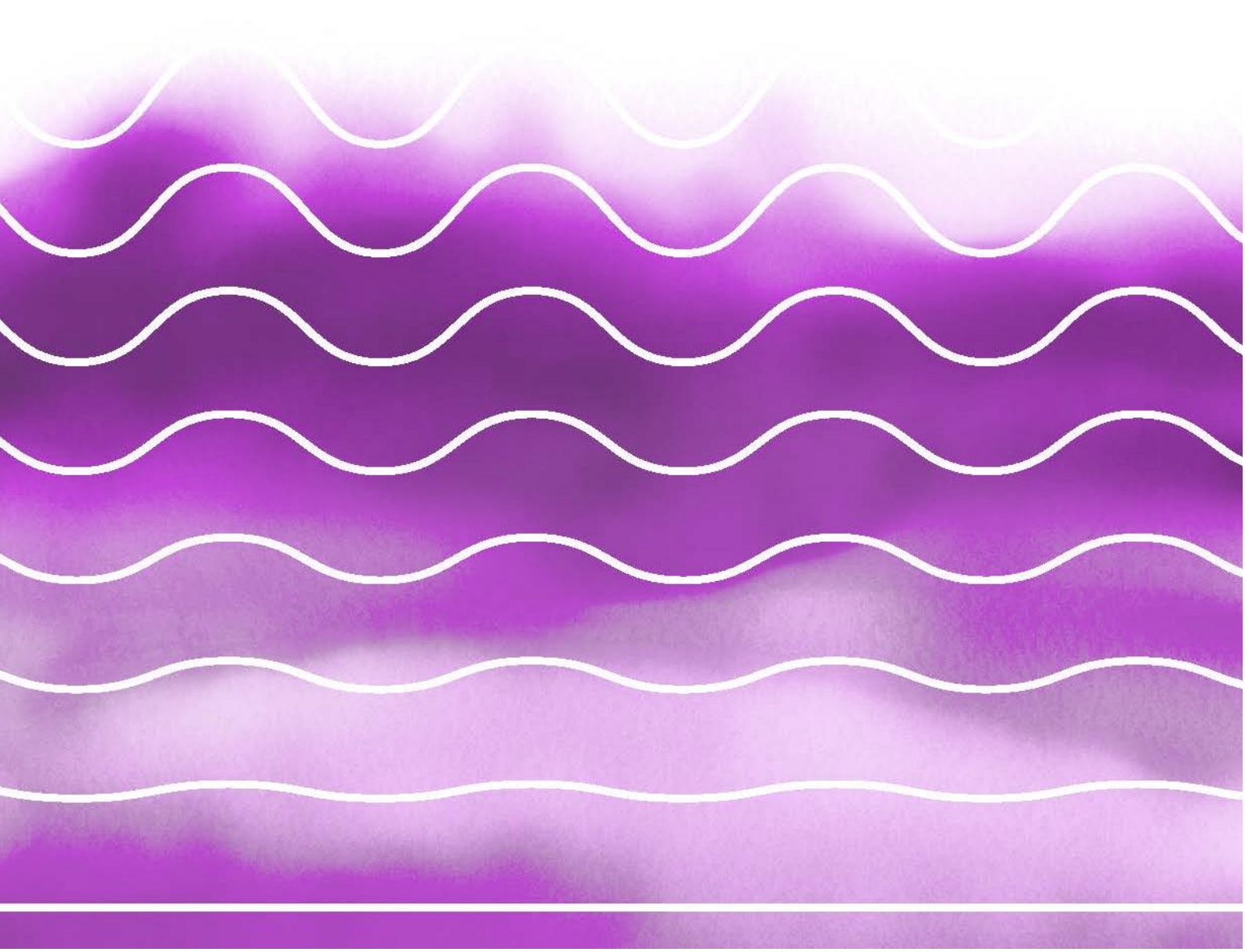


WHO Global Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Annual report 2020



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Acronyms and abbreviations

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AFD	Agence Française de Développement
AMCOW	African Ministers' Council on Water
AMR	antimicrobial resistance
COVID-19	coronavirus disease 2019
CR-WSP	climate resilient water safety planning
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia
DGIS	Directorate General for International Cooperation, The Netherlands
ECH	WHO department of Environment, Climate Change and Health
ESA	external support agency
ESAWAS	Eastern and Southern Africa Water and Sanitation
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCDO	Foreign Commonwealth & Development Office, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
GAF	Global Acceleration Framework (for SDG6)
GDWQ	Guidelines for Drinking-Water Quality
GLAAS	UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water
GPW 13	WHO Thirteenth General Programme of Work 2019–2023
HCWM	health care waste management
HWT	household water treatment
ILO	International Labour Organization
IPC	infection prevention and control
IWA	International Water Association
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
JMP	WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene
MNCH	maternal, newborn and child health
NGO	nongovernmental organization
NNN	Neglected Tropical Disease NGO Network
NTD	neglected tropical disease
OIE	World Organisation for Animal Health
PMAT	Policy Monitoring and Assessment Tool
RegNet	International Network of Drinking-Water Regulators
SARS-CoV-2	severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SEARO	WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia
SHF	Sanitation and Hygiene Fund (formerly the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council)

Sida	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SIWI	Stockholm International Water Institute
SMOSS	safely managed on site sanitation
SOPs	standard operating procedures
SSP	sanitation safety planning
SWA	Sanitation and Water for All
TrackFin	methodology for tracking expenditures in the WASH sector
UHC	universal health coverage
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
US CDC	United States of America Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WAPT	WASH Accounts Production Tool
WASH	water, sanitation and hygiene
WASH FIT	WASH for Health Facility Improvement Tool
WHO	World Health Organization
WPRO	WHO Regional office for the Western Pacific
WSH	WHO water, sanitation, hygiene and health unit
WSP	water safety plan (planning)
WSSCC	Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (as of January 2021, Sanitation and Hygiene Fund)

Executive summary

This report summarizes the World Health Organization's (WHO) global work on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) during 2020. It describes WHO's WASH response to COVID-19 and, despite the pandemic, how the Organization continued to deliver its essential WASH programming as elaborated in its 2018–2025 strategy. This includes publication and dissemination of its work monitoring access to WASH and WASH systems through the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP) and the UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS), continued development and implementation of its norms on drinking-water and sanitation, and overall advocacy including on hand hygiene. All of WHO's WASH work was augmented through the strength of its partnerships.

Investing in water, sanitation and hygiene is critical both to preventing and recovering from pandemics and local outbreaks. Its absence leaves us exposed. You already know the basics: water, sanitation and hygiene is a first line of defence against COVID-19 and so many other diseases, such as diarrhoea, cholera, typhoid, malnutrition, influenza and pneumonia. It is also critical to preventing the spread of antimicrobial resistance, which is one of our biggest global threats. Without water, sanitation and hygiene, we are vulnerable.

Globally, we are alarmingly off-track to deliver on our commitments to Sustainable Development Goal 6 for water and sanitation. To achieve the 2030 goals, the rate of progress for sanitation needs to quadruple.

The COVID-19 pandemic is reminding us that health and economics are deeply intertwined, and that investments in health – including water, sanitation and hygiene – are the necessary foundation for productive, resilient and stable economies.

Investments in water, sanitation and hygiene are what we call a “no-regrets” investment, paying a rich dividend in health, human rights and inclusive economic growth.

- from Dr Tedros' speeches to Ministers of Finance at the Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) Finance Minister's Meeting for Africa, 4 Nov 2020, and for the Asia Pacific, 2 Dec 2020 (1) (2).

Highlights of 2020 results

- **Rapid publication by WHO WASH of data and technical guidance to support COVID-19 response** including:
 - *Water, sanitation, hygiene, and waste management for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19* in multiple languages (3),

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