

Photo of this issue



Handwashing at the construction site of "The project for rehabilitation of irrigation facilities in Rwamagana District," a grant aid project completed last year in Rwanda.

This activity was a part of the infection prevention measures by the contractor to prevent the spread of the COVID-19. Simple handwashing stations had been set up at the site, and handwashing was encouraged five times a day (before starting work, morning break, lunch, afternoon break, and after work). In addition to handwashing, all workers engaged in construction work were required to keep a daily record of their health by keeping a distance between them, wearing masks, and taking their body temperature.

We are looking for your handwashing awareness photos!

(Photo by Tobishima Corporation)



Zambia

Have fun practicing proper handwashing with PPAP2020!!

JICA Zambia Office started a project "Preventing the spread of infectious diseases to children in vulnerable areas in Lusaka City through handwashing song" under the Community Empowerment Program scheme in conjunction with the Global Handwashing Day on October 15, 2020.

[PPAP2020, a handwashing song by Japanese comedian Pikotaro](#), released in April 2020, has been used to encourage the children to wash their hands in a proper and fun way. The project was contracted to a local NGO for implementation. With the help of two famous Zambian comedian, we have been teaching children how to wash their hands properly by performing PPAP2020 with them at assembly halls in two unplanned settlements (compounds) in Lusaka. About 50 children participated in each 30-minute session, and we held about 120 sessions in total in the two compounds from October 2020 to February 2021. More than 6,000 children have participated in the activities.

The compounds in Lusaka have experienced a cholera epidemic in 2018 which caused several deaths. Therefore, through this activity, we encourage children to learn the habit of handwashing to prevent not only COVID-19, but also other waterborne diseases.

We provided tanks for hand washing, chlorine granules for disinfecting water, and soaps, as well as masks for the children participating in the activities. We also printed and distributed to the participants the "Correct handwashing" by Kimidori Inoue and the PPAP2020 poster to encourage them to practice correct handwashing at home. The parents of the children who participated in the activities said that they are now more conscious of handwashing than before. In addition, a 15-minute documentary program on this activity was produced and aired on TV to spread the word not only in Lusaka but also throughout the country.

Handwashing is one of the basic acts of daily life that has not changed before or after the COVID-19 pandemic, and we will continue to convey its importance in a fun way to the people of Zambia.

(Mr. Shunichiro HAYASHI, JICA Zambia Office)



A local comedian shows children the proper way to wash their hands to PPAP 2020



Children lined up in front of a hand-washing tank to wash their hands under the guidance of NGO staff



Kenya JICA Partnership Program NGO's activity "Smile toilet project"

The "Smile Toilet Project" in Homa Bay County, Republic of Kenya, implemented by Japan Habitat Association, an NGO, is promoting the construction of toilets and handwashing stations in households. This project will help prevent infectious diseases such as diarrhea and COVID-19 caused by unhygienic environments.

In order to raise awareness of hand washing among the residents, an awareness campaign is conducted on the Global Hand Washing Day. In 2019, 152 residents and 90 elementary school students participated in the event, and in 2020, 82 residents participated in the event while taking measures to prevent COVID-19. At the event, besides conveying the importance of handwashing, we provide instructions on how to install the Tippy Tap, which anyone can install easily. We also distribute handwashing calendars to raise awareness of handwashing as an educational tool that is familiar and always noticeable to people.

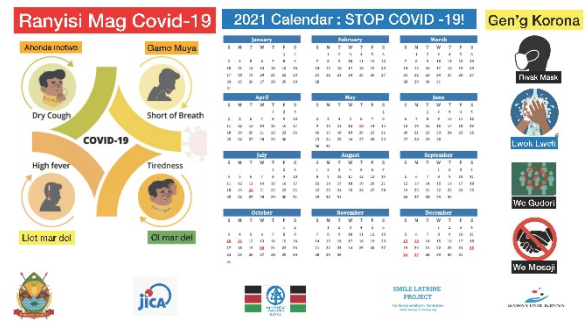


The installation of the Tippy Tap in each household is in progress.

In the areas where we have implemented the project so far, handwashing facility coverage has increased from 21% to 86%, and a total of 1,149 out of 1,331 households now have access to basic handwashing facilities.



Tippy Tap demonstration (Global Handwashing Day)



Handwashing awareness calendar

(Smile toilet project, Mr. Daisaku SHIONOHARA, Japan Habitat Association)



Report on the first seminar of the Handwashing for health and life campaign platform

On February 19, 2021, the first seminar of the Handwashing for health and life campaign platform, "Seminar on the progress of the handwashing campaign and introduction of member groups," was held online. About 100 people participated in the seminar, including members of the platform, related organizations, universities, consulting companies, and JICA.

Associate Professor Dr. Eri SUGITA, Graduate School of Human Sciences, Osaka University gave a keynote speech, and member groups of the platform presented their activities on handwashing. JICA also gave a presentation on the activities of this campaign.

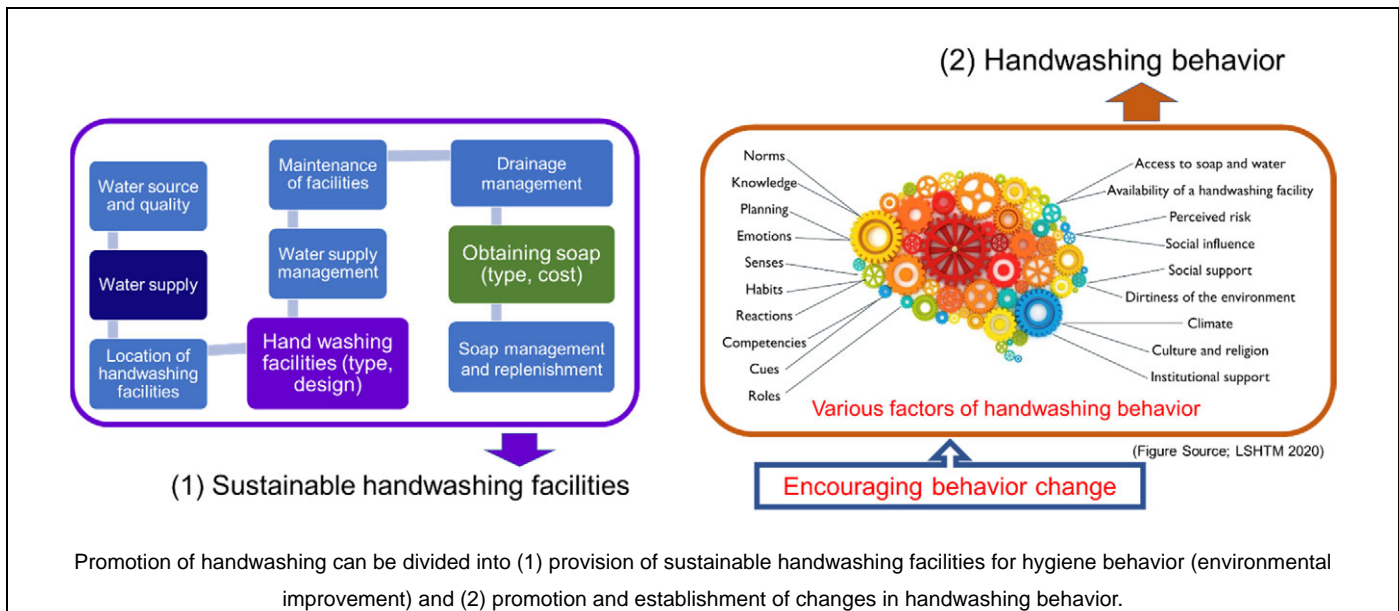
< Keynote speech > "Just handwashing, but how hard can it is?"

Today, we know that handwashing is the key to preventing infectious diseases such as the new coronavirus. The lecture began with a now surprising episode: only 160 years ago, Western medicine believed that miasma was the cause of infectious diseases, and Semmelweis, a doctor who discovered that people were infected by something that adhered to hands and stressed the importance of handwashing, was expelled from the hospital. She then explained the history of making "handwashing with soap" an international agenda, which started in the early 2000s, with the establishment of Global Handwashing Day (October 15) in 2008, and the inclusion of "hygiene" and "handwashing facilities" in the SDGs in 2016.



Keynote speech by Dr. SUGITA

It is reported that 900 million children do not have access to washing facilities in schools around the world (WHO&UNICEF 2020), so handwashing is not just a small hurdle to overcome. Promotion of handwashing can be divided into two categories: (1) provision of sustainable handwashing facilities for hygienic behavior (environmental improvement), and (2) promotion and establishment of changes in handwashing behavior, both of which are complicated and involve various factors, and cannot be promoted easily. This is why sharing trial and error through the platform is so important.



She also introduced Japan's experience with handwashing, including efforts to develop handwashing facilities in elementary schools and encouraging behavioral change over the years, as well as the encouragement of handwashing as part of community life-improvement campaigns, and stated that this experience is both unique and a strength of Japan.

At the end of the speech, she told us the following three points.

- (1) "Handwashing with soap" can have a positive impact not only during a COVID-19 pandemic, but also after the pandemic.
- (2) Promotion of "handwashing with soap" should be considered as a "long-term system". Experience accumulated in Japan will be an advantage in this regard.
- (3) Promotion of handwashing should be tackled in a cross-sectoral approach.

< Presentations from member groups of the platform >

The following 6 member groups of the platform made presentations on their activities related to handwashing, including their approaches to promoting handwashing in developing countries through JICA projects, and their products and solutions related to handwashing. It is expected that more activities to promote hand washing and collaboration among the platform will be developed in the future.



LIXIL Corporation



TEC International Co., Ltd.



WaterAid Japan



Japan Techno Co.,Ltd.



Kawaichi Tech Co. Ltd.



Earth and Human Corporation

In this fourth fifth of the series, we introduce Kawaichi Tech Co. Ltd.

Kawaichi Tech Co., Ltd.



◎Company information

We produce raw materials for plastics and rubber in all industries.

In the TBS program "Made in Japan" aired in the fall of 2019 (rebroadcast in the spring of 2020), our product KT-POWDER (water purification coagulant) turned muddy water into drinking water in "Mission to clean muddy pond water in Colombia" and helped to secure clean water in depopulated areas in the country where water is scarce. We also manufacture and sell hypochlorite water (an alternative disinfection method against the COVID-19, evaluated by NITE for its effectiveness). By mixing these two different techniques, we hope to contribute to handwashing, prevention of infectious diseases, promotion of health, and improvement of public health in developing countries.



◎Handwashing activity



No electricity. Only muddy water. No soap.

Here is a product that is perfect for a harsh environment. This product turns muddy water into crystal clear water about 10 seconds. But that's not all. It turns it into hypochlorite water. To make this magical water, simply fill a plastic bottle or other container with water, add our KT-POWDER, and shake it quickly up and down about 10 seconds. Then, wait for the mud to settle down, put it in another container using a filter, and hypochlorite water is ready. If you wash your hands with this magical water, you will be able to inactivate the new coronavirus. We hope to provide this product as soon as possible to such an environment where there is no electricity, only muddy water, and no soap.

◎Website

Kawaichi Tech Co., Ltd.

<https://www.kawaichi.co.jp>

Handwashing site coming soon

◎Contact

Narita Factory: 570-46 Minami-hatori, Narita City, Chiba, Japan

TEL:0476-37-1471 FAX:0476-37-1082

info@kawaichi.co.jp

Products from Kawaichi Tech Co., Ltd.

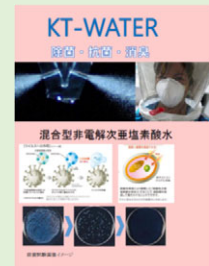
We are specialized in "mixing". It is not plastic and rubber, but we use the technology of mixing to mix various things. By adding KT-Water (powder) to KT-Powder, hypochlorite water is produced. This technology of mixing two products is perfect for harsh environments where it is difficult to wash hands: no electricity, only muddy water, and no soap.

(For inquiries, please contact Kawaichi Tech Co., Ltd.)

* This article is reprinted from information provided by Kawaichi Tech Co., Ltd. and JICA does not officially endorse these products.



Inorganic flocculent for water purification



Mixed type non-electrolyzed hypochlorite water (powder)

◆Website updates on the handwashing for health and life campaign platform◆

- (1) Information about the report "Regional state of hygiene -West Africa" by WaterAid Japan has been added. <https://www.jica.go.jp/activities/issues/water/handwashing/index.html> (English website is coming soon.)
- (2) "Correct handwashing" by INOUE Kimidori, translated into various local languages, is now available for download! https://www.jica.go.jp/activities/issues/water/handwashing/handwashing_manga_other.html (English website is coming soon.)
- (3) The report of the 1st seminar of the Handwashing for health and life campaign platform is coming soon. <https://www.jica.go.jp/information/seminar/2020/index.html> (Japanese only)

We are always looking for articles, photos, information, etc. that you would like to post or share in this newsletter.

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(3) problems with the display of this newsletter, or (4) any questions, requests, or feedback.

Global Environment Department JICA Handwashing for health and life campaign secretariat

Website https://www.jica.go.jp/english/our_work/thematic_issues/water/handwashing/index.html

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