

WHAT PROGRESS LOOKS LIKE

INDONESIA – HANDWASHING

(SDG TARGET 6.2)

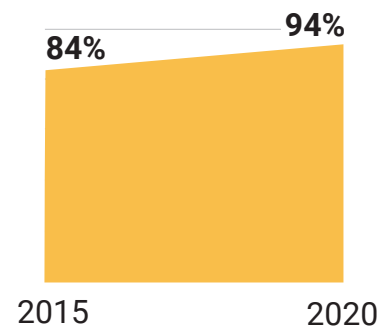


Progress indicator: SDG 6.2.1b Proportion of population with a handwashing facility with soap and water available at home (referred to as ‘basic hygiene services’)

Level of impact: National (271.9 million people and 3,131 billion international dollars in gross domestic product)

Result: Coverage of basic hygiene services increased by 10 percentage points, now totalling 94% of the population. With an annual improvement rate of 2 percentage points, Indonesia is on track to achieve universal access by 2030.

Progress 2015–2020:



SITUATION

Target 6.2 of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 is to achieve universal access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene and end open defecation by 2030. Access to hygiene is measured through the availability of an on-premises handwashing facility with soap and water, which is a cost-effective intervention that improves public health by drastically reducing the spread of infection. Globally, only 6 of the 33 countries that had not already achieved this target by 2020 are currently on track to do so by 2030. Coverage remains low in many countries and most are progressing too slowly.

Since 2015, Indonesia has seen the fastest improvement in coverage of basic hygiene services in East and South-East Asia, with coverage increasing by over 2 percentage points per year. In 2020, 94 per cent of the population had access to basic hygiene services, compared to 84 per cent in 2015.

This improvement has taken place in both urban and rural areas, with an increase of 6 and 15 percentage points respectively (96 per cent of the urban population

and 91 per cent of the rural population now have access). However, disaggregated data reveal significant inequalities in coverage between the richest population groups (96 per cent) and the poorest (only 45 per cent) and between different subnational regions, ranging from 90 per cent in East Kalimantan to 33 per cent in Papua.

PROGRESS MADE

In recent years, the Government of Indonesia has increasingly prioritized hand hygiene, launching a national movement that has resulted in greater nationwide access to basic hygiene services. In 2008, the Indonesian Ministry of Health established a national sanitation and hygiene programme focused on Community-Led Total Sanitation and ending open defecation. Handwashing with soap was highlighted as the second pillar of the programme, signalling the need for households to have and consistently use proper hygiene facilities. Integrating handwashing within the broader sanitation programme has allowed for multiple gains: handwashing coverage has improved, and open defecation had declined from 21 per cent in 2008 to just 6 per cent by 2020.



Another important factor has been the government's focus on improving access to water in households, through a large infrastructure programme and earmarked state funding. In 2015, regulations for public-private partnerships for this were strengthened, to attract private investments while ensuring state oversight.

The COVID-19 pandemic tested the efficiency of these initiatives, while also further improving coverage, as the national response to the virus focused on promoting the benefits of handwashing and sanitation to prevent it from spreading. The Government of Indonesia, in partnership with UNICEF and other actors, advocated for the long-term advantages of handwashing and sanitation in various settings, such as households, schools, primary health-care facilities, and public places. Several ministries issued guidelines mandating handwashing and sanitation infrastructure in all settings, including the Ministries of Education, Culture, Research and Technology, Home Affairs and Religious Affairs. The outcomes of these concerted efforts included accelerated access to basic handwashing in schools, which increased rapidly from 59 per cent in 2019 to 66 per cent in 2021.

To commemorate Global Handwashing Day in 2020, 10 line ministries endorsed a national call to action for handwashing, a sign of unprecedented political leadership from the state. A national hand hygiene road map was

developed and costed, analysing challenges, strategies, responsibilities, and the enabling environment and investments required to achieve universal access by 2030.

To harness private-sector engagement in national efforts, a public-private partnership was activated, comprising the Ministry of Health, several other ministries, key hygiene manufacturing industries, companies engaged in sanitation and hygiene programmes and civil society organizations. It has since been upgraded to also cover sanitation, so this success can be repeated in other parts of the sector.

In 2021, a detailed look at the country's hand hygiene market analysed existing value chains, market gaps and opportunities, customer preferences and behaviours, and gave suggestions to address last-mile challenges and ecosystem needs for sustainable handwashing and sanitation. It also projected that the market would grow in value by 3 billion US dollars by 2025, highlighting the vital role of the private sector.

Further, UNICEF has provided capacity-building support for large-scale behaviour change interventions, including training for front-line environmental health officers, hygiene promoters and teachers, as well as a WASH4Work initiative to mobilize businesses.

KEY SUCCESS FACTORS

- Government ownership and leadership
- Improved access to water in households, through large infrastructure investments
- Creation of an enabling environment with enforced laws and decrees, accelerated by the central role of hygiene in mitigating the COVID-19 pandemic
- Cross-sectoral coordination mechanisms to actively engage the public and private sectors

LEARN MORE

- [Public-private partnership call to action for hand hygiene for all in 2020](#)
- [Hand hygiene commitments from 13 Indonesian ministries in 2021 \(in Indonesian\)](#)
- [Launch of the hand hygiene road map by the Ministry of Health in 2022 \(in Indonesian\)](#)
- [Hand hygiene market assessment report, October 2022](#)
- Case study on determinants of improving basic hygiene coverage in Indonesia from WHO, forthcoming in 2023
- [WASH data from WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme](#)
- [Overall progress on SDG 6 in Indonesia](#)