

## [ Photo of this issue ] Sanitizing your hands is necessary even at critical moments!



For Palestinian students, the final high school exam known as "Tawjihi" is the culmination of their studies. It is no exaggeration that the result of Tawjihi will greatly affect their future life including the university they enter.

In cooperation with the Palestinian Ministry of Education, JICA provided 369 primary and secondary schools in Gaza with masks, disinfectant, soap and thermometers to prevent COVID-19 in time for the start of Tawjihi on June 24.

Due to the armed clashes in Gaza in May, the distribution plan was delayed, but we managed to deliver the items to the schools before the Tawjihi. As shown in the photo, students at Basheer Al Rayes Girls High School in Gaza got their hands sanitized and their temperatures checked before entering the school.

We believe that the 37,000 Tawjihi students in Gaza took the exam with all the necessary precautions against the COVID-19.

(Photo by JICA Palestine Office)



## Democratic Republic of the Congo

### Installation of automatic hand-washing machines at public facilities in Kinshasa

Kinshasa, a megacity with a population of 14 million, has been the epicenter of the COVID-19 epidemic in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In July 2021, JICA installed 12 automatic hand-washing machines in 8 public facilities to prevent infection.

The machines detect the visitor's hands with their sensors, and liquid soap, water, and warm air are automatically emitted to wash and dry the hands without touching anything. They also measure body temperature and counts the number of users (video: <https://youtu.be/ppN41isVHko>). They are driven by a solar panel, equipped with 1000-liter tanks, and can be used even when water is cut off. At the request of the National COVID-19 Response Committee, they were installed at the entrances of prisons, immigration offices, courts, PCR testing centers, etc., where many visitors may spread the infection.

The handover ceremony on July 5 2021 was participated by Professor Jean-Jaques Muyembe, Technical Secretary of the Response Committee (Winner of the 2019 Hideyo Noguchi Africa Prize for his research on Ebola Virus Disease) and Mr. Kazunao Shibata, Chief Representative of JICA DRC Office.

After DRC's COVID-19 pandemic began in March 2020, a JICA-supported vocational training institute (INPP) developed automatic hand-washing machines, which were reported internationally. This time, Women's Technology, a local company led by Ms. Thérèse Izai, former trainee of JICA Kyushu, manufactured and will maintain these machines.



Handover ceremony at the prison.  
On the right is Professor Muyembe.



A thermometer/counter/liquid soap server (right), faucets (center), and a dryer (left)



Just hold out your hand to wash your hands.



The director of the local company manufacturing the machines is also famous for their "traffic signal robots" in Kinshasa

(JICA Democratic Republic of Congo Office)

Low-income households in Maputo, the capital city of Mozambique, where COVID-19 infection is also spreading, do not have adequate COVID-19 infection prevention measures as they cannot purchase masks and use disposable masks repeatedly.

In schools, there was a risk of infection due to an environment where social distancing was not ensured, and there was also concern about the spread of infection into the families of students. In response to this situation, in July 2021, national staff of our Mozambique office conveyed the importance of handwashing with the poster of "Correct handwashing" by INOUE Kimidori to 50 students in each school at two elementary schools in Maputo. The staff distributed hygiene items such as disinfectants and thermometers to demonstrate how to disinfect classrooms and check temperatures, and also distributed masks to students especially from low income households, so that everyone could reconfirm the measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

After this school visit, all schools in the country were closed due to worsening of the situation caused by the third wave of COVID-19, but we will be working to prevent the spread of infection in the schools using these goods and preparing for the re-acceptance of JICA volunteers after the schools reopen. We will also conduct same activities after the reopening of schools for the other 8 schools that we could not distribute the items due to the closure of schools.



Principal of the school and national staff with the posters and goods



National staff explaining the contents of the poster to students.



With students and teachers after the workshop  
(Ms. ITO Fumi, Mozambique Office)



Portuguese version of the "Correct Handwashing" translated by our office staff.

[Download from here.](#)

[\(English version · Blank line version, other local language versions\)](#)

5 languages × 4 types



Logos of our handwashing campaign

How about adding it to your goods or email signature?

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In the previous issue, Ms. KADOKAMI Aya (Earth System Science, Co., Ltd.), a member of the project, explained the importance and tips of handwashing, the steps to make it a habit, and the various efforts that have been taken in Japan based on the results of the Project Research "The COVID-19 Crisis Response and Lessons Learned in the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Sector". In this issue, Ms. IWATA Junna (Keio University), who is working as an intern at the Human Development Department and the Global Environment Department of JICA this summer, introduces a specific case study of handwashing at an elementary school in Japan and discusses the approach to making handwashing a habit based on the experience of the organization she participates in.



One of the most important ways to prevent infectious diseases is to wash your hands, but it is not always easy to wash your hands correctly at every necessary moment. I would like to introduce a good example of an elementary school in Japan that is trying to make hand washing a habit.

The approach was held in a third grade class of a Japanese elementary school<sup>1</sup>. Although teachers had been teaching handwashing to the children, they faced some issues: children did not wash their hands at all the necessary times, and as time passed, they wash their hands less frequently, making it difficult to establish the habit among the children.

Therefore, in order to encourage children to take the initiative in washing their hands and make it a habit, the teacher held three activities in the class: (1) having the experiment for children to see the dirt on their hands in a health class, (2) using a game to motivate children to wash their hands, and (3) displaying the poster of how to wash hands. In (1), children did the experiment using the "Hand Wash Checker<sup>2</sup>" to look at the dirt on their hands after normal hand washing and hands after proper hand washing. In (2), the students were given a "Challenge Sheet", which children can get a sticker if they wash their hands in three appropriate handwashing timing for more than 30 seconds using soap while following the right way. In (3), the posters about the proper handwashing procedures were displayed near handwashing areas in the school. Two months later, a survey showed that the number of children who washed their hands, especially before meals, had increased, and the awareness of handwashing had risen among the children.



A child checking his hand by "Hand Wash Checker<sup>2</sup>"



Children washing hands along the "Washing Hand Song" in Zambia: Keio Student Initiative on Healthcare in Africa

It is said that "the practice of hand hygiene depends largely on the experience gained by the age of 10, which will even determine the health behavior in their lifetime<sup>3</sup>". The approach introduced above aims to make children realize the necessity of handwashing through (1), and to motivate them to continue washing their hands through (2), so that they will continue to wash their hands on their own. This case provides us the lesson: the goal of handwashing education is to make handwashing as a natural habit among children, even if there is no teacher around.

What is necessary to make handwashing a habit is to put yourself in the position of someone who regards handwashing as something extraordinary, to look back and learn from your childhood when you naturally gained a handwashing habit, and imagine how you can make people willing to wash their hands every day. I am personally working in a student group to provide handwashing education to children in Zambia.

I found it more difficult to make them continue washing their hands even a month after the workshop rather than to have a wash-hands workshop itself. In order to make handwashing a natural habit for the children, our student group make a video which introduces the infectious diseases that can be caused by dirty hands and a handwashing song to attract the children. I hope that more and more people in the world will take some lessons from the efforts being made in each elementary school, home, hospital, and other places in Japan, which will help people make a handwashing habit.



Author: working as an intern in Global Environment Department, JICA

[References]

- 1 Takehito Kawakami. Health guidance from both intrinsic and extrinsic motivation to make handwashing a habit: From the practice of "Kenko na Seikatsu (healthy life)" in a physical education in the third grade of elementary school. Journal of educational research. 2021, 31, p.133-138.
- 2 Handwashing instruction box, black light, and handwashing checker lotion were used as teaching materials and provided by Kao.
- 3 Hidehiko Tamaki, The Epidemiology of Handwashing and the Battle of Semmelweis. Ningen to Rekishi-sha. 2017

(Ms. IWATA Junna, JICA Intern)

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