Water and COVID-19: Responding to crisis emergency response, crisis recovery and future development planning

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OSCE/OCEEA Webinar: Environmental Co-operation in the Time of COVID-19 Pandemic, Vienna, 20 May 2020



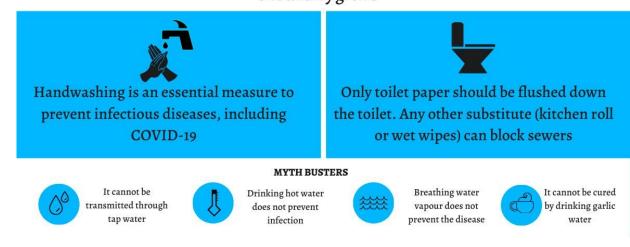
Water security and COVID-19

Water Perspectives:

- Impacts on water and sanitation services - Utility revenues are going down!
- In countries with non-universal access lack of water and sanitation services help drive spread of COVID-19 virus
- Tracing COVID-19 virus in sewage water as an early warning system of pandemic
- Water security has to be part of social and economic recovery policies and plans

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT **WATER AND COVID-19** #STAYATHOME

Water is always essential, but at this exceptional time it is vital to ensure hygiene





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Changing Development Cooperation Landscape

- GDP is expected to drop dramatically in 2020
 - The US economy shrunk by 4.8 per cent in the first quarter of the year
 - The European Union's GDP decreased by 3.5 per cent in the first quarter of 2020 (France 5,8%, Spain 5,2%, Italy 4.7%)
 - Economies hit by Covid-19 are expected to contract by some 6-12% by the end of 2020 and unemployment rates soaring to 12-15 % or more.
- Many countries' development cooperation budgets are directly dependent on the size of GDP/GNI
 - There will be less development cooperation budget overall
 - Due to social and economic recovery needs there may also be risks that donor countries may allocate even less for development cooperation
 - Donors will re-prioritise their support to Covid-19 social and economic recovery.

How will this affect water and environment priorities?

- Dwindling revenues for water utilities risk set-backs to achive SDG6: Severe implications for water utility cash flow and longer-term financial stability to maintain quality of water services. Some governments give consumers payment holidays while utilities accumulate costs and continue to pay full for all support services.
- Water security is key to manage crisis and social and economic recovery: How we value, manage and invest in water should be part of post-pandemic strategies of social and economic recovery to build a more resilient society towards future chocks of natural or man-made disasters.

Ways Forward: What next?

- Short term governments need to reassure cash-flow (solvency) of water utilities
- Governments to consider supporting municipal water supply and sanitation investments for building a more reslient water sector and to provide local job opportunities
- Governments to consider investing in improved water resources management as strategy of water security and social and economic recovery (investment stimulus packages for job creation)

SDG 6 - Water and Sanitation for All - aims at ensuring access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene services fundamental to fighting the pandemic and preserving the health and well being of people.

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

Some Conclusions