے بجائے نٹھو یا کہنی سے ڈھانپیں۔

بہنیں قرنا نہیں لڑنا ہے۔ ہاتھ دھو کر کورونا سے بچھڑنا ہے۔

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## Continuity and expansion of WASH services during



**Municipality-wide:  
Ensuring safe and  
adequate water supply  
and hygiene in Lahan,  
Nepal**



**“The Beacon project’s support to NWSC has created an enabling environment to work even during the lockdown with upgraded skills, right equipment and materials. Our resilience to work in harsh situations with the joint team effort to augment the water for at least one hour is a remarkable contribution in the fight against Covid-19.”**

**Shirish Rajbhandari,  
Office in charge, NWSC  
Lahan**



# Bangladesh – working with City Corporations

## Protecting public WASH services in densely populated and low-income areas



- Sida funded WASH4Urban Poor – WaterAid supporting 4 City Corporations in Dhaka, Khulna and Chattogram



- WaterAid working in 157 low income communities to support 500,000 people with context-specific handwashing facilities.

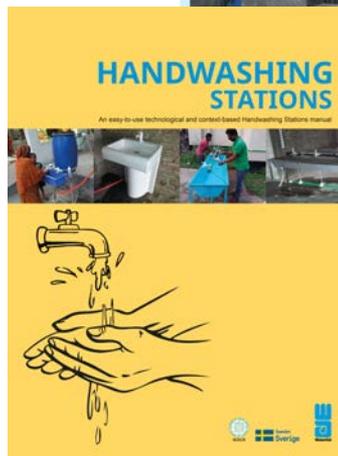


- Handwashing and community sanitation facilities maintained by community volunteers provided with safety equipment.



- Model used to provide guidelines and technical manual for the WASH sector and for WaterAid's practice globally.

Guideline for densely populated slums and low-income communities  
COVID-19 Response:  
Hygiene, Sanitation and Water





## Integrating WASH in health system strengthening



# Myanmar

## Supporting safer births through improved WASH and Infection Prevention and Control



Working with Regional Health Directorate in Ayeyarwady Region and Ministry of Health to improve quality of care for safer births:

- Training package for Infection Prevention and Control and quality improvement process
- Model WASH in HCF facilities
- Integrating Gender and Social Inclusion



Positioned WaterAid as a trusted partner by the Health Directorate to support Covid response.

- Regional coverage - providing handwashing facilities at entrances to 249 rural health centres with Covid related hygiene communication. Constructed and maintained by health centres



# Nepal

## Integrating Covid related hygiene promotion into routine immunisation programme



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
- WaterAid Nepal piloted programme across 4 districts. Behaviours improved from 2% - 53% in one year, improved immunisation coverage, 10% decrease in diarrhoea of participants
- Government of Nepal scaling up nationwide with rotavirus. WaterAid providing technical support to integrate COVID-19 messages in all 77 districts, led by Family Welfare Division



WaterAid/ Photographer name



## Supporting the rights of sanitation workers



# National, regional and global advocacy

## Human rights to health, safety and dignity



The implications for sanitary workers are clear that they face a risk of contagion. Their services are vital and are unlikely to stop during the pandemic, but their activities expose them to contaminated surfaces such as the waste they collect, transport and sort, or the toilets and taps they clean.

Those cleaning and managing toilets, or emptying pits and septic tanks, have to work in high risk settings including health care centres. Measures need to be put in place to minimise those risks.

Working Position Paper - WaterAid Nepal

### WaterAid Nepal

#### Protective gear for Sanitary workers to reduce risks posed by Covid-19 pandemic

May 2020



Sanitary workers are those who work in the sanitation and solid waste chains. Their jobs can include cleaning toilets, emptying pits and septic tanks, cleaning sewers and manholes, operating hours or even days). People can contract the diseases when, after touching contaminated surfaces or shaking contaminated hands, they touch their own mouth, nose or eyes. Approximately 2 to 10 percent of the confirmed COVID-19 cases have diarrhoea, and several studies have detected COVID-19 presence in the faecal matter of patients and in wastewater, but so far there is no evidence of faecal-oral transmission.

The implications for sanitary workers are clear that they face a risk of contagion. Their services are vital and are unlikely to stop during the pandemic, but their activities expose them to contaminated surfaces such as the waste they collect, transport and sort, or the toilets and taps they clean. Those cleaning and managing toilets, or emptying pits and septic tanks, have to work in close proximity with users and customers. Measures need to be put in place to minimise those risks.

The government and Nepal Medical Council, with the reference of WHO standards, has developed guidelines for the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for health care facilities in relation to COVID-19). But it is silent about PPE use for sanitary workers, which reflects how they are neglected, even in a pandemic situation. However, interim guidance produced by WHO and UNICEF on 19 March 2020 for Water, Sanitation, Hygiene, and Waste Management for the COVID-19 virus, indicates the need for PPE (protective outerwear, gloves, boots, goggles or a face shield, and a mask) to protect sanitary workers against possible contamination.



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## Transition to Phase 2 of Covid response:

- Sustaining hygiene behaviour change.
- Water security and climate resilience.
- Advocating for WASH and specifically hygiene in recovery



Clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene.

Go to: [www.wateraid.co.uk](http://www.wateraid.co.uk)





**Thank you.**

**Please connect with us:**

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