

Coordinate Integrate Invest

To save up to
700 000 children's lives
every year



Based on evidence from new research WaterAid is calling on governments and donors to align child health and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in programmes, policies and financing to address the global health crisis. These investments can create a positive cycle that builds human capital, strengthens economies, reduces future healthcare costs and contributes to national development.

How

Major health gains and improved cost-effectiveness are possible if decision-makers and donors act now to coordinate, integrate and invest in child health and WASH interventions.

Donors and Governments need to:

- Champion and enable rapid experimentation with innovative integrated approaches, allowing flexibility to trial these in pilot projects and test multiple approaches.
- Put in place domestic and international financing that supports and incentivises an integrated approach.
- Financially back policies and plans integrating child health and WASH necessary to deliver. The health of children and the future health of economies depends on decision-makers translating words into actions.
- Address institutional barriers, territorial battles between ministries, and inflexible financing in order to facilitate national governments applying a more integrated approach.
- Move away from quickly counted outputs such as numbers of children vaccinated or who received zinc supplementation, and more on measuring health impacts, which takes longer. Long-term sustainable results could be transformational in getting a country on track towards prosperity requiring less assistance over time.

For the SDGs to become reality requires bold action and new thinking, beyond traditional silos. The children of today, and the economies of tomorrow, depend on governments and donors acting urgently to strengthen coordination, integration and investment in child health and WASH.

To read the full report and the statistics behind it visit
www.wateraid.se/cii

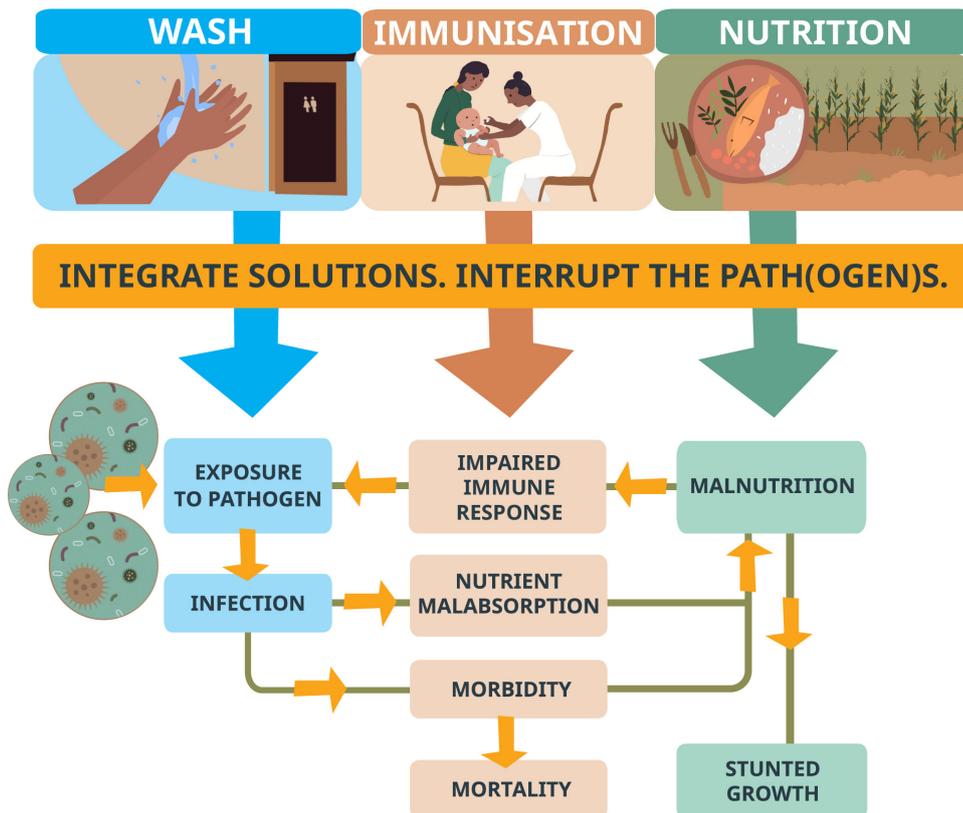
There you can also find last year's report, *Recipe for success* about the relationship between WASH and stunting.



Combining clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene with routine childhood vaccinations and nutrition support could potentially save the lives of as many as 697,000 young children annually, and prevent billions of harmful bouts of diarrhoeal illness and pneumonia in under-fives each year, research from WaterAid and PATH has found. The findings are presented in the new report *Coordinate, Integrate, Invest*.

People do not live their lives in sector-specific silos. From giving birth in an unhygienic health facility without running water, to having no choice but to eat and drink food and water contaminated by faeces, the challenges people living in poverty face cross issues and sectors – and so must the solutions. To ‘leave no one behind’, we must think and act differently.

Therefore WaterAid urge decision-makers to act now with ambition and innovation to forge a path towards health and prosperity for all, leaving no-one behind.



Opportunities for gains

- Scaling up an integrated package of WASH, rotavirus vaccination and nutritional interventions (breastfeeding promotion or zinc supplementation) to 100% coverage could potentially reduce morbidities by nearly two thirds (63%) and almost halve mortalities (49%) from diarrhoea and pneumonia – the equivalent of averting more than 697,000 child deaths a year.
- For every US\$1 invested in water and sanitation globally, there is a \$4.3 return in the form of reduced healthcare costs. By expanding access to WASH and health services together, we can increase impact and cost-effectiveness even further.
- Integrated health and WASH interventions can have benefits far greater than the sum of their parts. For example, simultaneous improvements in access to WASH services and healthcare together seem to halve the probability of being stunted compared with access to WASH alone.
- Countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia that have not tackled child stunting are facing punishing economic losses of up to 9–10% of GDP per capita. Delivering integrated nutrition and WASH actions could help to create a more productive workforce and economic growth, lifting your country out of poverty.

