



# Local governments, work and WASH in times of Covid-19: Africa, Asia and the Pacific

Carlos R. Carrión-Crespo  
*Sectoral Policies Department*

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Advancing social justice, promoting decent work

## ▶ Issues

- ▶ Communicable diseases
- ▶ Role of local government
- ▶ Challenges
- ▶ ILO instruments
- ▶ ILO activities

## Communicable diseases in the workplace

- **Poor drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, and the related lack of knowledge are the main contributing and preventable factors of these diseases.**
- **Est. 1B people at risk of COVID-19 for lack of basic handwashing facilities.**
- **Workplace deaths from communicable diseases**
  - 17% of all workplace fatalities in 2002
  - 10% in 2011 and
  - 9% in 2015.
- **First cause of occupational deaths in Africa in 2015: 27.8% or 91,158.**
- **South East Asia:**
  - 27% of the total workplace fatalities in the world;
  - 38% of total workplace fatalities from communicable diseases in the world, with 87,511 (10.8% of the total workplace fatalities in the region).



## ▶ Handwashing and communicable diseases: Canadian CDC



## ▶ **Local public services for COVID-19 recovery**

- ▶ **Water operators**
- ▶ **Sanitation services**
- ▶ **Health services**
- ▶ **Emergency services**
- ▶ **Social protection programs**
- ▶ **Communications offices**
- ▶ **Mass transportation**
- ▶ **Wildlife protection**
- ▶ **Correctional services**
- ▶ **Court systems**





## ► Challenges

- **GLAAS: 107 of the 115 countries reporting included handwashing in their hygiene strategies, but**
  - only 9 per cent of hygiene strategies are fully costed and
  - only 10 per cent have sufficient human resources for their implementation
- **Informality**
- **Water fetching: A recent study found that almost 50% of the rural population of 23 countries in all regions, mostly women and children, are obliged to bring water from a source outside of their home or yard.**
  - In some countries, children spend up to 11.3 hours per week.
  - The mean single trip time to collect water ranges from 10 to 65 minutes in urban areas with an average increase or decrease of 2 to 13 minutes in rural areas.
- **Loss of jobs means that employers cannot provide water or sanitation for the newly unemployed**

## ▶ ILO Instruments

- ❖ Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise, 1948 (No. 87)
- ❖ Convention on Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining, 1949 (No. 98)
- ❖ Hygiene (Offices and Commerce) Convention, 1964 (No. 120)
- ❖ Hygiene (Offices and Commerce) Recommendation, 1964 (No. 120)
- ❖ Convention on Labour Administration, 1978 (No. 150)
- ❖ Convention on Labour Relations in the Public Service, 1978, No. 151
- ❖ Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981 (No. 155)
- ❖ Employment and Decent Work for Peace and Resilience Recommendation, 2017 (No. 205)
- ❖ Recommendation on Violence and Harassment, 2019 (No. 206)
- ❖ Guidelines on Decent Work in Public Emergency Services, adopted in 2018



## ▶ ILO activities

- **Employment-Intensive Investment Programme**
  - [Jordan](#)
  - [Philippines](#)
  - [South Africa](#)
  - [Tunisia](#)
- **Better Work**
  - [Nicaragua](#)
  - [Indonesia](#)
  - [Bangladesh](#)