Handwashing compendium for Low Resource Settings

A Living Document

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Acknowledgements

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1. INTRODUCTION

Frequent and proper handwashing with soap is one of the most important measures that can be used to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus, along with physical distancing, avoiding touching one’s face (eyes, nose and mouth) and practicing good respiratory hygiene. Yet 40 per cent of households lack access to a facility with soap and water, of which 18 per cent have no facility whatsoever (WHO and UNICEF, 2020).

In response to the global COVID-19 pandemic, the Sanitation Learning Hub at the Institute of Development Studies has rapidly developed the Handwashing Compendium for Low Resource Settings that can be used to support increased access to facilities and promote positive handwashing behaviours.

The compendium provides guidance on low-cost handwashing facilities that can be widely used in low and middle-income countries. We hope that this can be shared extensively as governments and agencies tackle the crisis in low and middle-income countries where handwashing facilities are urgently needed in households, communities, schools and healthcare facilities.

The compendium includes information and further reading on:
- Handwashing facilities – including facilities that are accessible for all.
- Environmental cues to reinforce handwashing behaviours.
- Physical distancing hygiene promotion.

It does not reinvent the wheel but brings together existing information from different organisations – the reasoning behind its production is so it can all be found in one place.

It covers facilities for individual households as well as for multiple users (for densely populated urban areas, prisons, schools etc.). It does not include ways to increase access to water or information regarding respiratory hygiene, both of which are also essential in the fight against COVID-19. It also does not touch upon menstrual hygiene management, incontinence, bathing or the washing of clothes and cooking equipment.

In order to provide a rapid resource this is very much a living document and we will continue to incorporate lessons, innovations and good practices as they emerge across the world. This compendium has been rapidly produced to respond to the current crisis and is not meant to be polished or exhaustive. It has been disseminated quickly to policy-makers and practitioners so immediate relevant and timely actions can be taken. We hope it will trigger further conversations, debate and sharing of ideas and innovations, to help the sector adapt and evolve in these extraordinary times. In this first iteration, focus has been on collecting and presenting information on low-cost handwashing facilities. In future iterations the sections on environmental cues and physical distancing hygiene promotion will be expanded. We will also include local solutions as they emerge.

The Sanitation Learning Hub plans to revise this document monthly for at least the next three months. Please email any relevant information or suggestions to the Sanitation Learning Hub at SLH@ids.ac.uk or contact us via Twitter @SanLearningHub. If you would like to share information related to a specific technology, please follow the template presented in Annex 1: Handwashing Technology Template.
2. HANDWASHING FACILITIES

This section provides examples of technologies that can be used to set up handwashing facilities in households, public places and institutions (schools, prisons etc.). A short description of each facility is provided along with pictures, advantages and disadvantages, accessibility considerations and variations that can be made based on local contexts and materials available. These technologies are a starting point that can and should be adapted based on the context, user preferences and practicalities. Sections on soap options for handwashing – including how to make soap or soapy water – and water supply considerations for handwashing are also included.

It is essential that handwashing facilities are accessible to everyone, and that people use them. Accessibility considerations are included in the description of each technology type, with further information and suggestions in a dedicated section on accessibility. Tips on how to design and locate handwashing facilities so that people are reminded to wash their hands with soap are included at the end and can be applied to any of the technologies described.

2.1. Handwashing technologies

Section 2.1.1 focuses on handwashing technologies for households while section 2.1.2 focuses on facilities for multiple users.

2.1.1. Handwashing technologies for households

2.1.1.1. Tippy taps

Description: A simple container filled with water which flows out when the container is tipped. Tipping the container can be done using a foot pedal, or by using a specially shaped container that can be manually tipped to release water before returning to its original position automatically. Bar soap or liquid soap can be tied to the tippy tap with string. The ground beneath the tippy tap should be covered in stones or plants to help drainage of wastewater.

Picture/photo:

Figure 1: Pedal operated tippy tap. Credit: WaterAid (n.d.)
Figure 2: Self-righting tippy tap. Credit: McMahon and Chatterton (2019), https://doi.org/10.17028/rd.lboro.7908797.v1
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advantages</th>
<th>Disadvantages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Can be constructed easily and cheaply with locally available materials.</td>
<td>• Needs to be filled often with water manually.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Does not need to be touched after washing hands, reducing re-contamination of clean hands.</td>
<td>• Less durable than other options and parts will need to be replaced or reconstructed more often. This may impact on the users staying motivated, possibly reducing the frequency and sustainability of handwashing behaviours.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Cost effective.</td>
<td>• May only serve as an interim solution.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Pedal-operated tippy taps are suitable for users of different heights.</td>
<td>• Soap needs to be properly secured to avoid it getting misplaced.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Simple to use.</td>
<td>• Drainage will need to be considered or else users risk their feet getting wet at every use.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Limited water wastage.</td>
<td>• Can be difficult for children to use if the container is too heavy to tip when filled with water.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Wheelchair users may find it challenging to use pedal operated tippy taps.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Variations:

- Any container that can be tipped can be used to make a pedal operated tippy tap. Bottles and jerry cans are commonly used.
- Some gourds or bottles are the right shape for a self-righting tippy tap, but these can be hard to source in many places.
- A second tippy tap filled with soapy water can be placed next to the water container as an alternative to attaching soap to the tippy tap.

Accessibility:

- The container should be placed high enough so that taller users do not have to stoop to wash their hands. If the tippy tap is pedal operated, shorter users will still be able to use the facility as long as it is filled with water and the soap is stored low enough.
- For users who may not be able to press a foot pedal (e.g. wheelchairs users), the foot pedal could be converted to an elbow-operated lever placed at a convenient height.
- As with all technologies, the path to the handwashing facility should be accessible to all.

More detail and additional resources:

- Video of pedal operated tippy tap: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C4d1nLpqxOM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C4d1nLpqxOM)
2.1.1.2. **Bucket/container with tap**

**Description:** A container filled with water, fitted with a tap at the base. These may be available to purchase ready-made or can be easily made by adding a tap to a bucket/container. When the tap is opened, water flows out. Wherever possible, the water container should be closed or fitted with a lid to stop dirt and debris entering it. Bar soap or liquid soap can be stored next to the container. A bucket or bowl should be placed under the tap to collect wastewater, or the ground under the tap should be covered in stones to help drainage of wastewater.

**Fixing a tap to an existing container:**

*Method 1:* Use a metal pipe to make a dent where the tap will be fixed. The size of the dent should match the size of the tap inlet, often approximately one centimetre wide. Heat the end of the metal pipe and push it in the bucket/drum/Jerry can where the dent is. Twist the pipe to make a hole in the container. Place the tap inlet in the hole and fix it in place with a rubber seal and tape inside and outside of the tap to water leaking out.

*Method 2:* Use scissors to pierce the bucket/drum/Jerry can. Twist the scissors until they make a hole the same size as the tap inlet. Place the tap inlet in the hole and fix it in place with a rubber seal and tape inside and outside of the tap to water leaking out.

**Source:** Hamonto Kumar Mollick and Effat Nur, Plan International Bangladesh

**Picture/photo:**

- Figure 3: Container fitted with tap. Credit: Shaw (2019), https://doi.org/10.17028/rd.lboro.c.4334195.v2
- Figure 4: Container fitted with tap. Credit: Oxfam Supply Centre (2019)
- Figure 5: *The Tap Up – a two bucket hand sink.* Credit: Lippincott (2011), CERN Open Hardware Licence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advantages</th>
<th>Disadvantages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| - Can be constructed cheaply and easily using locally available containers if affordable taps are available.  
- Easy to use for most, including children and older people when placed at a comfortable height. | - Dependent on the local availability of affordable taps.  
- If not connected to rainwater harvesting/guttering, needs to be refilled manually with water from another water source.  
- If an existing water container is converted to a handwashing facility, it may not be located in the ideal place. |
• Can make an existing water storage tank with tap into a handwashing facility by adding soap and drainage
to promote regular handwashing at key times.
• Can link the container to rainwater harvesting/guttering to help refill the water container.
• More durable than a tippy tap (and requires less maintenance effort comparatively?)
• Minimal chance of recontamination if the tap used is designed to be pushed once to release water. Can be a long-term solution.
• If the tap used needs to be turned off after handwashing, touching the tap may re-contaminate clean hands. To minimise this, the tap handle should be regularly cleaned.
• Can be subject to leaks and wastage of water if taps handles are not secured properly during and after handwashing.
• Drainage will need to be considered.

Variations:

• Any clean container can be used, of any size. Examples of containers that can be used include buckets, clay pots, clean barrels and jerry cans. The larger the container, the less frequently it will need to be refilled.
• As an alternative to solid containers, it is possible to fit a tap to the bottom of a watertight bag/pouch. This can be a useful option where such bags are available and where a handwashing facility needs to be hung up rather than placed on a surface.
• The container can be linked to a rainwater harvesting scheme or guttering to keep it filled with water.
• The Oxfam bucket (Figure 4) is a version that was developed to be stackable and easily carried on one’s head. It was designed to stay out in the sun for long hours and ensure safe storage of water.
• Any tap can be used but if there are options which switch off automatically these are better than ones which need to be manually switched off. This is because they minimise the risk of re-contaminating hands when being switched off. The Oxfam handwashing tap is an example of a tap that switches off automatically.
• The Drop is a small and durable tap that releases a small amount of water when pressed. It can be fitted to containers instead of a tap.
• The ‘Tap up’ is a version where a valve is placed under a bucket. When pressed, this releases water.

Accessibility:

• The tap should be high enough so that taller users to not have to stoop too much, but low enough for the shortest users. If there is a large height difference between users, a step/seat could be stored near the facility for shorter users to stand on or taller users to sit on. The height of the soap should be chosen based on similar considerations.
• Some users may find certain taps easier/harder to operate. The type of tap used should be selected to enable everyone to operate it if possible. For example, if a user has difficulty twisting a tap, consider using a push tap if these are available.
• Using a tap which switched off automatically after a certain time or amount of water has been discharged helps reduce re-contaminating clean hands when turning off the tap.
• Make sure that the basin or stones placed under the tap for drainage do not impede access.
- For those with visual impairments an easily accessible, fixed point for the soap should be agreed upon.
- As with all technologies, the path to the handwashing facility should be accessible to all.

More detail and additional resources:

- The Drop: [https://the-drop.ch/](https://the-drop.ch/)
2.1.1.3. **Conventional tap with/without basin**

**Description:** Any tap connected to an existing water source can be used for handwashing if it is in a convenient location and soap is made available next to it. This includes taps above a basin or sink as well as taps over open ground. If the tap is over the ground, a bucket or bowl should be placed under the tap to collect wastewater, or the ground under the tap should be covered in stones to help drainage of wastewater.

**Advantages**
- If existing infrastructure is available, no effort required to construct it.
- Very cost effective if infrastructure already exists.
- If the water supply to the tap is reliable, does not need refilling.
- More durable than a tippytap and relatively less effort needed to maintain the facility.
- Easy to use for most, including children and older people if at a convenient height and location.
- Can be a long-term solution.

**Disadvantages**
- Dependent on existing infrastructure being in place.
- Depending on the tap type, could be left open wasting water and increasing water bills.
- If existing infrastructure is available, it may not be in a location accessible for all.
- If the tap used needs to be turned off after handwashing, touching the tap may re-contaminate clean hands. To minimise this, the tap handle should be regularly cleaned.
- If there is no basin, drainage will need to be considered or else users risk their feet getting wet at every use.

![Figure 6: Handwashing at a facility with tap and basin. Credit: UNICEF/UNI310746/Viet Hung (n.d.)](image)

![Figure 7: Tap without basin. Credit: M. Coultas (2020)](image)
Variations:

- If the existing tap is in an inconvenient location, the pipe to which it is fixed could be extended so the tap can be placed somewhere more convenient.
- If the existing tap needs to be turned off manually, it may be possible to replace it with a tap which switches off automatically after a certain time or amount of water has been discharged to help reduce re-contaminating clean hands when turning off the tap.
- If the existing tap is over the ground, it may be possible to fit a basin underneath if desired (although this is not necessary). Low-cost basins can be made out of any container that has an opening large enough to catch water from washing both hands with soap (for example, a bucket or open oil drum).

Accessibility:

- The tap should be high enough so that taller users do not have to stoop too much, but low enough for the shortest users. If using an existing tap at a fixed height – or there is a large height difference between users – a step/seat could be stored near the facility for shorter users to stand on or taller users to sit on. The height of the soap should be chosen based on similar considerations.
- Some users may find certain taps easier/harder to operate. The type of tap used should be selected to enable everyone to operate it if possible. For example, if a user has difficulty twisting a tap, consider using a push tap if these are available. If using an existing tap that is difficult for some people to use, consider replacing or modifying it to make it easier for them.
- Make sure that the basin or stones placed under the tap for drainage do not impede access.
- As with all technologies, the path to the handwashing facility should be accessible to all – for example the height of the tap and location of the soap needs to be accessible for wheelchair users.
- For those with visual impairments an easily accessible, a fixed point for the soap should be agreed upon.
- If the existing tap is not accessible for everyone, consider installing a second handwashing facility somewhere more accessible using one of the other technologies in this compendium.
2.1.1.4. **HappyTap/LaBobo**

**Description:** A specially designed portable handwashing facility to make handwashing fun and easy for anyone to use. The device consists of a refillable tank with a tap over a drainage tray, with space to store bar or liquid soap. It is brightly coloured to make it eye-catching and remind users to wash their hands. Some versions include a toothbrush holder and mirror.

**Picture/photo:**

![HappyTap/LaBobo handwashing facility. Credit: HappyTap (n.d.)](image)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advantages</th>
<th>Disadvantages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Specially designed to make handwashing with soap fun and easy.</td>
<td>• Most easily available in South and Southeast Asia, although shipping worldwide is available for large orders.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Portable so can be located anywhere (and moved around if needed).</td>
<td>• More expensive than homemade options, priced at approximately USD 10.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Eye catching so reminds people to wash their hands when they see it.</td>
<td>• Not possible to make at home.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Inclusion of a mirror encourages longer handwashing.</td>
<td>• Requires refilling.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Includes space for soap storage.</td>
<td>• As the tap used needs to be turned off after handwashing, touching the tap may re-contaminate clean hands. To minimise this, the tap handle should be regularly cleaned.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Available for purchase online and at conventional retailers in Bangladesh, Vietnam and Cambodia.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Integrated grey-water storage is optional (in the South Asia version).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Variations:**

- Variations available for different markets (currently South Asia and Southeast Asia).

**Accessibility:**

- Portable and can be placed anywhere, at any height to meet different users’ needs.

**More detail and additional resources:**

- HappyTap website: [https://happytap.net/en/](https://happytap.net/en/)
2.1.1.5. Valve/tap fitted to bottles

Description: A plastic bottle with a valve or tap to release a flow of water for handwashing. The valve or tap may be a specially designed product that can be fitted to bottles, such as the SPATAP (see Variations below). Alternatively, the flow of water can be controlled using the bottle lid. If using the bottle lid to control the flow of water, a hole is made in the bottom of the bottle (at the opposite end to the lid). When the bottle is filled with water and the lid is loosened, water flows. When lid is tightened, water stops flowing. The bottle can either be placed on a flat surface or be hung from a structure like a tent pole or tree branch. Bar soap or liquid soap can be stored next to the container or hung with the container. A bucket or bowl should be placed under the tap to collect wastewater, or the ground under the tap should be covered in stones to help drainage of wastewater.

Picture/photo:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advantages</th>
<th>Disadvantages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• The option where flow is controlled by the bottle lid can be created easily using locally available materials.</td>
<td>• If the bottle is not very large, it will need frequent refilling. This also makes it less suitable as a community resource unless multiple structures are hung/placed in one handwashing station.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Plastic bottles are usually easily available locally.</td>
<td>• Drainage will need to be considered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• A SPATAP can control the flow and volume of the water.</td>
<td>• If the flow is controlled by the bottle lid, tightening the lid after handwashing may re-contaminate clean hands. To minimise this, the lid handle should be regularly cleaned.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• If hung, soap can be hung with it and further secure it to the structure.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The structure on which the handwashing facility is hung is easy to construct, able to be constructed using local and low-cost materials.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Reduced chances of water wastage if flow of water can be controlled.
User friendly for most including children and older people when placed and hung appropriately.
SPATAP are durable.
SPATAP are small and easy to transport.

In the case of a bottle with a lid, there are chances of dropping and soiling the lid and of it getting misplaced.
SPATAP is not as cost effective as the other technologies, priced at USD 21.

Variations:
- Valves and taps that can be screwed onto bottle openings are available on the market in some locations. Products include the SPATAP and CSIR dispenser. A SPATAP can dispense water at three different volumes based on usage needs. The neck of the bottle needs to be inserted into SPATAP nozzle to create a vacuum.
- To direct the flow of water from the bottle if the lid is being used to control the flow, a pen casing or piece of tube can be fitted to the hole.
- Any container with an airtight lid can be used to make the option where the lid is used to control the flow, it does not necessarily need to be a bottle.

Accessibility:
- These can be made suitable for various users like children, adults, elderly and people with disabilities depending on the height at which it is hung. It is also portable, it doesn’t need to have just one location.
- The containers should be placed high enough so that taller users to not have to stoop too much, but low enough for the shortest users. The height of the soap should be chosen based on similar considerations.
- If stones or a bucket are placed next to the facility for drainage, make sure that they do not impede access.
- As with all technologies, the path to the handwashing facility should be accessible to all.

More detail and additional resources:
- SPATAP website https://spatap.com/
### 2.1.1.6. **Bucket and cup**

**Description:** A bucket or basin of water, with a cup or small jug to scoop and pour water for handwashing. Soap should be stored next to the bucket to facilitate handwashing with soap. To avoid the ground around the facility becoming waterlogged, a second bucket or bowl should be placed next to the facility to collect wastewater, or the ground around the facility should be covered in stones to help drainage.

**Picture/photo:**

![Figure 11: Bucket with cup that can be used for handwashing. Credit: M. Coultas (2020)](image)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advantages</th>
<th>Disadvantages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Can be made easily and cheaply with locally available materials (which many households will have already) and products from local markets.</td>
<td>• Cannot wash both hands with soap together without support from someone else to pour water.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Easy to set up as an interim handwashing facility whilst waiting for another technology to be installed.</td>
<td>• Containers used may be used for other purposes from time to time, making the handwashing facility unavailable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Cost effective.</td>
<td>• Needs to be refilled with water manually.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Water is unlikely to get wasted as users will use the amount of water needed.</td>
<td>• The smaller cup used for pouring water can get easily contaminated and must be cleaned regularly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• The smaller cup can contaminate stored water if it is kept inside the bucket after use.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Smaller cup can get misplaced in many cases where there are multiple users.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Drainage will need to be considered or else users risk their feet getting wet at every use.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Variations:**

- Any clean containers can be used as long as one is big enough to store water and one is small enough to be easily lifted and poured.
Accessibility:

- To wash both hands with soap together, users will need help from someone else to pour water over their hands. If someone else is not available, the user must wash each hand in turn. People who are unable to lift and pour water from the smaller container with each hand may struggle to use this facility independently.
- Choose a smaller container that all users can pick up easily. Containers with handles may be easier to grip with one hand, and smaller containers are likely to be lighter and easier for everyone to pick up.
- The containers should be placed high enough so that taller users do not have to stoop too much, but low enough for the shortest users. The height of the soap should be chosen based on similar considerations.
- If stones or a bucket are placed next to the facility for drainage, make sure that they do not impede access.
- As with all technologies, the path to the handwashing facility should be accessible to all.
2.1.1.7. Camp sink

**Description:** Two buckets with lids stacked on top of each other and fitted with a pump and water outlet. The bottom bucket contains clean water which feeds a manual pump connected to the outlet, activated by the user’s foot. The clean water pumps through the outlet and flows into a basin. The used water drains through the basin into the top bucket. Soap should be stored by the basin to facilitate handwashing with soap. When the top bucket is full, the wastewater should be disposed of in an area with good drainage away from the handwashing facility.

**Picture/photo:**

![Camp sink diagram](https://example.com/image1)

![Camp sink photo](https://example.com/image2)

*Figure 12: Camp sink. Credit: WaterWorksLife (n.d.) [https://www.instructables.com/id/Camp-Sink-Temporary-Hand-Washing-Station/](https://www.instructables.com/id/Camp-Sink-Temporary-Hand-Washing-Station/)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advantages</th>
<th>Disadvantages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Can be constructed with materials that are mainly available locally.</td>
<td>• Foot pump may not be readily available.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Collects wastewater so drainage and wastage are not concerns and wastewater can be reused for other</td>
<td>• More complicated to set up than other options.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
purposes in water scarce areas (for example, watering plants).

- More durable than tippytaps.
- Portable and can be located in areas accessible and convenient for all.
- Height can be adjusted.
- Foot operated minimising risk of re-contamination.

- More expensive than other homemade options.
- Needs to be refilled with water manually.
- Foot operated so may not be accessible to wheelchair users.
- Potentially unstable with full wastewater and empty water source bucket if stacked.

**Variations:**

- The buckets do not have to be stacked on top of each other if this means that the basin is not at a convenient height. Alternatives include putting the wastewater bucket and basin on top of a table with the water source bucket underneath, or placing the buckets side by side.

**Accessibility:**

- The height of the basin can be adjusted for different users (see Variations above).
- The facility is portable so can be placed in a location convenient for all users.
- The foot pump may not be able to be operated by all users and some may need assistance.

**More detail and additional resources:**

2.1.2. **Handwashing technologies for multiple users**

With any facility for multiple users, it is essential to agree roles and responsibilities for operating and maintaining the facility in advance and designate specific people for these. Who will bear the cost of operation and maintenance should also be agreed in advance. Depending on the type of technology used, tasks may include ensuring that soap and water are available, cleaning the facility regularly, and potentially operating/supervising use of the facility. Longer-term maintenance will also be required to repair or replace any broken parts.

2.1.2.1. **Adapting household technologies for multiple users**

Any of the technologies for households described in the previous sections can be replicated to provide facilities for multiple users. When setting up several handwashing facilities side by side:

- Make sure that each facility is separated by a suitable distance (ideally at least one metre) to ensure users are able to practice physical distancing.
- If queues are likely to form at the facilities, build as many facilities as feasible to minimise queues and establish spacing for to enable people to practice physical distancing whilst queuing.
- Provide liquid soap or soapy water – not bar soap – if possible at the facilities to minimise cross-contamination between users.
### 2.1.2.2. Water container fitted to a pipe with multiple taps

**Description:** A water source connected to a pipe fitted with taps along it for multiple users to wash their hands at once. The water source the pipe is connected to can be a container, piped water supply, or rainwater harvesting system. It is important that the water source has high enough pressure for water to flow all the way along the pipe when multiple taps are open so if the water supply is from a container, this must be located higher than the pipe. Taps should be located at least one metre apart along the pipe to ensure users are able to practice physical distancing whilst using the facility. Soap should be made available at each tap, ideally liquid soap or soapy water if these are available. A basin should be fitted under the pipe with taps to collect wastewater. If it is not possible to fit a basin, stones should be placed under the pipe with taps to help drainage of the wastewater.

**Picture/photo:**


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advantages</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• The flow of water can be controlled at each handwashing point along the pipe which is helpful if not all points are being used at once.</td>
<td>• Depending on the tap type, could be left open wasting water and increasing water bills.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Simple to make from locally available materials.</td>
<td>• It can be vulnerable to leakages and possibly need regular maintenance checks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The pipe can be fixed to slope down, creating handwashing points at different heights along it.</td>
<td>• If an existing water source is available, it may not be in a location accessible for all.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• If set at a certain height, it may not be accessible to all children.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Soap should be placed at easily visible and accessible locations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• If the tap used needs to be turned off after handwashing, touching the tap may re-contaminate clean hands. To</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
minimise this, the tap handle should be regularly cleaned.

- If there is no basin, drainage will need to be considered or else users risk their feet getting wet at every use.
- If a container is used, it needs to be manually refilled which may be harder as it must be raised.

Variations:

- If the existing water source is in an inconvenient location, the pipe to which it is fixed could be extended so the handwashing facility can be placed somewhere more convenient.
- If they are available, taps which switch off automatically after a certain time or amount of water has been discharged should be used to help reduce re-contaminating clean hands when turning off the tap and to avoid wasting water if taps are left open.
- Low-cost basins to catch water from washing both hands with soap can be made out of any waterproof material. This can include a plastic pipe or bamboo cut in half and placed under the taps, a sheet of metal folded into a v shape, plastic sheeting hung in a u shape under the taps, or a concrete channel.

Accessibility:

- The pipe with taps should be high enough so that taller users to not have to stoop too much, but low enough for the shortest users. If there is a large height difference between expected users, the pipe with taps can be fixed to slope downwards so that taps closer to the water source are higher and those further away are lower. The height of the soap at each tap should be chosen based on similar considerations.
- Maintenance of facilities with multiple users is important to facilitate and sustain handwashing behaviour. This can be in the form of periodic checks, patching up leaks, replacing parts, regular cleaning and ensuring the availability of soap.
- Some users may find certain taps easier/harder to operate. The type of taps used should be selected to enable everyone to operate it if possible. For example, if expected users have difficulty twisting a tap, consider using a push tap if these are available.
- Make sure that the basin or stones placed under the tap for drainage do not impede access.
- For those with visual impairments an easily accessible, a fixed point for the soap should be agreed upon.
- As with all technologies, the path to the handwashing facility should be accessible to all – for example height considerations will also be needed for wheelchair users.

More detail and additional resources:

### 2.1.2.3. Water container fitted to a pipe with holes

**Description:** A water source connected to a pipe fitted with a tap at one end and multiple holes along its length. When the tap is opened, water flows along the pipe and out of the holes for multiple people to wash their hands at once. The water source the pipe is connected to can be a container, piped water supply, or rainwater harvesting system. It is important that the water source has high enough pressure for water to flow all the way along the pipe so if the water supply is from a container, this must be located higher than the pipe. Holes should be located at least one metre apart along the pipe to ensure users are able to practice physical distancing whilst using the facility. Soap should be made available at each hole, ideally liquid soap or soapy water if these are available. A basin should be fitted under the pipe with holes to collect wastewater. If it is not possible to fit a basin, stones should be placed under the pipe with holes to help drainage of the wastewater.

**Advantages**

- Water can be controlled from one point, increasing control and reducing potential contamination of the tap.
- Users do not need to touch the handwashing facility, reducing potential contamination.
- Simple to make from locally available materials.
- The pipe can be fixed to slope down, creating handwashing points at different heights along it.

**Disadvantages**

- If not all the handwashing points along the pipe are used at any one time, water may be wasted and water bills increased.
- If an existing water source is available, it may not be in a location accessible for all.
- If set at a certain height, it may not be accessible to all children.
- Soap should be placed at easily visible and accessible locations.

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![Diagram of a handwashing facility for multiple users with holes](http://www.fitforschool.international/wp-content/ezdocs/giz_unicef_Catalogue_WashingFacilities_FINAL_WEB_new.pdf)

Variations:

- If the existing water source is in an inconvenient location, the pipe to which it is fixed could be extended so the handwashing facility can be placed somewhere more convenient.
- Additional taps can be located along the pipe to if different numbers of users need to use the handwashing facility at any one time, opening/closing the flow of water to some holes.
- Low-cost basins to catch water from washing both hands with soap can be made out of any waterproof material. This can include a plastic pipe or bamboo cut in half and placed under the taps, a sheet of metal folded into a v shape, plastic sheeting hung in a u shape under the taps, or a concrete channel.

Accessibility:

- The pipe with holes should be high enough so that taller users do not have to stoop too much, but low enough for the shortest users. If there is a large height difference between expected users, the pipe with taps can be fixed to slope downwards so that taps closer to the water source are higher and those further away are lower. The height of the soap at each tap should be chosen based on similar considerations.
- Some users may find certain taps easier/harder to operate. The type of taps used to operate the facility should be selected to enable those who will be operating it to do so easily. For example, if expected operators have difficulty twisting a tap, consider using a push tap if these are available.
- Make sure that the basin or stones placed under the tap for drainage do not impede access.
- For those with visual impairments an easily accessible, a fixed point for the soap should be agreed upon.
- As with all technologies, the path to the handwashing facility should be accessible to all – for example height considerations will be needed for wheelchair users.

More detail and additional resources:

- UNICEF and GIZ (2016) Scaling up group handwashing in schools. Compendium of group washing facilities across the globe, New York, USA; Eschborn, Germany
2.1.3. **Local examples of handwashing facilities**

This section includes images and brief descriptions of handwashing facilities that people have built and are using around the world.

We hope to build on this section in future editions. If you have examples to add to this section, please share them with the Sanitation Learning Hub SLH@ids.ac.uk using the template in Annex 1.

2.1.3.1. **Example 1: Handwashing stations in Nicaragua erected by citizen-led movement Unidad Nacional**

*(Credit: Blue and White National Unity Political Council of Nicaragua)*
2.1.3.2. **Example 2: Household handwashing devices in Bangladesh**

(Credit: Plan International Bangladesh/H. Mollick and E. Nur)

- Bucket with tap, installed inside the kitchen along with plastic bowl for basin
- Drum with tap, installed inside the kitchen along with plastic bowl for basin
- Used paint container with tap and installed inside the kitchen along with plastic bowl for basin
- Jerry can with tap
2.1.3.3. **Example 3: Foot-operated public handwashing facilities in Nepal**

*(Credit: WaterAid in Nepal)*
2.2. Soap

It is essential that soap is available at handwashing facilities to enable people to wash their hands effectively. There are three main types of soap that can be used for handwashing:

- Bar soap
- Liquid soap
- Soapy water

Soap is available to most households around the world, even if people do not currently prioritise its use for handwashing (for example, they may use it to wash clothes or dishes but not hands). Wherever possible, interventions should promote handwashing with one of the three types of soap above as well as water, encouraging people to prioritise soap for handwashing.

If bar or liquid soap is unavailable or unaffordable, soapy water can be made by mixing a small amount of laundry powder, detergent or any other type of soap with water. Alternatively, bar soap can be made using ingredients that are widely available locally.

Figure 15 below shows how to make soapy water:

![Figure 15: How to make soapy water. Credit: Sultana, 2018](image-url)
2.3. Water supply

To wash hands with soap and water, it is important that water is readily available at handwashing technologies. As outlined in the technology descriptions in the previous sections, water may come from different sources. These include:

- Wells or boreholes (with or without a pump)
- Rainwater harvesting systems
- Piped water supply
- Surface water

Unless there is a piped water supply to a location convenient for handwashing, most handwashing technologies will need to be filled with water. It is important to ensure users refill the handwashing facility as necessary so that water is always available. This task of refilling should be shared between men and women using the handwashing facility rather than allocated to one person. The handwashing facility’s water container should also be located to enable it to be refilled easily.

It is important to consider where water for handwashing will come from when choosing a handwashing technology. For example, if water is scarce or the water source is far away, it is recommended that a handwashing technology that limits water use is selected if possible to minimise the amount of water used for handwashing effectively.

Drainage of the wastewater from handwashing should also be considered. Suggestions for drainage are outlined in the technology descriptions in earlier sections.

The quality of water used for handwashing does not need to meet drinking water standards or be chlorinated.
2.4. Making handwashing facilities accessible

Making handwashing facilities accessible to everyone is crucial to maintain handwashing behaviour. Considerations for accessibility include age, disability, seasonality (with rains and muddiness), location and more. These interventions should ideally be undertaken along with the development of the handwashing facility to make it more accessible to older people, wheelchair users and people with disabilities.

2.4.1. Placement of the technology

Some handwashing technologies are also placed or hung. If placed on a surface, this should ideally be stable and flat. It should be placed/hung at a height that ensures that it is reachable for children and tall users do not have to stoop too much. Wastewater drainage should be considered properly (ether collection in a bucket or placing stones around the facility) to ensure that the area around the facility doesn’t become a slipping hazard.

2.4.2. Paths

A wooden/concrete pathway to the facility will ensure a smoother access route and minimize the risk of a muddy and slippery pathway during rainy season.

2.4.3. Ramps

Ramps can be made out of wood (for it to be movable) or concrete to help wheelchair users and those with difficulty walking to get to the handwashing facility.

2.4.4. Steps

Steps should be built equidistant to each other and of the same height and size. They can include cross-hatching/markings on their concrete surface to reduce the risk of slippage and a handrail for more support.

2.4.5. Type of tap

Some users may find it a challenge to operate certain kinds of taps. The type of tap used should be selected to enable everyone to operate it if possible. For example, if a user has difficulty twisting a tap, consider using a push tap if these are available.

2.4.6. Soap placement

There should be a designated place for the soap where it should be kept after use. This should be in plain sight and be easily reachable for all users. This fixed place will also enable visually impaired users to access soap without any difficulties.

Further information on accessibility can be found in the Compendium of Accessible WASH Technologies: https://washmatters.wateraid.org/publications/compendium-of-accessible-wash-technologies
2.5. Designing handwashing facilities that encourage use

It is important to create and maintain an enabling environment to encourage and sustain good handwashing behaviour. This section outlines design and maintenance features that should be considered when installing handwashing facilities.

2.5.1. Nudges, cues and reminders

Nudges and cues that lead to, point to or emphasise handwashing facilities help remind people to use them. For example, to remind people to wash their hands after using the toilet, footsteps or arrows along the path from the toilet to the handwashing facility can be painted. Colourful hands painted around the handwashing facility can help remind people to use it too.

Mirrors and eyes on the wall in front of handwashing stations have also helped increase rates of handwashing with soap as people are reminded that others expect them to wash their hands properly as they feel they are being observed. Placing mirrors above handwashing facilities has the added benefit of encouraging people to spend longer washing their hands, increasing the likelihood that they wash them thoroughly.

Figure 16: Nudges used to encourage use of school WASH facilities in Madagascar. Credit: SEED Madagascar (2019)

Figure 17: Handwashing facilities with nudges. Credit: Dreibelbis R. et al. (2016) https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph13010129

2.5.2. Location

Handwashing facilities should also be placed at convenient locations to encourage people to use them regularly and at the right times. If they are far away or in an inconvenient location, many people will not make the additional effort needed to go to them. Placing handwashing facilities in a visible location will also remind people to wash their hands when they see them.

To help people wash their hands at different times and when they are doing different tasks, it may be helpful to have more than one handwashing facility within a household. For example, one handwashing facility could be placed close to the toilet, another close to the kitchen and at the entrance of the house. If this is not possible, think about a location that is convenient for – or at least visible from – all of these parts of the household or public place.

To maximise the lifespan of handwashing facilities kept outside, they should ideally be located in a sheltered position out of the sun.
2.5.3. **Beautification**

People tend to like beautiful things. Handwashing facilities that users consider attractive will encourage use. Similarly, soap that smells nice can encourage use. One study found that children opted to spend more on higher quality soap that smelled nice, even in very low resource settings.

If users are involved in decorating handwashing facilities themselves, it may also increase familiarity and acceptability of the facility.

2.5.4. **Well maintained facilities that are easy to use**

People are more likely to wash their hands with soap if handwashing facilities are easy and pleasant to use. In addition to locating handwashing facilities in convenient places, it is important that handwashing facilities are well maintained, kept clean, and are soap and water are replenished as necessary to ensure continuous availability.
3. PHYSICALLY DISTANCED HYGIENE PROMOTION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Alongside the provision or promotion of handwashing facilities, it is important to promote handwashing with soap at key times amongst community members to maximise the extent to which handwashing with soap is practised. Hygiene promotion efforts must seek to engage and include everyone in a community, including men, women, boys and girls; people with disabilities and chronic illnesses; people of all ages, genders, economic backgrounds, sexual orientations, races, ethnicities and religions.

Community engagement is essential to the success of hygiene promotion activities. People must be able to feedback and interact with information in a two-way dialogue rather than receiving it passively through one-way communication (UNICEF, 2020).

In the context of COVID-19, we must focus on physically distanced approaches to hygiene promotion and community engagement.

Guidance on engaging and communicating with communities at a distance from the Social Science in Humanitarian Action Platform include:

- Trusted communication methods, channels and networks should be used where possible. These may be adapted so that engagement follows the requirements of local distance policies.
- Recognised influential individuals should be encouraged to safely share information within their immediate area through their own local channels, or further via telephone and online networks. They should be encouraged to share feedback and concerns that they receive from people in their networks.
- Other methods for communicating at a safe distance include interpersonal interactions through telephone hotlines and using the internet and social media for two-way communication. Information can also be shared through loud speakers and through printed materials (e.g. posters and leaflets distributed at health facilities or shops if safe to do so).
- Working with religious institutions to ensure they are delivering accurate information is important. It may be possible to work collaboratively with churches and mosques to provide up-to-date information and to communicate with communities through their various engagement platforms including social media, television and radio channels.
- Frontline health workers and other essential workers who must have physical contact with people can be enlisted to engage effectively with community members in their proximity. They should be briefed on good interpersonal communication, provided with accurate and up-to-date information, and know how to record and deal with feedback, concerns or complaints. They should be provided with skills to maintain their own safety whilst interacting with people at the community level.

(Source: Anthrologica, 2020)
Examples of communication channels are listed below. Where possible, it is suggested that multiple channels are used to maximise the number of people reached by promotion/engagement initiatives:

- Social media – Twitter, Facebook, TikTok, YouTube
- Mobile messaging – WhatsApp, SMS
- Traditional print media – newspapers
- Radio
- Loud speakers – on vehicles, religious buildings, utilising existing infrastructure
- Signs and billboards
- An information hotline that people can phone
- Songs/local celebrities
- Pamphlets
- Community influencers

This six-page guidance note from UNICEF gives more information and suggested steps on designing hygiene programming in the context of COVID-19:

4. NEXT STEPS

This is a living document and something we will continue to add to as and when we receive more low-cost technologies, environmental cues and physically distanced hygiene promotion and more experiences emerge, including local, community-based initiatives. In future iterations the sections on environmental cues and physical distancing hygiene promotion will be expanded on. The SLH plans to revise this document monthly for at least the next three months – until July 2020. Please email any relevant information or suggestions to the Sanitation Learning Hub at SLH@ids.ac.uk. If you would like to share information related to a specific technology please follow the template presented Annex 1: Handwashing Technology Template.
5. USEFUL RESOURCES

Here you will find a variety of practical resources. We welcome suggestions for additional resources to add to future editions of this compendium, please email SLH@ids.ac.uk.

5.1. Handwashing facilities


5.2. Handwashing promotion and community engagement

5.3. Programme guidance


5.4. COVID-19 resource pages

2. WHO Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) technical guidance:
5. Global Handwashing Partnership (https://globalhandwashing.org/responding-to-covid-19/)
7. UNHCR COVID-19 WASH resources (https://wash.unhcr.org/covid-19-resources/)
6. REFERENCES


Hamonto Kumar Mollick and Effat Nur, Plan International Bangladesh (pers. comm. 2020)


UNICEF (2020) Minimum Quality Standards and Indicators in Community Engagement, full report forthcoming


WaterAid (n.d.) How to build a tippy tap, London: WaterAid


**Annex 1: Handwashing Technology Template**

Below is a template for those interested in contributing to the compendium. Please do share with us any technologies that can be built at low-cost, using widely available materials.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Name:</strong> What is the name of the handwashing facility?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Description:</strong> Provide a written description of what the technology looks like, how it is built and how it is used. You can also add different variations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pictures/photo:</strong> Add any photos or pictures that you have the right to publish. Due to GDPR laws we are not able to publish photographs of people who can be identified</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Advantages:</strong></th>
<th><strong>Disadvantages:</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Add the advantages of this particular technology</td>
<td>Add the disadvantages of this particular technology</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Variations:</strong> What variations have been made to this particular technology</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Accessibility:</strong> How accessible is this technology for everyone (different ages, people with different disabilities etc.)? What adaptations may be needed so that the facilities are accessible for all?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>More detail and additional resources:</strong> What additional resources are needed for those who would like more information about the technology? This could include further guides to construction, related research, blogs, photographs/drawings, videos, companies that produce low-cost technologies etc.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Please send a Word Document to the Sanitation Learning Hub: SLH@ids.ac.uk with contact details in case we need to follow-up.
For over ten years, IDS’s Sanitation Learning Hub (SLH, previously the CLTS Knowledge Hub) has been supporting learning and sharing across the international sanitation and hygiene (S&H) sector. The SLH uses innovative participatory approaches to engage with both practitioners, policy-makers and the communities they wish to serve.

We believe that achieving safely managed sanitation and hygiene for all by 2030 requires timely, relevant and actionable learning. The speed of implementation and change needed means that rapidly learning about what is needed, what works and what does not, filling gaps in knowledge, and finding answers that provide practical ideas for policy and practice can have exceptionally widespread impact.

Our mission is to enable the S&H sector to innovate, adapt and collaborate in a rapidly evolving landscape, feeding learning into policies and practice. Our vision is that everyone is able to realise their right to safely managed sanitation and hygiene, making sure no one is left behind in the drive to end open defecation for good.