

Water, sanitation and hygiene for global resilience

As the world's leading donor countries chart an ambitious agenda for recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, it is essential that their efforts look beyond their own borders to protect our collective wellbeing. Strengthening the provision of essential services like water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in the most vulnerable communities builds resilience to climate change, future pandemics and emerging global health threats.



WaterAid calls on the 2021 G7 and G20 summits to:

- Promote an equitable roll-out of vaccines hand-in-hand with hygiene behaviour change.
- Integrate WASH in global pandemic preparedness plans and reform of global health architecture.
- Deliver catalytic funding, with an initial contribution of at least US \$1.2 billion, to kickstart universal access to WASH in healthcare facilities in Least Developed Countries (LDCs).
- Provide new and additional international finance for climate adaptation that help meet the basic needs of the most affected communities.
- Commit to an emergency recovery funding package comprised of comprehensive debt relief and restructuring; a new issuance and reallocation of at least US \$1 trillion in Special Drawing Rights; fulfilling commitments to spend 0.7% of gross national income on aid; and innovative sources of international public finance.

2 billion people

don't have safely managed water for drinking, cooking or personal use.

4 billion people

don't have safely managed sanitation or decent toilets.

3 billion people

are unable to wash their hands with soap and water at home.

50% of healthcare facilities

lack basic water services and 3 in 5 have no sanitation services.

\$3.6 billion

is the cost of ensuring the healthcare facilities in all LDCs have basic WASH, waste management and cleaning services, between now and 2030.

Public supportⁱ for international political action on WASH in pandemic preparedness:

87% of people agree that WASH in public spaces like hospitals and schools should be a core element of COVID recovery plans.

75% agree that debt payments of the poorest countries should be suspended, so that countries can invest more of their scarce resources into essentials like WASH to help fight COVID-19.

To read our brief go to: washmatters.wateraid.org/publications/investing-water-sanitation-hygiene-global-recovery-resilience



i. Based on polling conducted by YouGov for WaterAid: 18,635 adults surveyed across 15 countries. Registered charity numbers 288701 (England and Wales) and SC039479 (Scotland).