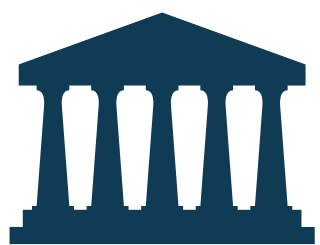


# Global Handwashing Day

## Why are clean hands still important?

While we've made significant progress in promoting handwashing with soap, our journey is far from over. Clean hands remain a fundamental defense against the spread of infections, illnesses, and harmful germs. Whether in hospitals, schools, or in everyday interactions, practicing handwashing with soap contributes to better health outcomes and a safer world for everyone. As the world looks toward key milestones in hand hygiene progress, we urge you to reflect this question, "Why are clean hands still important?" For us, the answer lies in our collective responsibility to safeguard public health, prevent infections, and promote wellbeing.

### TAKE ACTION



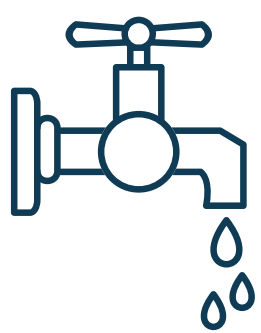
**Governments** – Prioritize integrating and budgeting for hand hygiene in national response and resilience plans, as well as long-term development strategies

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**Donors** – Invest in programs that prioritize hand hygiene, promote access to hand hygiene facilities, and contribute to both public health and economic resilience

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**Suppliers** – Collaborate with governments, health systems, and NGOs to ensure sustainable supply chains for hand hygiene products

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**Businesses** – Prioritize hand hygiene for employee health and safety

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**Institutional actors** – Implement a multi-faceted approach to scale up hand hygiene in communities, including promotion, accessible facilities, regular monitoring, and behavior reinforcement.

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**Academics** – Fill hand hygiene evidence gaps and translate research into practical resources for hand hygiene interventions and program development