



Global Handwashing Day 2026

# Public Consultation on the Hand Hygiene Guidelines Implementation Toolkit



# Hand Hygiene Guidelines Implementation Toolkit - Public Consultation Form





## Section 1

# Guidelines on Hand Hygiene in Community Settings



# Hand Hygiene in Community Settings

## Global Guidelines



**Guidelines on Hand Hygiene  
in Community Settings**

# Main points:

The Guidelines:

1. Emphasize **government responsibility**
2. Distill what drives hand hygiene behaviour into **three simple core requirements**
3. Takes a **systems-based approach**



# Scope

## Community settings



**Household**



**Public spaces**

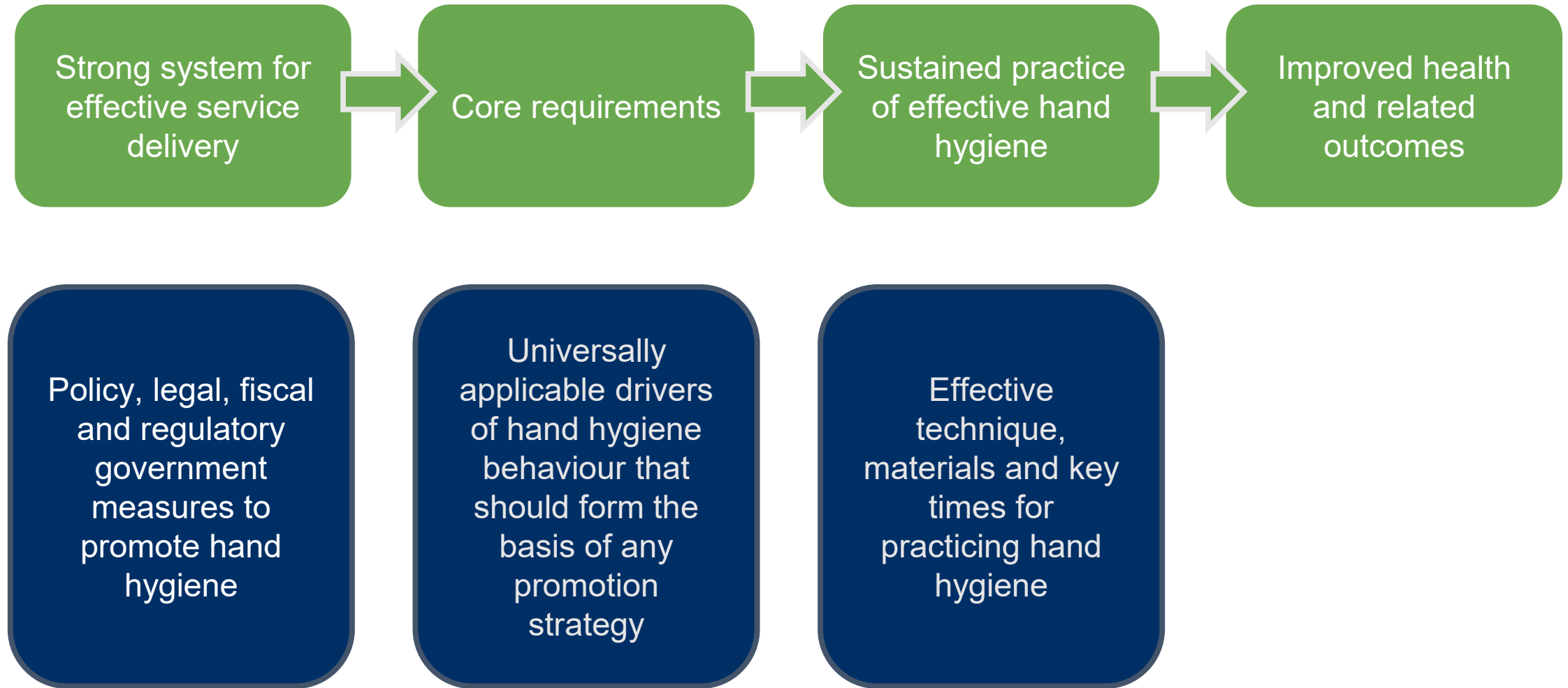
E.g.  
Parks  
Transport hubs  
Plazas, squares  
Marketplaces  
Shopping areas



**Institutional settings**

E.g.  
Workplaces  
Childcare centres, schools and universities  
Prisons and centres of detention

# Recommendations



# Recommendation 1

Governments should implement **policy, legal, regulatory and fiscal measures** to promote hand hygiene as a critical public health intervention.

These actions should aim to remove barriers to the practice of hand hygiene and strengthen the factors that enable behaviour change and/or sustain practice.



# Recommendation 2

Hand hygiene should be practiced with **plain soap and water** for **enough time** to enable covering both hands entirely with soap and thoroughly rubbing **at key times** when disease can be transmitted via hands.

**Alcohol-based hand rub** is an **effective alternative** when hands are not visibly dirty.

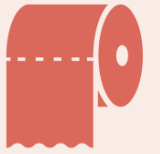
## Key times



**Before  
preparing  
food**



**Before eating  
or feeding/  
breastfeeding  
others**



**After using  
the toilet or  
handling faeces**



**After coughing,  
sneezing or  
blowing nose**



**When hands  
are visibly  
dirty**

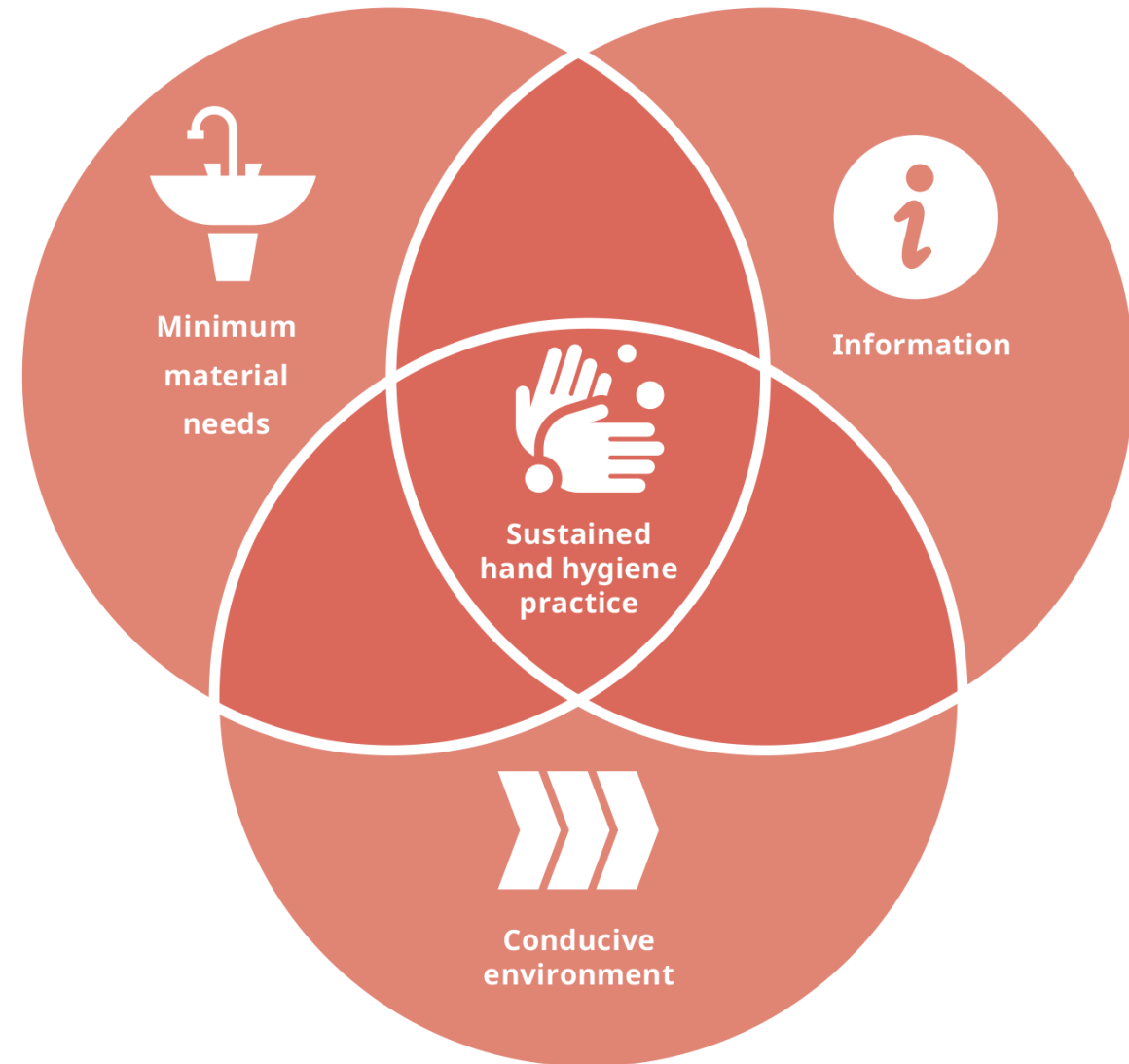
**Additional times  
during health  
emergencies:**

Upon entering private or public buildings (including the home)  
After caring for people who are sick.

# Recommendation 3

**Core requirements** for changing and/or sustaining the practice:

- (a) Minimum material needs
- (b) Information on why, when, how and where to clean hands
- (c) Conducive physical and social environment.



# Implementation guidance

## Take a systems approach

Move away from project-based approaches or short-term direct service delivery.

Identify and address system weaknesses.



# Implementation guidance

## Take a systems approach

Map roles and responsibilities in the system and develop strong accountability mechanisms.

### National government functions

Accountable for equitable and sustained access to the minimum material requirements as well as up-to-date, evidence-based guidance for the practice of effective hand hygiene by all in the community setting(s) within their remit

- Policy and coordination
- Legislation, regulation, standards and guidelines
- Planning
- Capacity building and technical assistance

### Local government functions

Responsible for ensuring equitable and sustained access to services related to hand hygiene within a defined administrative area

- Finance, install and manage operation and maintenance of hand hygiene facilities in public settings
- Enforce compliance of hand hygiene product and service providers with national policy and normative standards, legislation and regulation
- Enforce compliance of private setting administrations with norms and standards (e.g. through inspections)
- Support compliance of public setting administrations with norms and standards (e.g. through technical and financial assistance)

### Local administration functions

Governing body responsible for day-to-day management of a given community setting (e.g.: in a school setting, this is the school's senior management)

- Paying water tariffs and purchasing hand hygiene products (facilities and soap)
- Facilitating a conducive environment for hand hygiene practice
- Providing access to IEC materials
- Encouraging habit formation (through provision of visual cues and embedding hand hygiene in existing routines)

#### Customer services

- Sale of hand hygiene products (handwashing stations, soap, alcohol-based hand rub, vendor-provided water supplies), including user-centred product development
- Produce and/or disseminate health promotion materials

#### Public services

- Water network connections and operation and maintenance of water supplies
- Produce and promote IEC materials

#### Infrastructure

- Extension of water networks



## Section 2

# Draft Implementation Toolkit



# Toolkit Overview

- **What it is:** A technical brief and set of training tools with practical, adaptable resources for strengthening hand hygiene systems in community settings.
- **Who it's for:** Ministries, practitioners and partners
- **How to use it:** Two pathways
  - Pathway 1 for enabling environment
  - Pathway 2 for local services

## Two questions to guide your usage of the toolkit:

**Q1: Is your goal to address the national-level enabling environment or community-level service delivery?**



**PATHWAY 1:**  
**National-Level Enabling Environment**



**PATHWAY 2:**  
**Community-Level Service Delivery**

**Q2: Does your country already have a national hand hygiene strategy or roadmap that is drafted and adopted/approved?**

**Pathway 2 Tools**

**NO**

**YES**

**Pathway 1A Tools**

**Pathway 1B Tools**

# Guidelines Framework:



## Toolkit Components:

Pathway 2 Tools:  
Sub-National Level Service Delivery

Pathway 1 Tools:  
National Level Enabling Environment

# Pathway 1: National-Level Enabling Environment Tools



## Diagnostics

### Roadmap Assessment

Reviews whether existing hand hygiene roadmap is costed, funded, implemented & monitored

### Hooks Mapping

Identifies existing policies & programmes to attach hand hygiene

### Stakeholder Analysis

Maps who has influence and interest, and who could champion hand hygiene

### Enabling Environment Assessment

Scores governance, financing, human capacity and data to find the main gaps

Covered today



## Planning

### Action Planning

Turns priority gaps into actions with leads, dates and resources

### Resource Mobilization

Identifies funding sources and the steps to secure them



## Implementation

Existing country examples and templates

### Plan/Roadmap

### Strategy/policy

### Indicators

### Finance Strategy

### Advocacy tools

# Example: Enabling Environment Assessment

An assessment will lead to the scoring matrix below. The matrix would then be scored on a 3-point traffic light scale.

| Framework Components          | National Actions                                                | Scoring Matrix Definition                                                                                                                                                           |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Governance</b>             | <b>Policy/Strategy</b>                                          | Hand hygiene features in national policies/strategies with a defined vision and targets                                                                                             |
|                               | <b>Costed Plan/Roadmap</b>                                      | National costed plan/roadmap featuring hand hygiene is approved and being implemented, and implementation is monitored                                                              |
|                               | <b>Standards &amp; Guidelines</b>                               | National standards/guidelines include minimum requirements for hand hygiene in community settings                                                                                   |
|                               | <b>Institutional Arrangements &amp; Coordination Mechanisms</b> | A lead ministry for hand hygiene has been mandated. An intersectoral hand hygiene working group with a TOR and clear roles and responsibilities meets regularly to discuss progress |
| <b>Financing</b>              | <b>Budget</b>                                                   | Ministries responsible for hand hygiene have a budget allocation for hand hygiene                                                                                                   |
|                               | <b>Financing Strategy</b>                                       | A government-led financing strategy for hand hygiene exists and is used for decision-making                                                                                         |
|                               | <b>Sufficient Financing</b>                                     | Between 95% and 100% of what is needed                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Human Capacity</b>         | <b>Human Resources</b>                                          | Ministries responsible for hand hygiene have personnel tasked with implementing the roadmap                                                                                         |
|                               | <b>Sufficient Capacity</b>                                      | Personnel tasked with implementing the roadmap have sufficient capacity                                                                                                             |
| <b>Data &amp; Information</b> | <b>Monitoring System</b>                                        | Hand hygiene indicators have been integrated into national monitoring and data collection systems                                                                                   |
|                               | <b>Data Availability</b>                                        | Data is systematically analyzed and shared across all levels                                                                                                                        |

# Pathway 2: Community-Level Service Delivery Tools



## Diagnostics

### Community-Level Assessment

Score hand hygiene services against indicators to identify gaps in service delivery

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### Implementation/fixes solutions

Brainstorm solutions for yellow/red gaps

Covered today



## Planning

### Needs Prioritization

Decide which gaps to fix first

### Improvement plan and costing tools

Turn priority solutions into a plan with actions, owners, dates, and estimate of set-up and running costs, including soap, water and repairs

### Resource Mobilization Plan

Identify funding sources and the steps to secure them



## Implementation

### Hygiene Behavior Change Guide

Offers practical approaches and activities to make handwashing a routine

### Handwashing Technologies Compendium

Existing Compendium of station designs, costs and selection tips for different settings

### Global Handwashing Day Campaigns

Templates and ideas for October 15

# Community- Level Assessment Snapshot

| Indicator                           |                                                                                                                                   | Meets target<br>2 | Partially meets target<br>1                                                | Does not meet target<br>0 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>CORE REQUIREMENTS</b>            |                                                                                                                                   |                   |                                                                            |                           |
| <b>Minimum material needs</b>       |                                                                                                                                   |                   |                                                                            |                           |
| 1.A                                 | Sufficient running or poured water from an improved source is available when needed at all handwashing facilities                 | Yes               | N/A                                                                        | Not present               |
| <b>Information</b>                  |                                                                                                                                   |                   |                                                                            |                           |
| 2.A                                 | Hand hygiene promotion materials are available and clearly visible at key places*                                                 | Yes               | Materials are available and clearly visible in some key places but not all | Not present               |
| <b>Conducive social environment</b> |                                                                                                                                   |                   |                                                                            |                           |
| 3.A                                 | Handwashing is part of shared routines - such as before meals - helping turn it into a group habit rather than a personal choice* | Yes               | Sometimes but not often                                                    | No                        |

# Implementation fixes/solutions

| Indicator                                        | Schools                                                                                                                                                                        | Communities (households)                                                                                                                                                                           | Markets                                                                                                                                                                           | Resources                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Minimum material needs</b>                    |                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>1. Enough water at all stations</b>           | <b>Yellow:</b> Caretaker or pupil rotate refills before school and after break<br><br><b>Red:</b> Storage tank or rainwater harvesting; request a connection from the district | <b>Yellow:</b> Agree who in the household refills the container daily; keep it covered<br><br><b>Red:</b> Fill from the nearest water point; collect rainwater; link to the water supply programme | <b>Yellow:</b> Market cleaner refills at opening and midday<br><br><b>Red:</b> Tank with float valve or connection to the market supply; agree with the market authority who pays | <a href="#">WaterAid technical guide</a><br><a href="#">GIZ group handwashing guide</a><br><a href="#">WHO WASH standards for schools</a><br><a href="#">GHP: managing public handwashing facilities in Kenya</a> |
| <b>Information</b>                               |                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>2. Materials visible at key places</b>        | <b>Yellow:</b> Move posters to eye level at stations, toilets and eating <a href="#">area</a><br><br><b>Red:</b> Pupils paint posters or murals                                | <b>Yellow:</b> Picture card or sticker at the household station<br><br><b>Red:</b> CHWs leave a simple picture card at each home                                                                   | <b>Yellow:</b> Posters at stations and food areas<br><br><b>Red:</b> Banners at entrances; signs on food stalls                                                                   | <a href="#">Global Handwashing Day guide</a><br><a href="#">GHP Handwashing Handbook</a>                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Conducive Social Environment</b>              |                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>3. Handwashing is part of shared routines</b> | <b>Yellow:</b> Fix the moment in the timetable; name class monitors<br><br><b>Red:</b> Daily group handwashing before meals                                                    | <b>Yellow:</b> Family washes together before meals<br><br><b>Red:</b> CHWs coach caregivers to link handwashing to feeding times                                                                   | <b>Yellow:</b> Vendors wash at opening and before handling food<br><br><b>Red:</b> Market rule: food vendors wash before serving, checked by the market committee                 | <a href="#">GIZ group handwashing guide</a><br><a href="#">Three-Star Approach</a>                                                                                                                                |

# In Summary: Toolkit Supporting Implementation Throughout the System



# Public Consultation Process



- **Go to the WHO webpage for the public consultation:**  
<https://www.who.int/teams/environment-climate-change-and-health/water-sanitation-and-health/hand-hygiene>
- **Download the PPT** with slides from today's which describe the toolkit. *Note: all webinar registrants will receive this ppt directly via email.*
- **Access the consultation form** via this link or the QR code to the right: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/tL4Q4cmgwP>
- **Submit your feedback between 15 Oct – 15 Nov (15-20 min max).** We are requesting inputs on the structure of the toolkit as well as the tools included. You will also be able to submit examples of any of the tools we have discussed today.

Hand Hygiene Guidelines  
Implementation Toolkit - Public  
Consultation Form





Happy Global Handwashing Day!

