

## WATER BEATS POVERTY

### Global Situation: 3 Billion People Lack Basic Handwashing Facilities

Hand hygiene is crucial for preventing diseases, however, approximately two-fifths of the world's population does not have access to safe running water. Currently, nearly 3 billion people lack basic handwashing facilities; over 800,000 people in low- and middle-income countries die as a result of the lack of access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation facilities such as a toilet. The impact of COVID-19 could be considerably higher on the poor, as many of them do not have access to clean water.

### Oxfam is on the ground

With our expertise in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), we have been working around the clock with our partner organisations in over 60 countries and regions to protect the poorest and most vulnerable from the coronavirus and its impacts. Informed by lessons from past epidemics like Ebola, our teams are increasing the delivery of clean water, sanitation services such as handwashing facilities and hygiene materials like soap. We are taking these actions in poor communities with weak public health systems, whose populations are already facing multiple threats to their health and livelihoods.

### In crowded and cramped living spaces, such as slums and refugee camps

Up to **160**  
people use the  
same  
latrine



Up to **250**  
people use  
a single  
water tap

Up to **500**  
people share  
one shower





## 50 YEARS OF EXPERTISE IN WASH

In many developing countries, the installation of more water points and extension of water supply networks have greatly reduced the time and effort communities need to get water. This gives them more time to develop their livelihoods and spend time with family.



1



2



3

- 1 Protecting the health of refugees** Oxfam is installing contactless handwashing devices in refugee camps. These are activated with a foot pedal to avoid the transmission of the virus from touching the tap. Those lining up to use it also maintain a safe distance.
- 2 Bringing water to poor communities** One of our WASH engineers working on a solar-powered water system in Southern Africa. The system will not only supply water to a local school, clinic and many families in the community, but will also irrigate the farms there and enhance farmers' productivity.
- 3 Ensuring the wellbeing of students** In addition to installing water pumps, latrines and handwashing stations in schools, Oxfam also provides training to teachers and students on personal hygiene. For instance, we share the handwashing steps with them and work with them to form groups that ensure hygiene in schools.



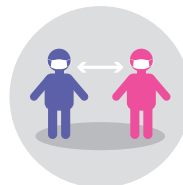
**Empower vulnerable communities to protect themselves against COVID-19!**



**NEW:** To ensure the safety and health of participants and the working personnel, all participants must complete the Health Declaration Form prior to entering the starting point and submit on site, details will be announced later. The Organiser will also implement a series of measures during the event, including:

## Personal health tips

1. Perform hand hygiene frequently, especially before touching the mouth, nose or eyes; after touching public installations such as doorknobs; or when hands are contaminated by respiratory secretion after coughing or sneezing.
2. Wash hands with liquid soap and water, and rub for at least 20 seconds. Then rinse with water and dry. If hand washing facilities are not available, or when hands are not visibly soiled, hand hygiene with 70 to 80 % alcohol-based hand sanitiser is an effective alternative.
3. Cover your nose and mouth with tissue paper when sneezing or coughing. Do not spit or litter. Use tissue paper to hold your spit. Dispose of the soiled tissues into a lidded rubbish bin, and then wash hands thoroughly.
4. Bring surgical masks, tissue paper and 70 to 80% alcohol-based hand sanitiser with you.
5. If you have a fever or respiratory symptoms, do not participate in the event and seek medical advice promptly.
6. Practice proper removal and safe disposal of surgical masks. Do not leave it on the trail.
7. Buy insurance about COVID-19, if needed, understand the terms and conditions thoroughly.



## During Event

1. Encourage teams not to arrive the Start Point too early, all teams must register and start at the designated time to reduce queuing time and close contact.
2. Require all working personnel and participants to wear surgical masks while taking the shuttle bus arranged by the Organiser.
3. Participants have to maintain social distance when queuing at Start Point, checkpoints and Finish Point.
4. Require all working personnel, participants and supporting teams to wear surgical masks before entering Start Point, checkpoints and Finish Point area.
5. Participants and supporting teams must have temperature screened before entering Start Point and Finish Point.
6. Provide hand sanitisers at Start Point, checkpoints and Finish Point for participants if needed.
7. Keep toilets clean and dry at Start Point, checkpoints and Finish Point.
8. Provide hand wash or hand sanitisers at the public toilet or portaloos at checkpoint.
9. Always keep your hands clean while preparing food and not to share the food with others with the same utensils to avoid cross infection.
10. Avoid touching animals (including wild pig, monkey, poultry / birds or their droppings).
11. Post up advisory notices on COVID-19 at Start Point, checkpoints and Finish Point to alert the participants awareness on prevention on COVID-19.

**Due to COVID-19, participants are asked to bring your own blankets, sleeping bags or warm clothes if needed, the organizer will not provide blankets at checkpoints. Participants are also suggested to bring Epidemic Prevention Materials. Please refer to Page 41.**

**The organiser is closely monitoring the situation and will follow the guidelines promulgated by Hong Kong's Centre for Health Protection for appropriate preventive measures.**

References:

COVID-19 Thematic Website:

[www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/index.html](http://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/index.html)

Centre for Health Protection Website:

[www.chp.gov.hk/en/index.html](http://www.chp.gov.hk/en/index.html)

