



Photo of this issue

In the "Project for Improving Continuum of Care with Focus on Intrapartum and Neonatal Care" in Cambodia, Saraya co., Ltd. provided baby soap as a donation to support the project activities. The baby soap was distributed to mothers who received continuous care (prenatal checkups, facility deliveries, and postnatal checkups) and encouraged them to keep their babies clean by bathing and washing their hands.

More than 50% of infant deaths in the country are during the neonatal period, up to 28 days after birth, and reducing neonatal deaths is an urgent issue. With the goal of strengthening the continuum of care focusing on the time of delivery and the neonatal period, we will continue to work on activities such as early essential neonatal care and strengthening the intensive care for sick, low birth weight and early born babies.

(Photo by Human Development Department)

< Message from the JICA Handwashing for health and life campaign secretariat >

Half a year has passed since the JICA Handwashing for health and life campaign started. Let's expand the impact of the handwashing campaign even further! Here are some ideas for you to consider in your activities.

- 👉 **Deliver the message to more people.**
- 👉 **Ensure repetitive messages from various channels.**
- 👉 **Incorporate ideas that lead to behavior change.**
- 👉 **Incorporate handwashing awareness into school curricula and textbooks to encourage repetition.**
- 👉 **Encourage local governments to place handwashing in their policies, plans, and budgets.**
- 👉 **Involve high-level local government officials. Encourage them to continue handwashing initiatives at the government level.**



Madagascar

School lunches and handwashing supported by "everyone" in the community

In Madagascar, where the financial situation of the country is severe, it is necessary for schools to solve various issues sometimes by themselves. Therefore, JICA supports the revitalization of school management committees composed of "everyone" including parents, teachers, and local residents through the "Participatory School Management Project".

As a result, the committee, with the cooperation of "everyone," has actively mobilized local resources such as people, goods, and money to implement educational improvement efforts, including the purchase of desks, chairs, stationery, and textbooks, as well as supplementary classes in math, reading, and writing.

In addition, in light of the situation in Madagascar where school lunches are not stably provided, an increasing number of schools have set the goal of "providing school lunches to children" and have mobilized locally available ingredients such as rice, water, and vegetables, as well as cooking and serving staff, to provide school lunches and conduct handwashing activities before lunches. In fact, in 2019, school lunches were served to about 8,850 children in 59 schools and handwashing activities were conducted before lunches. As of March 2021, this initiative has expanded to about 21,900 children in 146 schools.

Through the "Participatory school management project", we will continue to help build a foundation for everyone to work together to solve the multi-sectoral issues surrounding children, not only in education, but also in nutrition, health and hygiene.



"Everyone" thinking and discussing issues surrounding children and their solutions



Parents and local residents helping with cooking and serving food.



Children washing their hands before school lunch.



Smiling children in front of their school lunch.

(Mr. KUROKAWA Seiichi, Basic Education Group, Human Development Department, and Mr. KUNIEDA Nobuhiro, Senior Adviser)



Tajikistan

Safe water supply and proper handwashing practices

The Technical Cooperation project, "the Project for Strengthening the Water Service Management of Pyanj and Khamadoni Vodokanals", is aimed at strengthening the operation and maintenance of water supply facilities and management capacity of water and sewerage authorities that provide water supply services in local cities in Tajikistan. In response to a request from the Tajik government, we took quick action against the COVID-19 pandemic by procuring 300 tons of disinfectant for water supply and supporting the management of its delivery to water and sewerage authorities nationwide.

In Pyanj, one of the target sites of this project, State Affiliated Enterprise on Water Supply and Sewerage of Pyanj District (Pyanji Vodokanal) is operating and managing the water supply facilities (completed in 2016) constructed by Japan's Grant Aid project, and is supplying safe water to about 30,000 residents. The Vodokanal sympathized with the JICA handwashing for health and life campaign, which emphasizes the importance of proper handwashing habits in addition to safe water supply to prevent infectious diseases including COVID-19, and decided to implement the campaign in four elementary schools in the district.

As part of its efforts to strengthen its relationship with customers, the Vodokanal has been incorporating the "traveling classroom" learned through the project's training in Japan, and has been holding classes for elementary school students on how water from the water supply system is delivered to each household, as well as tours of water supply facilities. Although the Vodokanal has already established relationships with elementary schools in the district through these activities, the implementation of the handwashing campaign will involve a wide range of organizations, including the district government, local government councils, boards of education, and medical institutions such as district hospitals and nursing schools.

After this campaign, the Governor of Pyanj and the Board of Education of Pyanj expressed their sincere gratitude to JICA and asked JICA to continue the handwashing campaign and to conduct the same campaign for higher grades and high school students. The handwashing campaign was reported by a national TV station and broadcasted on a nationwide news program during prime time for several days. It is hoped that this handwashing campaign will spread across the country through other water and sewerage authorities in the future.



The brochure, translated into Tajik, was easy to understand and well received by the children.



Students from the nursing school taught handwashing. Soap and a "Correct handwashing" by INOUE Kimidori translated into Tajik were distributed to the children.



A total of 1,700 children from four elementary schools participated in the handwashing campaign.

■ YouTube Project Activities: <https://youtu.be/ILId5sDrUew>

Hand Washing Campaign: <https://youtu.be/EDmBhSi6KMw>

(Mr. MATSUDA Kazumi, the Project for Strengthening the Water Service Management of Pyanj and Khamadoni Vodokanals)

We participated in a webinar "Hygiene for Health and Nutrition – How to Increase Momentum on Hygiene for Health and Nutrition" organized by Water Aid Japan, a non-profit organization, on March 30, 2021.



Webinar speakers (photo by Water Aid Japan)

This webinar was held to mobilize our partners from hygiene and nutrition sector to discuss how we can leverage this momentum to change people's hygiene behaviors, for a generation and on a massive scale, to improve nutrition and better prepare for health crisis in the future by sharing the challenges we have been facing and the specific opportunities we can utilize, especially in terms of collaboration and coordination from the nutrition and hygiene/WASH perspective. This December, the Japanese government is planning to hold the Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit, and as attention to nutrition increases internationally, we need to consider the role of hygiene behaviors such as handwashing in improving nutrition.

The opening remarks were made by the Global Health Policy Division, International Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, followed by panelists from UNICEF (Hand

Hygiene for All Global Initiative), Water Aid Bangladesh, Save the Children Japan, and JICA spoke as panelists. The following points were raised during the discussion on improving nutrition, water and sanitation.

- When thinking about improving nutrition, water and sanitation improvements are less focused, but should come more to the forefront, and evidence of the links between water, sanitation and nutrition is needed to make this happen.
- Repeated awareness raising across sectors is needed to make handwashing a habit.
- Since nutrition and hand hygiene are related to various factors including social factors, cross-sectoral efforts are required.
- The environment, communication, behavior change, access to safe water, and water infrastructure are essential for sustained handwashing practices. It is also important to involve the private sector to improve these factors.
- At the N4G Summit, promoting the water and sanitation sector as a factor in improving nutrition will be important, and commitments will be required on what to specifically do in the future and how to proceed in cooperation at the funding and government levels.

【Reference Information】

Hand Hygiene for All Global Results Framework: <https://globalhandwashing.org/resources/hand-hygiene-for-all-results-framework/> and Call to Action: <https://www.unicef.org/reports/hand-hygiene-for-all-2020>

The studies on WASH and Nutrition: [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X\(19\)30268-2/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X(19)30268-2/fulltext)

Position paper (published by UNICEF and WHO): https://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/news-events/who-unicef-position-paper-on-wash-and-nutrition-studies-20191125.pdf?ua=1

WASH and nutrition: why and how to integrate (WaterAid): <https://washmatters.wateraid.org/publications/wash-and-nutrition-why-and-how-to-integrate>

Nutrition Critical (Save the Children) : <https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/library/nutrition-critical-why-we-must-act-now-tackle-child-malnutrition>

As of the end of March 2021, about six months after the start of the handwashing campaign, we have received 200 reports of handwashing activities from 48 countries and 10 departments and 8 domestic offices. The "Correct handwashing" by INOUE Kimidori has now been translated into 28 local languages and is not only being displayed as posters, but also printed on handkerchiefs for distribution. Translated version is uploaded to our [website](#). Please check it! Let's work together to make hand washing a regular practice!

We are always looking for articles, photos, information, etc. that you would like to post or share in this newsletter. Please contact the secretariat below for (1) requests to subscribe/unsubscribe, (2) requests to publish articles, (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

Handwashing@jica.go.jp