



Pakistan Hand Hygiene Snapshot

JMP 2020 data: household, school and HCF overview



Household

80% of households have basic hand hygiene facilities

93% of the households have access to a place for hand washing, only 69 percent households use soap and water for hand washing. One in 10 households do not have water, soap, or any other cleaning agents in place for practicing hand hygiene. Urban households have a greater availability of soap and water at 89 percent, as compared to 57 percent of rural households

Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey (PDHS) 2017-2018

11% of households reported that there is no place for hand washing and non-availability of cleansing agent for hand washing. 50 percent of households were reported to have a special place for hand washing with soap and water (74 percent in urban areas and 36 percent in rural areas)

Pakistan Social Living Standards Measurement (PSLM) survey 2018-19

90% of the population practices hand washing with soap during critical times. Further, there are small inequities between rural and urban areas (NNS, 2018).

The National Nutrition Survey (NNS)



School

JMP reports insufficient data.

The Pakistan Education Statistics does not independently report the availability of hand hygiene in schools. Other sources confirm that hygiene facilities in schools of Punjab, Balochistan and Sindh are limited and need to be constructed in numerous schools.






Health Care Facility (HCF)

JMP reports insufficient data.

61% have functional handwashing stations at point of care while 91% of HCF have a functional handwashing station in or near toilets. However, there are disparities in availability of handwashing with soap depending on the level of care. The majority of secondary and tertiary level facilities (>85%) have functional handwashing with soap compared to 60% of primary level HCFs. Availability of handwashing with soap in primary level HCFs also varies across provinces: e.g. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Merged Districts (KPMD) = 11%, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) = 30%, Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) = 40% while Punjab = 90%. Non-functionality of handwashing with soap is mainly attributed to lack of water and soap at the station

Data from a consultation exercise (2021)

Enabling environment

	<h3>Policies</h3>	<p>The National Sanitation Policy 2006 extends to cover hand hygiene. All four provinces of Pakistan have developed their draft sanitation policies that recognise hygiene as an integral component of sanitation and plan to promote hygiene through various interventions. The National Drinking Water Policy 2009 and the National Water Policy 2018 states hygiene as one of the objectives with aims to increase public awareness about safe hygiene practices. Similarly, all four provinces of Pakistan developed their WASH Sector Development Plans, which included interventions related to hygiene promotion with total sanitation.</p> <p>The National Guidelines for Infection Prevention and Control (IPC), 2020 provide a detailed arrangement regarding handwashing and highlight the need for adequate infrastructure. According to the guidelines, availability of basic infrastructure (hand washing facilities, continuous water supply, soap, drying material, and alcohol-based hand sanitisers) at the point of care are important components of infection prevention and control (IPC).</p> <p>Pakistan is one of the first countries to develop and launch the Hand Hygiene for All roadmap, aimed at ensuring universal hand hygiene by 2030.</p>
	<h3>Financing</h3>	<p>Presently, the federal and provincial governments of Pakistan are allocating around USD 1 billion annually on WASH services in the country, much lower than annual investment needs required to implement SDG 6.1 and 6.2 in Pakistan.</p> <p>Dedicated information on the finances being spent on hygiene is not readily accessible. There are multiple types of investments on hygiene. Estimates suggest that only about five percent budget of WASH is being allocated towards hygiene.</p>
	<h3>Coordination</h3>	<p>The creation of Pakistan WASH Strategic Planning and Coordination Cell at the Ministry of Climate Change has geared up the role and scope of WASH at the federal level. Joint sector reviews are also a coordination mechanism for the sector.</p>



Monitoring

The key survey at the national level is Pakistan Social Living Standards Measurement (PSLM). The first PSLM Report 2018-19 indicated that only 50 percent population in Pakistan has a dedicated hand washing facility with soap at the household level. Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey (PDHS) and National Nutrition Survey (NNS) are two other key surveys that collect information about hand washing. At the provincial level, the Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey (MICS), led by provincial Bureau of Statistics through the Planning and Development departments, which includes information about hand washing with soap.

School WASH related data is collected by the School Education Management Information Systems (EMIS), which also have information around the availability of drinking water and toilets in the schools. Very recently, the Punjab School Education Department added the indicators of cleanliness and hygiene into its review and reporting system.

The School Education Department of Government of Punjab added the element of hygiene into its monitoring dashboard from 2020. Similar kinds of efforts are underway in other provinces and administrated regions. However, the current annual status of education report at the federal level does not include hygiene status of the school.



Capacity

The Local Government Academies at provincial level largely lead on training the on hygiene. Similarly, the community development actors, under the PHEDs, are provided with ad hoc training around hygiene practices for those who are engaged in creating and ensuring hygiene like Lady Health Worker, field workers, community development workers, and sanitary workers. Some of the large urban utilities have their own training and skill development initiatives, that include orientation and awareness raising approaches for hygiene, water and sanitation services.



Hand hygiene behaviour change approaches

Pakistan has piloted different approaches for behavioural change through national and provincial initiatives like Saaf Sehatmand Pakistan (Clean Healthy Pakistan), Saaf Suthro Sindh, Saaf Dehat Punjab, Peshawar Declaration, etc. The Clean Green Pakistan Movement (CGPM), launched in 2018 by MoCC, also emphasises on behavioural change and institutional strengthening. Handwashing is promoted through the Pakistan Approach to Total Sanitation (PATS), a key vehicle to cascade the implementation of national sanitation and water policies. Hand hygiene practices and behaviour in demand and supply side components, are promoted through behaviour change communications. Lady Health Workers are an important component of primary healthcare in the country, operating within the community they are based in. Similarly, teachers play a role in hand hygiene promotion. Hand hygiene is one of the five pillars of the Clean Green Pakistan, one of the PM's flagship programs showing high political commitment.

There are extremely limited studies in Pakistan on school-based interventions to promote personal and environmental hygiene among school children.

Hand hygiene technologies and products

There are approximately 600 factories making soap and employing 250,000 workers in Pakistan, 450 in unorganised sector and more than 150 in the organised sector.

Pakistan has a Soap Manufacturers' Association (PSMA). Normal consumption of soap, liquid and bars usually stands at 250,000 tons per year.

Hand hygiene response to COVID-19 pandemic

As per a survey reported in February 2021, only 51 percent of the population of the country is washing hands frequently and 47 percent is using hand sanitisers, as preventive measures against COVID-19 (Gallup & Gilani Pakistan, 2021).

In the COVID-19 context especially, disruptions and lack of WASH services in health facilities, schools and communities undermine IPC measures and the promotion of hand hygiene.

UNICEF technical and financial support to Government on hygiene promotion resulted in installation of hands-free handwashing stations, and existing WASH communication networks were leveraged enabling 9.5 million people to access information and practice hand hygiene. Community WASH structures, such as Village WASH Committees and social mobilizers, ensured continuity of services and hygiene promotion.