


# HANDWASHING






**1.3 MILLION**  
CHILD DEATHS  
OCCUR EACH YEAR FROM  
**DIARRHOEA**  
OF WHICH  
**800,000**  
ARE UNDER 5<sup>1</sup>

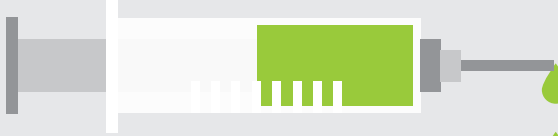
   
ONLY **19%** OF THE WORLD  
POPULATION  
WASH THEIR HANDS  
**WITH SOAP**  
AFTER USING THE TOILET <sup>2</sup>

**HANDS CAN  
CARRY  
3,000  
DIFFERENT  
BACTERIA** <sup>3</sup>



HANDWASHING  
WITH SOAP & WATER   
IS THE MOST IMPORTANT  
MEASURE IN FIGHTING  
GASTROINTESTINAL  
& RESPIRATORY  
INFECTIONS <sup>4</sup>

BUT...    
OF THE **GLOBAL**  
POPULATION  
AFFECTED BY  
INADEQUATE  
HAND HYGIENE <sup>5</sup>

  
HANDWASHING  
CAN BE AS **EFFECTIVE AS**  
**VACCINATION** <sup>6</sup>



  
HANDWASHING  
WITH SOAP  
COULD  
**REDUCE**  
DIARRHOEAL  
DEATHS  
**BY 50%** <sup>7</sup>

1. [www.widerunu.edu/publication/tackling-main-causes-child-mortality-developing-countries](http://www.widerunu.edu/publication/tackling-main-causes-child-mortality-developing-countries) 2. Pruss-Ustun A, Bartram J, Clasen T et al. Burden of disease from inadequate water, sanitation and hygiene in low- and middle-income settings: a retrospective analysis of data from 145 countries. Trop Med Int Health 2014 Aug; 19 (8): 894-905  
3. Royal Society for Public Health press release 'Public should not wash their hands of basic hand hygiene'. April 2014 4. The effectiveness of hand hygiene procedures in reducing the risks of infections in home and community settings including handwashing and alcohol-based hand sanitizers' Sally F. Bloomfield, BPharm, PhD, Allison E. Aiello, PhD, MS et al; 2007 by the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology, Inc. 5. Freeman M, Stocks M, Cumming O et al. Hygiene and health: systematic review of handwashing practices worldwide and update of health effects, p.913. Tropical Medicine and International Health. 2014 6. <http://info.debgroup.com/blog/bid/267193/Better-Hand-Washing-as-First-Line-of-Defense-Against-the-Flu> 7. World Health Organisation - Diarrhoea: why children are still dying and what can be done. Available at: [www.who.int/maternal\\_child\\_adolescent/documents/9789241598415/en/](http://www.who.int/maternal_child_adolescent/documents/9789241598415/en/)