

## [ Photo of this issue ] Smile Toilet Project in Kenya



In rural communities in Kenya, sanitary pit latrines and toilets are insufficient. Inhabitants have no choice but to defecate in the open or use unimproved pit latrines without roof, walls and stable footing. JICA and Japan Habitat Association have been carrying out the Smile Toilet Project to improve sanitation and hygiene by constructing improved latrines as well as installing handwashing facilities at every house in the project target area.

Safe and clean toilets are a "curative measure for community development," and are linked not only to SDGs Goal 6, "Clean water and sanitation," but also to the other goals of "No poverty," "Good health and well-being," "Quality education," and "Gender equality".

The Project aims at constructing improved latrines and install handwashing facilities such as tippy tap to achieve no open defecation by declaring "Open Defecation Free" as well as to prevent infectious diseases caused by the unsanitary environment. In the campaign held in conjunction with Global Handwashing Day (October 15) and World Toilet Day (November 19), we demonstrated the installation of handwashing facilities and toilets, and participants commented, "It was good to learn not only the importance of handwashing and toilets, but also how to install them".

(Photo by Japan Habitat Association (JHA))



## Uganda

### Event for Global Handwashing Day (October 15, 2021)

On this year's World Handwashing Day (October 15, 2021), a handwashing awareness event was held in Uganda. Here are reports from the JICA Uganda office, a JICA volunteer, and SARAYA Manufacturing Uganda, that supported the event.

#### [ Initiatives of JICA Uganda Office ]

As part of the measures against the COVID-19, the Ugandan government established the Community Engagement Strategy (CES) in September 2020 to reinforce and thoroughly implement infection prevention measures at the community level by revitalizing the activities of Village Health Teams (VHT). In order to support the CES, JICA Uganda Office launched the "Project for Strengthening Community Health System through Village COVID Task Forces in Uganda", an emergency support project for the COVID-19, and is supporting the development of VHT activities in four prefectures in the country.

JICA held a handwashing awareness event at a health center in Mukono District on October 15, Global Handwashing Day, to inform VHT, who are the key players in community health, about the correct way to wash their hands. The event was co-hosted by SARAYA Manufacturing Uganda, a Japanese-affiliated company, and African Center for Global Health and Social Transformation (ACHEST), an organization that implements a JICA technical cooperation project. In the event, SARAYA conducted experiments and training on handwashing, and JICA volunteers performed a handwashing dance to raise awareness of the importance of handwashing to the participants.



Participants practicing proper handwashing methods



Handwashing experiment for VHTs by SARAYA



Handwashing dance performance

In addition, JICA conducted intensive handwashing awareness raising activities in the target prefectures by transmitting handwashing awareness messages in local languages through community radio and publishing articles on JICA projects related to handwashing in two major newspapers in the country.

Currently, the spread of COVID-19 in Uganda has been relatively low, but vaccination in the country is not progressing well, and it is very important for people to take simple measures to prevent infection in their daily lives, namely daily handwashing. Through this event, it is expected that VHTs will learn how to wash their hands properly actively, and that this learning will spread to local residents through their daily community activities, leading to infection prevention and health promotion at the community level.

(JICA Uganda Office)

**[ Activities of JICA volunteer ]**

I am currently working for an NGO that supports HIV orphans and children from poor families. When I visit homes, I ask the children about their access to clean water, availability of soap, as well as how and when they wash their hands, etc. However, few families wash their hands properly, and many of them eat with their hands dirty. In addition, my neighborhood elementary schools are concerned about the spread of COVID-19 infection after the school closure because of the inability to implement proper social distancing in the school, lack of basic infection control measures such as wearing masks and handwashing, and lack of handwashing facilities in the schools (In Uganda, schools have been closed for almost two years due to the COVID-19).



**Handwashing at home**

In many households, people wash their hands by directly tilting a polyethylene tank without using soap.



**Handwashing instruction at home visit**

I told them the proper handwashing with soap, and they washed their hands carefully.

Therefore, referring to the events held by JICA and SARAYA on October 15, Global Handwashing Day, I have launched a handwashing awareness project in collaboration with the school where I am assigned and nearby schools. As the first activity of the project, we are planning to hold a handwashing event in the elementary schools to meet the reopening of schools in January next year. We will provide a lecture on how to wash hands properly, and install Tippy Taps (a simple handwashing device made of a polyethylene tank and sticks) in the schools to solve the lack of handwashing facilities. A demonstration of handmade soap will also be held for parents, as many families cannot afford to buy soap.

We would like to spread the handwashing dance with the help of JICA volunteers engaged in youth activities so that students learn to wash their hands proactively and with fun. Although it will take time for handwashing to become a habit, I will continue to work on it during the two years of my assignment, and hope that as many children as possible will learn to wash their hands properly.

(Ms. Kyoko HOSHINO, Infection and AIDS Control, JICA Volunteer)

**[ Initiatives of SARAYA Manufacturing Uganda ]**

**■ What is the importance of Global Handwashing Day for SARAYA?**

Since 2010, SARAYA and UNICEF Japan have collaborated on the [Wash a Million Hands Project](#) to educate mothers and their Children in Uganda on proper hand hygiene and spread the habit of handwashing with soap in hopes of reducing child mortality from preventable communicable diseases. The project achieved great success during the first phase from 2010 to 2012 but the situation in Uganda still requires greater improvement.

The Global Handwashing Day for SARAYA is a platform to spread the importance of handwashing with soap and water, or the use of an alcohol-based hand rub in the absence of water. It enables us to spread good practice across Uganda targeting participants from health care facilities, school going children and among mothers of young children. We talk about the right timing for hand hygiene using the 5 moments and the right technique.

**■ The event in Mukono District on 15<sup>th</sup> October**

This years' Global Handwashing Day was celebrated in Mukono districts on the 15th of October. The activities



mainly focused on Village Health Teams (VHTs) who are part of the health system in Uganda. These VHTs mainly provide health services at the grass root level in the communities. The kind of services include; testing for malaria and malnutrition in children under 5 years, community sensitization on health and hygiene issues to prevent diseases.

This event provided a good platform to educate the VHTs on the role hands play in as far as transmission of germs occur, the importance of hand hygiene, when hand hygiene should be performed during patient care and how to perform proper hand hygiene using soap and water and alcohol-based hand rub. The VHTs' participation in handwashing demonstration using the model soil (artificial germ) and UV light checker helped to show parts of the hands that are frequently missed during regular handwashing. As SARAYA, we believe that the event stressed emphasis on proper hand hygiene as more important now than ever given the COVID-19 pandemic.



VHT's demonstrating their routine handwashing technique

### ■ 3. Conducting the event with JICA

The collaboration with JICA and ACHEST in organizing the global handwashing event enabled us to brain storm on various ways of promoting handwashing to communities. Through the collaboration we were able to develop a radio talk show creating awareness about the importance of hand hygiene during the COVID-19 pandemic, in four districts in Uganda and a handwashing dance emphasizing the handwashing technique.

The representative of JICA Uganda office appreciated the work SARAYA is doing in Uganda especially during this era of COVID-19. He also mentioned that the life expectancy of the Japanese people is 85 years because handwashing (hygiene) is inculcated in the early years of the child so that they grow up with the culture and wished that we (Ugandan people) can adopt.



JICA team performing the handwashing dance

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(Ms. Ajok Robinah, SARAYA Manufacturing Uganda)

## **Papua New Guinea** **To eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis and COVID-19**

“Project for Elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis” has been working to eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis (LF), one of the tropical diseases, in six countries in the Pacific region. In Papua New Guinea (PNG), one of the target countries of the project, the project has been forced to postpone its activities due to the spread of COVID-19 infection, which has affected the health maintenance of the local residents, even though the medical system was inadequate.



Distribution of "Correct Handashing" to elementary school

The project is conducting mass drug administration of anthelmintic drugs and supporting surveys on the infection situation in three provinces of the country. In response to the spread of COVID-19, copies of the [local language \(Tok Pisin\) version](#) of the [“Correct Handwashing” by INOUE Kimidori](#) are being distributed when project members visit villages and schools. At the time of distribution, staff of the provincial health department also raise awareness among school children about proper handwashing and its necessity. The number of handwashing cartoons distributed so far has already exceeded 10,000.

In addition, the project activities are being carried out in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) and many other organizations. Eisai Co., Ltd, is one of them. Through the WHO, the company provides the Ministry of Health with lymphatic filariasis drugs, which are used in

this project. In addition, the company provided 50,000 masks and 35,000 gloves as infection control protective equipment in May this year. The local health care staff are working with the masks and gloves and continue to promote handwashing using the “Correct Handwashing” cartoon.

JICA PNG Office has also been working on its own to raise awareness of the handwashing campaign, and in conjunction with the Global Handwashing Day on October 15, visited an elementary school and an agro-industrial high school in Central Province to exchange opinions on infectious disease control with teachers and students, and to demonstrate handwashing. The handwashing cartoon attracted the students' great interest and gave them an opportunity to think about the importance of handwashing. A student from a high school said, "Handwashing is very important in prevention of diseases. I will love to share this to all my friends, neighbors, and classmates."

[ Related articles ]

(JICA PNG Office PRESS RELEASE) Students Handwashing more emphasis

<https://www.jica.go.jp/png/english/office/topics/c8h0vm000092px0m-att/211015.pdf>

(Eisai Co., Ltd.) Lymphatic Filariasis Elimination Activities in Papua New Guinea Eisai Donated Masks and Gloves for COVID-19 Countermeasures in Mass Drug Administration

<https://www.eisai.com/sustainability/atm/medicines/021.html>



Elementary school student practicing how to apply proper handwashing method with JICA's officer on the Global Handwashing Day.

(Mr. Masaki AOKI, JICA PNG Office)

**Bhutan**  
Protecting the well-being and rights of children in the midst of the COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic across the global has created the indirect effects to the Children's of Special Education Needs (SEN) School students.

The Royal Government of Bhutan and Ministry of Education has taken its initiative to teach the students through e-learning program to prevent the children from COVID-19 virus and response to the ongoing COVID-19 situation.

JICA Bhutan Office has supported the sub-project on [Handwashing Animation using the "Correct Handwashing" by INOUE Kimidori](#) to Early Childhood Care and Development and Special Education Needs (ECCD & SEN) Division under Ministry of Education in collaboration with National Commission for Women and Children (NCWC) to assist and advocate awareness to the Special Education Needs (SEN) students of Muenselling Institute and general students around Bhutan.

This support is as part of country-focused support on "child well-being and child rights" to ensure protection and proper care of children whose well-being are threatened under the COVID-19.

For further in detail, we can kindly access from [Ministry of Education website](#) and [JICA Bhutan Office official Facebook](#)".



Scene from the video animation(1)



Scene from the video animation(2)



Scene from the video animation(3)

(Mr. Kuenzang Dorji, JICA Bhutan Office)

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