

TECHNICAL SHEET

COVID-19

WASH EQUIPMENT IN A COVID-19 OUTBREAK ENVIRONMENT

INTERNAL DOCUMENT / Coronavirus - Procedure n° ... – DROI-DeXT-U

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Due to the evolving nature of the situation related to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and the necessity to adjust the responses, including technical, these documents are likely to be modified or completed.

A. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this **technical sheet** is to facilitate the preparation of WASH equipment during the Covid-19 period for emergency distribution to **households**, or for the minimum endowment required **to equip schools or health centers**, in order to contribute to compliance with barrier gesture against the spread of Covid-19, but also to meet their general hygiene needs when the context becomes unfavorable for a good supply.

This technical sheet offers **standard compositions** that **have to be adapted to each intervention context** during the Covid-19 period.

PRIOR RECOMMENDATION: For each country where it is applicable, it is imperative to approach the **WASH Cluster or National WASH Working Group** and / or the various **Ministries or Supervisory Departments** (Health, Water and Sanitation...) in charge of responding to the crisis, in order to know the national recommendations or the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) concerning the WASH response to **COVID-19**.

The composition of the kit must also be **adapted according to the products available locally and according to the needs of the beneficiaries**.

The WASH equipment proposed will always have to be redesigned so that the different items correspond to the real **needs of the beneficiaries in their environment and according to the supply possibilities**, taking into account the differentiated needs of women / children / men (even if everything is distributed together as a household kit) and contextualizing them.

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It is then necessary to discuss with the beneficiaries / educational or health establishments to identify in a participative way their needs and validate the composition of the different items.

Focus group discussions with households, schools and health centers, ideally with sub-groups, by providing demonstration material and thus constituting the kit with the right specifications and quantities, can be organized while respecting the physical distancing measures and barrier gestures.

Recommendations are also offered by the ICRC / IFRC:

- Catalog of standard movement products: <https://itemscatalogue.redcross.int/wash--5/hygiene--9/hygiene-products--51.aspx>
- Hygiene kit for a household of 5 people for a month: <https://www.groupils.com/products/kits/hygiene-kit-icrc-ifrc-standards/>

B. DEFINITIONS AND OBJECTIVES

In the context of Covid-19, WASH equipment has **two main objectives**:

- Contribute to ensuring compliance with **barrier gestures**, in particular frequent hand washing, to avoid the spread of the epidemic and contamination of beneficiaries.
- Help facilitate the construction of budgets for Covid project proposals.

From a terminology point of view and in general, the difference we make between WASH kit and hygiene kit for households in emergency situations is as follows:

- A WASH kit is made up of items to ensure people's autonomy and well-being in terms of water (transport and storage) and hygiene (in particular by ensuring the sanitation of latrines, cooking, as well as the dignity of women through menstrual hygiene). A WASH kit therefore has both reusable and durable small "equipment" and consumables.
- A hygiene kit is more limited and is limited to items which ensure the personal and intimate hygiene of members of a household. It mainly consists of consumables.

C. RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE COMPOSITION OF WASH EQUIPMENTS IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19

The composition of WASH-Covid-19 equipment will be based on the target population:

- **Household kit**: depending on the composition of the household, and intended for vulnerable people, at risk from Covid-19, confined to their homes...
- **School equipment**: according to the needs of each school, and according to existing WASH infrastructures or not.
- **Health center equipment**: according to the needs of each health center, and according to WASH infrastructures already existing or not.

Compliance with the SPHERE Standards:

The recommendations of the **SPHERE standards**¹ for a Covid-19 hygiene kit to be distributed to vulnerable households in emergencies identify the minimum quantity of basic hygiene items for affected households:

- 2 water containers per household of 5 people on average (10-20 liters; one for collection, one for storage);
- 250 g of body soap per person and per month;
- 200 g of laundry soap per person and per month;
- Soap and water at the hand washing station (one station per shared toilet or one per household);
- Pot, shovel or diapers to remove seals from children.

¹ <https://handbook.spherestandards.org/en/sphere/#ch006>

WASH equipment during the Covid-19 period must also allow intimate hygiene, including menstrual hygiene according to the cultural preferences of women and girls, to be achieved by absorbent cotton materials (4 m² per year), disposable sanitary napkins (15 per month) or reusable (6 per year), as well as additional soap and enough to ensure the storage of drinking water.

Each kit distributed must allow families to last a month. **Priority is given to the distribution of soap**, essential in the fight against the spread of Covid-19. Hydro alcoholic solutions can also be distributed.

Chlorine solutions or chlorine solution generators (in the form of tablets or other) must also be distributed to purify drinking water. For households, solutions should be prepared as simply as possible (one tablet for one can, for example). Staff in schools and health establishments will need to be trained at greater length on the dosing and use of chlorine. Chlorine is however not recommended by the WHO for hand washing, as it is considered too aggressive and dangerous.

A container must be provided to store the water (bucket closed by a lid or jerry can), with cups (cups) to avoid contaminating the water by withdrawing it. If necessary, the kit can integrate the construction of a hand washing station (by a bucket with a tap or a "tippy-tap" tap with pedal system to limit contact points). Wastewater after washing hands must be emptied into a sump to avoid stagnation near homes, schools or health centers.

Next to the water, the **soap** should be close at hand on a support capable of keeping it dry (for example, with a hole) to prevent the proliferation of pathogens (attached to a string, or in a net). To limit the risk of theft, we can encourage the preparation of soapy water for schools or health centers for example.

D. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF WASH EQUIPMENT IN COVID-19 PERIOD

The composition of the kits is designed for distributions to vulnerable households in emergency situations, in the event of a shortage of supply of some of these elements or of their inability to move (lockdown or infected household).

Distribution

Any distribution activity must be carried out in groups of 20 people maximum without exceeding 50 people on a distribution site including teams, while respecting the distance of 1.5 meters minimum. If possible, it is preferable to organize several successive or parallel distributions. Only one person per household must come and receive the kits in order to limit the number of people on the sites. Finally, do not forget to provide handwashing devices with soaps at distribution sites and make handwashing compulsory at the entrance to the distribution site².

Awareness

The distribution of equipments must must be accompanied by awareness campaigns on:

- The importance of **barrier measures** against the spread of Covid-19, in particular hand washing;
- The correct way to hand wash (with soap, for at least 20 seconds);
- The key moments of hand washing;
- The need to acquire a support and receptacle for water from hand washing;
- The importance of keeping the soap next to the bucket dry;
- The need to make a sump for the infiltration of water from hand washing;
- How to dose chlorine for drinking water and how long chlorine stays in treated water at home.

² Wash Cluster Niger, Guide d'adaptation de la réponse eau-hygiène-assainissement (EHA) à la prévention et riposte contre le Covid-19 au Niger 31 mars 2020 (FR)

E. EXAMPLE OF WASH EQUIPMENTS COMPOSITION DURING COVID-19 OUTBREAK

COVID-19 WASH EQUIPMENT FOR HOUSEHOLD

The distribution of this type of equipment at household level is **only recommended in the context of emergency** (IDP camps, refugees ...).

The size of the reference household must be adapted according to the context. The equipment listed below can be distributed in the form of kits for households of 5 people. They allow the implementation and respect of barrier gestures by hand washing, but also allows people to meet their vital water and hygiene needs (washing powder, body care, menstrual hygiene ...).

It is **imperative to adapt it according to contexts (according to needs, cultural practices, markets, etc.)**.

It is possible for example to add:

- Condoms;
- Materials to make a hand washing station with a pedal (for example a Tippy tap);
- Rolls of toilet paper or a plastic cup;
- Aquatabs tablets;
- Diapers and baby soap;
- Hydro alcoholic gel.

Item	Quantity
Bucket with a lid	2
Water can (20L)	1
Washing powder	3 kg
Dishwashing liquid 500mL	2
Disinfectant (such as Dettol), 500 mL	1
Sponge (pack)	1
Bar soap 200g, hypoallergenic, normal skin	5
Chlorine bottles C 250 mL	12
Tube of toothpaste	5
Toothbrush	5
Shampoo bottle 500 mL	1
Comb/ hairbrush	1
Hand towel (cotton)	1
Disposable razors	5
Shaving cream 100g	1
Mirror	1
Women's sanitary napkins	80

COVID-19 WASH EQUIPMENT FOR SCHOOLS

If they are still open, or when they are reopened, schools should ensure the hygiene of children and teachers, as well as the students' understanding of the importance and method of handwashing and barrier gestures.

A **hand washing station** should be located at the entrance of the school, near the latrines and, if possible, near each classroom. This station can take the form of a 100L perforated bucket with a tap. Wastewater from hand washing should be collected in a 25L bucket (without holes), placed under the tap. Once filled, it must be emptied of its contents into a **sump** to avoid stagnation of wastewater.

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A hand washing station with a pedal system (tippy-tap³ type for example) can be made, placed near the latrines, with jerry cans (see appendices 1 & 2). The station must have soap.

Item	Quantity
10L perforated bucket with a lid	1
25 L bucket	1
¼ turn tap	1
Toilet paper rolls	12
Bar of soap 100g	200
5L jerry can	2

These items are given as an example and to be adapted to the intervention context and to the size of the schools in terms of buildings, number of pupils, etc.

COVID-19 WASH EQUIPMENT EAH IN HEALTH CENTERS

Health centers must imperatively offer **several hand washing stations**, provided with soap, at each entrance. Handwashing stations with pedal system (tippy-taps type for example) could be built near the latrines with jerry cans.

If soap is still preferred for normal use, a **chlorine solution** can be used to disinfect hands in treatment rooms. This solution is prepared from HTH or NaDCC⁴. It is kept in a 20L bucket, placed on a stool and also accompanied by another bucket used as a receptacle for chlorine solutions: once filled, these waters must be emptied into a sump. The solution can also be used for surface treatment.

Cleaning supplies must also be included. This material can be used for disinfecting toilets, treatment rooms, etc. HTH will be used for the preparation of the spray solution. The health worker in charge with spraying will be equipped with a pair of gloves, a pair of boots and a protection bib.

Item	Quantity
100L hole bucket with a lid	1
25 L bucket without hole	1
¼ turn tap	(Number of buckets)
20L perforated bucket	(Number of treatment rooms)
Stool	(Number of treatment rooms)
20L bucket (without hole)	(Number of treatment rooms)
Toilet paper rolls	12
100g soap tablets	210
5L jerry can	2
Chlorine bottle C 250 mL	60
HTH 40kg can	1
Sprayer	1
Pair of PVC gloves	1
Pair of boots	1
Bib of protection	1
Latrine cleaning equipment (gloves, masks...)	x
Hydro alcoholic gel	X litres

These items are given as examples and are to be adapted to the intervention context and to the size of the health structures.

³ See the technical sheet in appendix 1

⁴ Products that generate chlorine in powder form. Caution for handling!

APPENDIX 1 : How to build a tippy-tap



APPENDIX 2: Example of artisanal construction of pedal hand wash station

