

# CDC's Global Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Program Impact

## Objective

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) global WASH program provides expertise and interventions aimed at saving lives and reducing illness through global access to safe water, adequate sanitation, and improved hygiene. These prevention and control measures reduce the impact of WASH-related diseases by improving health, reducing poverty, and increasing economic development.

## Program Description

CDC's WASH program works with partners in every WHO region and focuses on:

- **Making Water Safe to Drink:** Promoting safe water through CDC's Safe Water System (SWS) and development and implementation of Water Safety Plans (WSPs).
- **Improving Hygiene and Sanitation to Prevent the Spread of Disease:** Improving the efficacy, sustainability, and integration of hygiene and sanitation interventions.
- **Responding to International Emergencies and Outbreaks:** Deploying emergency response and outbreak investigation teams at the request of foreign governments.
- **Controlling and Eliminating Disease:** Identifying WASH-related factors needed to control or eliminate Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) like Guinea worm disease.
- **Identifying and Characterizing Disease:** Investigating the agents and causes of illness, such as diarrhea, to provide critical health data for decision making.
- **Training and Educating about Global WASH:** Developing model programs and materials for public health staff training and community health promotion.

## Public Health Impact

- More than 20 countries treated over 90 billion liters of water – enough to meet the annual needs of 12 million families – using SWS programs.
- A 25% decrease in childhood diarrhea was shown in a multi-year evaluation of the long-term sustainability of WASH interventions in four Central American countries.
- Reduced contamination in water sources in Jamaica and a national training program on safe household water storage and use in Guyana as a result of Water Safety Plans (WSPs).
- Improved access to safe water and adequate sanitation in UNHCR refugee camps in Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi and Uganda following WASH assessments.
- 50% fewer diarrheal and respiratory infections were shown in children receiving weekly handwashing promotion and soap versus children not receiving interventions.
- Multilingual community health worker training materials were created and used across Haiti in response to the cholera epidemic.
- 25–50% fewer episodes of diarrhea were shown in young children and persons living with HIV/AIDS who use the SWS.

## Where we work:

Afghanistan  
Angola  
Bangladesh  
Burkina Faso  
Burma  
Burundi  
Cameroon  
Colombia  
D. R. of Congo  
Ecuador  
El Salvador  
Ethiopia  
Ghana  
Guatemala  
Guinea  
Guyana  
Haiti  
Honduras  
India  
Jamaica  
Kenya  
Liberia  
Laos  
Madagascar  
Malawi  
Mozambique  
Nepal  
Nicaragua  
Nigeria  
Pakistan  
Peru  
Rwanda  
St. Lucia  
Tanzania  
Thailand  
Uganda  
Vietnam  
Zambia  
Zimbabwe



For more information, visit: [www.cdc.gov/healthywater/global/programs/](http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/global/programs/)

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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention