



Better lives through livestock

# Sustaining hand washing post-covid and what this means for infection control and AMR

Florence Mutua, ILRI, Nairobi  
14 June 2022



# Outline

---

- Introduction
- Give some highlight from ILRI study on COVID-19 mitigation and implications for food safety
- A few slides on hand hygiene
- Conclusion

# Introduction [1]

- AMR is a significant threat to public health, globally.
- Murray et al (2022): *Bacterial AMR caused over 4 million deaths in 2019 (Sub-Saharan Africa affected most)*
- *“Reducing the incidence of infection through effective sanitation, hygiene and infection prevention measures”* is one of the 5 action areas of the Global Action plan on AMR.

ARTICLES | [VOLUME 399, ISSUE 10325, P629-655, FEBRUARY 12, 2022](#)

Global burden of bacterial antimicrobial resistance in a systematic analysis

[Antimicrobial Resistance Collaborators](#) <sup>†</sup> • [Show footnotes](#)

## Introduction [2]

---

- WASH interventions can address several of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Diarrhoea is a serious public health problem especially in developing countries: *Hand hygiene can reduce diarrhoea episodes (Ejemot- Nwadiaro et al)*
- Diarrhoea agents are a frequent cause of foodborne diseases: FBD burden studies (WHO, World Bank)

# COVID-19 mitigation

---

- COVID-19 is not transmitted through food.
- Frequent hand washing, social distancing, and face masks were promoted, to prevent spread (as vaccine studies continued)
- Our study looked at how enforcement of COVID-19 mitigation measures impacted on food safety in East Africa

- Virtually interviewed experts in the countries
- The food safety concerns reported included bulk purchasing, untrustworthy suppliers, transport delays, and weak inspections

ILRI DISCUSSION PAPER

4

## The COVID-19 pandemic and its implications for food safety in East Africa



RESEARCH  
PROGRAM  
Agriculture,  
Nutrition  
and Health

- Businesses including food outlets restaurants required to install handwashing facilities
- In Kenya, provision of water tanks by government and partners

PROTOCOL FOR MANAGEMENT OF RESTAURANTS AND EATERIES DURING THE PERIOD OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC

<https://www.health.go.ke/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/PROTOCOL-FOR-MANAGEMENT-OF-RESTAURANTS-1.pdf>



News Trending

COUNTY RECEIVES WATER TANKS FROM ONE ACRE FUND TO ASSIST IN THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19

<https://kakamega.go.ke/cour-receives-water-tanks-from-one-acre-fund-to-assist-in-the-fight-against-covid-19/>

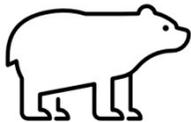
- At homes, families installed hand washing stations = *washing of hands when returning home*
- Sanitizers recommended but thought to be expensive
- Lowering the cost of soap – reported in Burundi



- Indications that the informal markets were not well supplied with enough water and soap
- Compliance issues including refusal to wash hands when requested to do so, and using the water provided for non-intended purposes.
- In Kenya, complains over the management of the water tanks (national, or central government)

# Hand hygiene [1]

- Hands can be contaminated at any time, and at any place (home, school, hospital, etc.)



## Hand hygiene [2]

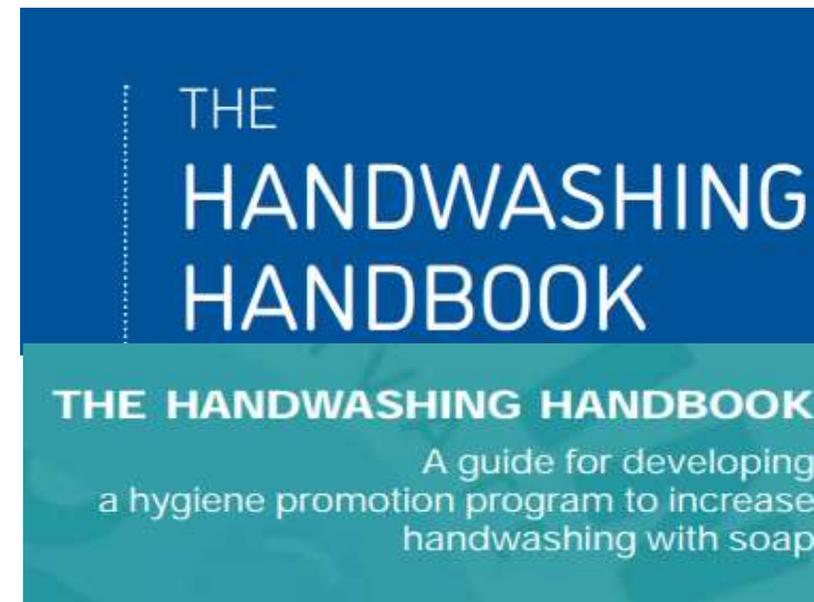
- Hand washing is a simple measure but not everyone can access it: *Globally, three in 10 people, do not have a place in their homes to wash their hands with water and soap (UNICEF, 2021)*
- Initiatives to addressing the gap:



<https://globalhandwashing.org/global-handwashing-day/about-ghd/>

[https://globalhandwashing.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Handwashing\\_Handbook\\_web-1.pdf](https://globalhandwashing.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Handwashing_Handbook_web-1.pdf)

[https://globalhandwashing.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/GHP\\_Handwashing-Handbook\\_FINAL.pdf](https://globalhandwashing.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/GHP_Handwashing-Handbook_FINAL.pdf)



## Hand hygiene [3]

- **Hand Hygiene for all Initiative [WHO, UNICEF]**
- Defines short-, medium-, and long-term measures:

*Political leadership, behavior change, supply hand hygiene products/ services, policies and strategies, institutional arrangement, financing, monitoring, capacity building*



<https://www.unicef.org/media/71776/file/Hand-hygiene-for-all-2020.pdf>

- Homes
- Schools
- Healthcare
- Public places – transport, worship
- Places of work
- Others

## Hand hygiene [4]

---

- Frequent hand washing can reduce risks of infection and lower transmission rates, avoiding unnecessary use of antimicrobials.
- Antimicrobial use is a driver of AMR.
- AMR is best addressed through One Health approach

# Conclusion

- The level of hand hygiene, which was witnessed during the pandemic, is proposed, to prevent future pandemics, and ensure food safety.
- Already there are rich resources which can be used to promote hand hygiene.
- First, we need to prioritize hand hygiene, and think differently, and consider approaches that encourage behavior change (homes, communities, hospitals, markets)



**ILRI**  
INTERNATIONAL  
LIVESTOCK RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE



The International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) is a non-profit institution helping people in low- and middle-income countries to improve their lives, livelihoods and lands through the animals that remain the backbone of small-scale agriculture and enterprise across the developing world. ILRI belongs to CGIAR, a global research-for-development partnership working for a food-secure future. ILRI's funders, through the [CGIAR Trust Fund](#), and its many partners make ILRI's work possible and its mission a reality. Australian animal scientist and Nobel Laureate Peter Doherty serves as ILRI's patron. You are free to use and share this material under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Licence .

*better lives  
through  
livestock*

[ilri.org](http://ilri.org)