

Programme Core Commitments for Children: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

To ensure the provision of safe water and proper sanitation for children and women, in collaboration with partners, UNICEF will:

First six to eight weeks

1. Ensure the availability of a minimum safe drinking water supply through provision of technical and material support to external implementing partners.
2. Provide bleach, chlorine or water purification tablets, including detailed user and safety instructions in the local language.
3. Provide jerry cans, or an appropriate alternative, including user instructions and messages in the local language on handling of water and disposal of excreta and solid waste.
4. Provide soap and disseminate key hygiene messages on the dangers of cholera and other water- and excreta-related diseases.
5. Facilitate safe excreta and solid waste disposal by providing shovels, cash for contracting local service companies to dispose of solid waste; messages on the importance of keeping excreta (including infant faeces) buried and away from habitations and public areas; messages on disposal of human and animal corpses; instructions on, and support for construction of trench and pit latrines.

Beyond initial response

6. Make approaches and technologies used consistent with national standards, thus reinforcing long-term sustainability.
7. Define UNICEF's continuing involvement beyond the initial response, by:
 - Establishing, improving and expanding safe water systems for source development, distribution, purification, storage and drainage taking into account evolving needs, changing health risks and greater demand
 - Providing a safe water supply, sanitation and hand-washing facilities at schools and health posts
 - Supplying and upgrading sanitation facilities to include semi-permanent structures and household solutions, and providing basic family sanitation kits
 - Establishing regular hygiene promotion activities
 - Planning for long-term solid waste disposal