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# WASH in the Time of COVID-19

Global Partners is committed to listening to the local leaders and communities we partner with, and we understand the need to adapt our work to address changing needs. When the threat of COVID-19 became clear in March 2020, we immediately pivoted and implemented immediate emergency interventions by providing support to local health clinics and with WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) projects.

As schools across the globe deliberate how to reopen while keeping students and teachers safe and healthy, we are continuing to listen to local people about the challenges they face. Most schools in rural East Africa are ill-equipped to implement preventative health measures. Classrooms are often poorly ventilated and overcrowded. Clean water, adequate toilets, and handwashing stations are often lacking. Global Partners is directly addressing these challenges.

As we strive to continue increasing our impact, we will be doubling down on our efforts to make sure East African schools and communities have access to clean water and sanitation. We are partnering with schools with critical WASH needs and working with their communities to develop effective and sustainable solutions. Although COVID-19 has highlighted the importance of WASH, these interventions are proven to improve community health and are a basic human right even in the absence of a global pandemic.

## Fast Facts

- 47% of schools in East Africa lack basic sanitation services (toilets)
- 9.4 million Kenyans drink directly from contaminated surface water surfaces
- Half of schools in the least developed countries have no place for students to wash their hands
- Globally, 2.2 billion people lack safely managed drinking water, and 4.2 billion people lack safely managed sanitation
- By 2025, half of the world's population will be living in water-stressed areas

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