

● Current Situation and Issues

With the spread of the COVID-19 infection worldwide, the importance of hand washing with water and soap has never been more critical. Water supply and hygiene practice are recognized as extremely important measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 virus. However, approx. 3 billion people, equivalent to 40% of the world’s population, do not have easy access to water and soap. Many health facilities and schools do not have any water and handwashing facilities in place. Moreover, development of water supply and hand-washing facilities are far behind in high-density informal settlements, slums and peripheral areas of developing countries, which makes the risk of spreading COVID-19 infection particularly high. In addition, urban water utilities are facing financial challenges due to the stagnation of economic activity and medium-to long-term lockdowns.

◆ Objectives of the Research

- **Summarize the Lessons Learned from the COVID-19 Crisis Response and Consider Necessary Countermeasures to be taken up against COVID-19 in the Water Supply and Sanitation (WASH) Sector.**
- Collect information on domestic and international efforts being carried out against COVID-19 and summarize lessons learned in the WASH sector. Extract knowledge that can be used to solve issues in the developing countries, as well as disseminate the same to domestic and overseas stakeholders.
- Collect and analyze information on COVID-19, and formulate support measures for JICA projects in the WASH sector in relation to COVID-19 based on the knowledge extracted under this research.

Worldwide Project Research “The COVID-19 Crisis Response and Lessons Learned in the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Sector”

Collect COVID-19 related information in the field of water supply and sanitation (WASH) from a wide range of sources such as domestic and other development partners, international organizations, developing countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Central & South America (including their activities and knowledge), lessons learned from past hygiene awareness and behavior modification, and review papers of Japan's historical efforts.

Organize and analyze information from the following perspective:

- 1) Informal settlements and slums in urban areas, peripheral area (peri-urban)
- 2) Impact on water supply business management due to a decrease in water charge income
- 3) Epidemiological relationship of COVID-19 and WASH
- 4) Factors promoting behavior modification in relation to hand washing
- 5) Identify the importance of WASH sector from the perspective of cross-sectoral approach

① Information Collection

② Information Analysis

Basic Structure of the Research

③ Formulation of JICA's support measures

④ Knowledge Extraction and Dissemination



Picture : Slum located in the Phnom Penh suburbs

Based on the collected and analyzed information, organize the support measures in the WASH sector that can be applied on future JICA projects (for example, mitigation measures for water supply business management, effects and points to be noted for introducing prepaid meters, measures and points to be noted for developing water supply facility in slums etc.) Support measures include proposals for model projects as a JICA project.



Picture: JICA COVID-19 special website

Based on the reports prepared under in this research, create a summary version, analysis paper, etc. for disseminating overseas. These summary versions and analysis papers will be posted on JICA COVID-19 special web page. In addition, the results of this research will be disseminated at international conferences held after 2021.