



India Hand Hygiene Snapshot

JMP 2020 data: household, school and HCF overview



Household

67.8% of households have basic hand hygiene facilities



Health Care Facility (HCF)

100% of HCF have basic hand hygiene facilities






School

52.9% of schools have basic hand hygiene facilities



Enabling environment

	<h3>Policies</h3>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 ■ National Urban Sanitation Policy (NUSP, 2008) includes associated hygiene-related practices ■ Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (SBM-G) (2014-2019) ■ 10 Year Rural Sanitation Strategy (2019-2029) to sustain the hygiene behaviour change achieved under the SBM-G ■ SBM-G-phase-2 (2020-2024) with a focus on ODF sustainability and ODF+ (waste management) ■ Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) with 100 days agenda for school and Anganwadi water supply ■ Swachh Vidyalaya Guidelines for primary and secondary schools to meet norms for water, sanitation, hygiene facilities, and operations and maintenance ■ From ODF to ODF Plus Rural Sanitation Strategy 2019-2029, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti ■ Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) guidelines with 60% tied grant under 15th finance commission for Water and Sanitation services in GPs ■ POSHAN Abhiyaan, the Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment, or the National Nutrition Mission, is the Government of India's flagship programme to improve nutritional outcomes for children, pregnant women and lactating mothers
	<h3>Financing</h3>	<p>A budget is allocated under SBM and JJM for the information, education, and communication (IEC) components for promoting hygiene behaviours which includes hand hygiene but without a specific dedicated budget line. There is no dedicated budget line for hardware.</p> <p>School maintenance budgets also have provision for setting up group handwashing stations</p>
	<h3>Coordination</h3>	<p>There is no coordination mechanism at the national level, which makes institutional anchoring for hand hygiene a challenge. There is no one Ministry or agency responsible for promoting the hand hygiene agenda. The situation is similar at the state and district levels.</p> <p>Under the Hand Hygiene 4 All (HH4A) initiative, a consortium of development partners (UNICEF, WHO, Wateraid, and ISC) are working to support the development of an enabling environment in the hand hygiene sector. A draft country roadmap at the national level and sector wide policy briefs have been developed and shared with government. The consortium organises events – seminars and workshops - to galvanise the non-government sector on hand hygiene. It supports the Sustainable Sanitation Alliance (SuSanA) platform in India.</p>



Monitoring

Aside from JMP, data on hand hygiene behaviour in India is limited.

- The National Sample Survey (NSS) 76 Round (2018-19) is one of few sources available (other sources being independent studies carried out by research organisations and NGOs). As per the NSS report, 35.8% of household members (56% urban, 25.3% rural) reported washing hands before eating, while 74.1% (88.3% urban, 66.8% rural) cleaned their hands with soap after defecation.
- The National Family and Health Survey 4 (2015-2016) found that 80.3% of urban and 49.4% of rural households with a handwashing space were equipped with water and soap.
- The National Annual Rural Sanitation Survey 2 (2018-19), noted that a vast majority of schools (94.5%) had a place for handwashing, yet only 39.8% had both soap and water. In surveyed anganwadis, only 42.1% had soap and water at the handwashing space.
- The NARSS 3 (2020) reported 99.6% of public toilets in the villages surveyed had handwashing facilities with both soap and water. However, only 37.5% sampled anganwadis had soap and water near the toilet, 54.8% had only water, while only 2.0% had neither soap nor water for handwashing.

The Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar assessment tool for schools is comprehensive and captures both hardware and software aspects of handwashing with soap, based on WASH standards for schools.

The School Health Ambassador Program has key performance indicators that includes an indicator for functional handwashing facilities with soap and water in schools.

In public health care settings, the Kayakalp assessment criteria for public health care facilities facilitates improvements in health care infrastructure related to cleanliness and infection prevention and control, including handwashing.

The Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) portal also includes an indicator for hand hygiene.



Capacity

Training on hand washing with soap for different settings – households, schools, anganwadis, public facilities of the following critical stakeholders are carried out :

- Auxiliary nurse midwife (ANM) and accredited social health activist (ASHA) as well as anganwadi workers
- School Management Committees, school health ambassadors and teachers under the new school health ambassador programme. Bal Sabhas/Bal Sansads to raise awareness among peers on hand hygiene and child cabinet members, youth groups
- Masons, barefoot technicians, swachhagrahis and Jal Surakshaks trained to construct simple, low-cost handwashing facilities and promote handwashing behaviour
- Members of Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) members, Village Water Sanitation Committee, and women's self-help groups



Hand hygiene behaviour change approaches

Hand hygiene is promoted through two national WASH flagship programmes – the Swachh Bharat Mission Phase 1 and 2 and the Jal Jeevan Mission on rural drinking water. Engaging celebrities such as Sachin Tendulkar has promoted the message of handwashing through audio-visuals.

Hand hygiene is also promoted through other programmes such as Swachh Vidyalaya on school WASH, Bal Swachhta Mission on Anganwadis, Kayakalp on hospitals and GDPD on entire village development activities. Further, in schools, hand hygiene is part of the School Health Ambassador program. Handwashing with soap was made a part of mid-day meal scheme in 2013 with provision for construction of handwashing stations near the mid day meal dining area

Government upscaled the Hand Washing Days celebrations on 15th October as a Swachhta Pakhwada (cleanliness fortnight) from the year 2015 onwards with a focus on promotion of hand hygiene. The concept of group hand washing designs were developed with UNICEF support

Hand hygiene technologies and products

Low-cost, durable and context-relevant solutions and innovative handwashing facilities have been developed for different settings. Handwashing facilities include a sink with tap water or devices that contain, transport or regulate the flow of water such as buckets with taps, tippy-taps, portable basins, and multi-user handwashing stations. Soap includes bar soap, liquid soap, powder detergent and soapy water. Self Help Groups have been involved for local manufacturing of soaps to enhance access to affordable soap at the community level.

UNICEF India is carrying out multiple studies on hand hygiene. At the national level these include (i) a study of the existing as well as required financial environment around hand hygiene with IRC (ii) A gap assessment of the implementation environment of hand hygiene initiatives at the field level with a research agency SIGMA Foundation (iii) a market led intervention to promote handwashing innovation and entrepreneurship with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FICCI). At the field level in 12 states, interventions on supply side and demand side of the hand hygiene sector are also in progress.

Hand hygiene response to COVID-19 pandemic

During the COVID-19 response, UNICEF joined a consortium with WHO, Aga Khan Foundation, IRC and WaterAid on promoting handwashing with government agencies and with CSOs/NGOs across India.

UNICEF's promotion of hand washing with soap to prevent and control COVID-19 brought innovations such as touch-free hand washing stations. In response to COVID-19, in April 2020, UNICEF India brought out a design/technology manual of COVID-19 sensitive handwashing station designs. This includes indicative designs, layouts and cost estimates of COVID-19 sensitive handwashing stations (cost between 50–300 US\$). Local fabrication was promoted.

UNICEF also led capacity development for behaviour-change communication on hand washing – some 84 million people gained awareness of the importance of hand washing with soap. This included using a multi-partner platform - COVID-19 Academy hosted by Sphere India - provided a platform for learning, exchange of knowledge and ideas amongst volunteers from Civil Society Organizations, Community and Faith-based Organizations, Red Cross, Civil Defence, National Cadet Corps, National Service Scheme, Nehru Yuva Kendra, student groups and individuals.

UNICEF ensured continuity and expansion of WASH services and the distribution of essential supplies throughout the pandemic. One such project was an Orbia supported project implemented in 3 states: Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal with approx. 500 handwashing stations set up in schools, public health centres, slums, markets, transport, jails and local government offices

The Sujal and Swachh Gaon initiative launched in 2019, has been a joint effort by UNICEF and the World Bank to support the central and state governments to build the capacity of about 7,50,000 Gram Panchayat (GP) level functionaries from India's 2,50,000 GPs on drinking water and sanitation, 3 Panchayati Raj Institution representatives from each GP. Fifty-five training-of-trainers' sessions were organized in 23 states: UNICEF trained 2,847 master trainers who, in turn, trained 34,000 individuals at GP level. This included all components on WASH including hygiene behaviour.

References

- UNICEF Fact Sheet: Handwashing Stations and Supplies for the COVID-19 response. Available at: <https://www.unicef.org/media/75706/file/Handwashing%20Facility%20Worksheet.pdf>
- WaterAid repository of hand hygiene promotion resources for COVID-19: <https://www.wateraidindia.in/covid19>