Sanitation in Kenya: Facts and Figures in the COVID-19 context

- According to a 2019 [joint study by the WHO and UNICEF](https://www.who.int/), only 59% of Kenyans have access to basic water services, and only 29% have access to sanitation services.

- In [the same study](https://www.who.int/), the WHO & UNICEF also estimate that 5 million Kenyans (~10%) practice open defecation, while only 14% have hand-washing facilities with soap and water at home.

- According to the [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/), hand-washing can cut the risk of respiratory infection by 16%.

- For [AMREF](https://www.amref.org/), the simple act of hand-washing with soap is the single most effective way to stop childhood deaths. It can reduce the spread of pneumonia by 23% and diarrhea by up to 45%.

- According to [Sanergy](https://www.sanergy.org/), a member of the Safe Hands Kenya coalition – loss of productivity due to illness costs the country 2% of its GDP every year (in normal circumstances).

- A [World Bank (Water & Sanitation Program) study](https://www.worldbank.org/) has found that awareness about the importance of hand-washing with soap is high in Kenya, especially after using the toilet. But awareness regarding the relationship between hand-washing with soap and diseases (including coronaviruses), and how this affects the day-to-day lives of children and the entire community, remains weak.

- Several scientific studies referred to in international media have found that surgical masks decrease the exhalation of large viral droplets 25-fold in a home setting, while wearing a surgical mask decreases a healthy person's risk of getting sick by 60% to 80%.