

Water, sanitation and hygiene

- Washing hands with soap and clean water is the first line of defence against COVID-19, but 2.2 billion persons lack access to safe water services and hygiene. Addressing the water, sanitation and hygiene needs of populations in vulnerable situations, including those with unequal and inadequate access to water, particularly women and girls, is essential to ensuring success in the global struggle against COVID-19.
- Immediate measures that can help include prohibiting water cuts to those who cannot pay water bills, providing water, soap and sanitizer free of cost (such as through mobile dispensers in communities without access to adequate sanitation) for the duration of the crisis to people in poverty and those affected by the upcoming economic hardship.