### Standard Sector Indicator Code:

**HE-052**

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#### Type: Short-term Outcome

#### Unit of Measure: Households

#### Disaggregation:

- **Type of Disinfecting Material**: Soap, Ash, Other

#### To be counted for this indicator, all of the following criteria must be met:

- The household has a designated hand washing station, and
- The hand washing station is equipped with soap, ash, sand, or other disinfecting materials, and
- The hand washing station is filled with safe water, and
- The hand washing station shows signs of being commonly used, and
- A member of the household participates in a group with which the Volunteer works.

#### Definitions:

- **Hand washing station**: is a designated easily accessible place where soap/ash/sand or other disinfectant or abrasive material and an inexpensive water storage vessel with a spigot has been filled with clean water (for example in a pitcher or a five gallon jug) to be used for hand washing. These are most commonly referred to as *tippy taps*. In order to be effective the vessel must be filled with water and frequently refilled with water.

- **Water for the station**: it is always best to use safe water to wash hands. However, the quality of water is not important and may not be detected through a survey. The soap will kill germs and the water will rinse them away. Sand or ash are rough and rub off the dirt and germs.

- **Household**: is defined as a person or group of people who usually eat together

- **Soap, ash, sand, and other disinfecting or abrasive materials**: are important to actually kill germs on hands and clean the hands. Although soap is preferred, some local cultures frequently use ash and sand.

- **Commonly used**: Common use implies the hand washing station is used daily. Ideally, the household members will be consistently using the handwashing station during the critical times one must wash their hands (before preparing food, eating or feeding, and post defecation or handling a diaper). Common signs of use include water splashes on the ground, water in the storage vessel, a used bar of soap, etc.

- **Rationale**: Correct and frequent washing of hands can reduce bacterial contamination, food borne illnesses and acute respiratory illnesses. Studies have shown that proper hand washing techniques can reduce the incidence of diarrheal disease by 42-47 percent.
Measurement Notes:

1. **Sample Tools and/or Possible Methods (for Peace Corps staff use):** Volunteers should use data collection tools to measure progress against project indicators. Please check PCLive for data collection tools. Once a tool has been developed, post staff should have a few Volunteers and their partners pilot it, and then distribute and train Volunteers on its use.

2. **General Data Collection for Volunteer Activities:** All Volunteer activities should be conducted with the intention of achieving outcomes – knowledge change (short-term), skills demonstration (intermediate-term), and behavioral changes (intermediate to long term) as defined by the progression of indicators within the objectives of a project framework. The progression of measurement for all Volunteer activities should begin with baseline data being conducted prior to the implementation of an activity (or set of activities), followed by documenting any outputs of the activities and then later at the appropriate time, measurements of specific outcomes (see the bullet on “frequency of measurement”).

3. **Activity-Level Baseline Data Collection:** Activity-level baseline data should be collected by Volunteers/partners before or at the start of their activities with an individual or group of individuals. It provides a basis for planning and/or assessing subsequent progress or impact with these same people. This indicator builds off of two indicators that measure the skill and knowledge needed to correctly wash your hands: HE-049: Trained People to Build Hand Washing and Station and to Correctly Wash Their Hands; and HE-051: Demonstrated How to Build a Tippy Tap. To measure how many households the Volunteer/partner is working with that have and commonly use a handwashing station with soap/ash/etc. and safe water, Volunteers should use the sample data collection tool to take a baseline measurement regarding the outcome(s) defined in this data sheet. Volunteers should collect baseline information early in their work with community members, and may use their judgment to determine timing because the information will be more accurate if the Volunteer has built some trust with these individuals first. The same tool used to collect baseline information will be used to take the follow-on measurement (see the bullet on “frequency of measurement”). The follow-on measurement should be taken after the Volunteer has conducted his/her activities (in this case, training on handwashing and building handwashing stations).

Because Volunteers are expected to implement relevant and focused activities that will promote specific changes within a target population (see the “unit of measure” above), taking a baseline measurement helps Volunteers to develop a more realistic snapshot of where individuals within the target population are in their process of change instead of assuming that they are starting at “0.” It also sets up Volunteers to be able to see in concrete terms what influence their work is having on the individuals they work with during their service. Please note that data collection is a sensitive process and so Volunteers will not want to take a baseline measurement until they have been able to do some relationship and trust-building with the person/people the Volunteer is working with, and developed an understanding of cultural norms and gender dynamics.

4. **Frequency of Measurement:** After taking the baseline measurement (described above), Volunteers should take at least one follow-on measurement with the same household(s), typically after completing one or more activities focused on achieving the outcome in this indicator and once they have determined that the timing is appropriate to expect that the outcome has been achieved. Please note that successful documentation of a behavior change or new practice may not be immediately apparent following the completion of activities and may need to be planned for at a later time. Once Volunteers have measured that at least one household has achieved the indicator, they should report on it in their next VRF.

Volunteers may determine to take more than one baseline and one follow-on measurement with the same
individual (or group of individuals) for the following valid reasons:

a. Volunteers may want to measure whether or not any additional individuals initially reached with activities have now achieved the outcome in the indicator, particularly for any activities that are on-going in nature (no clear end date);

b. Volunteers may want to enhance their own learning and the implementation of their activities by using the data collected as an effective monitoring tool and feedback mechanism for the need to improve or increase their activities;

c. A Peace Corps project in a particular country may choose to increase the frequency of measurement of the indicator and Volunteers assigned to that project will be required to follow in-country guidance.

In all cases, any additional data collection above the minimum expectation should be based on the time, resources, accessibility to the target population, and the value to be gained versus the burden of collecting the data. Following any additional measurements taken, Volunteers should report on any new individuals achieving the outcome in their next VRF.

5. **Definition of Change:** The minimum change to report against this indicator is a household meeting the designated criteria to be counted for this indicator after working with a Volunteer. If at the baseline, there is a household that already meets the criteria, then the Volunteer would not be able to count the household for this activity because the Volunteer’s work did not actually lead to the desired change. **To be counted for this indicator, all of the following criteria must be met:**

   a. The household has a designated hand washing station, and
   b. The hand washing station is equipped with soap, ash, sand, or other disinfecting materials, and
   c. The hand washing station is filled with safe water, and
   d. The hand washing station shows signs of being commonly used, and
   e. A member of the household participates in a group with which the Volunteer works.

6. **General Reporting in the VRF:** The “number achieved” (or numerator) that Volunteers will report against for this indicator in their VRFs is the number of households having soap or ash or other disinfecting material, AND, safe water for proper handwashing at a handwashing station commonly used by household members. The “total number” (or denominator) that Volunteers will report on for this indicator in their VRFs is the total number of households where a member participated in the activities designed to meet this indicator.

7. **Reporting on Disaggregated Data in the VRF:** This indicator is disaggregated by “Type of disinfecting material”. When reporting in the VRF, a Volunteer should disaggregate the households that achieved the outcome based on whether the household used soap, ash, or other.

**Data Quality Assessments (DQA):** DQA are needed for each indicator selected to align with the project objectives. DQAs review the validity, integrity, precision, reliability, and timeliness of each indicator. For more information, consult the Peace Corps MRE Toolkit.

**Alignment with Summary Indicator:** No link