WASH is a key preventative measure in reducing the spread of COVID-19 and is one of the principal public health recommendations. The severity of the current response to COVID-19 poses grave detrimental impacts on WASH service provision and sustainability if not adequately mitigated. Equitable access to WASH commodities and services must be protected and extended for all, without any form of discrimination by nationality, income or ethnicity.

**Adaptive Response**

In 3 districts - Al-Mahabesha & Hajjah in Hajjah governorate and Dhamar City in Dhamar- DRC has complied with the precautionary measures against COVID-19 during the distribution of consumable hygiene kits, which included hand sterilizing and registering the head temperature for entrants to the distribution site, also ensured physical distance not less than one meter, as well as Opened more than 10 distribution sites to avoid any gatherings of people. This distribution activities reached over 10,000 people with 500 HH in each district.

**Infection Prevention and Control**

**Sheilding of High Risk Persons**

The WASH Cluster is supporting the roll out of household level shielding of high- risk persons in communities, which targets those at higher risk of severe infection & hospitalization.  

**What is Shielding?**

An extra layer of prevention for high risk populations to protect them from COVID-19 infection and thus hospitalization, through a package of RCCE, IPC/WASH, Health and Cash Assistance to reduce imperative to go out and prevent transmission to high-risk persons. The aim is to reduce risk of exposure of vulnerable and high-risk persons to COVID-19 Infection, thereby increasing their chances of survival, reducing pressure on health systems and COVID-19 fatalities.
**Risk Communication and Community Engagement**

Key principles for COVID-19 response programming

There is not one standardized approach to coronavirus response and context adaptation is important. We recommend using these three principles to guide your work and ensure it remains relevant and that you minimize harm.

- Stay informed
- Involve others and stay connected
- Align your work with the national response

**Stop COVID-19, Online Training Course**

Bioforce has developed this on-line training to support local actors working with the communities. This English version has been put together with the support of Action Against Hunger (ACF France) and OXFAM.

This training provides clear and objective information on the virus and its effects, together with practical advice and resources for community level interventions.

**More Resources:**
- Yemen WASH Cluster
- IEC Materials
- Yemen Joint Market Monitoring Initiative

**Gaps and Challenges:**

- Emergency WASH to close due to funding gaps
- WASH for IDPs Site, Cholera and Urban Water on verge of stopping
- Gaps in Supplies; Hygiene, COVID and Cholera Kits will end in June
- Reduced Health seeking behaviors; Focus on RCCE and Health support
- Humanitarian situation likely to deteriorate further due to Covid-19

**Joint Market Monitoring Initiative**

YEMEN COVID-19 JMMI, 27 MAY - 04 JUNE 2020 KEY FINDINGS:

- The price of water trucking has dropped by almost half, accordingly the overall SMEB cost decreased.
- The WASH SMEB cost in Sana’a City decreased by almost 60%.
- Marib and Amran restocking times were the highest among governorates.
- The ability of vendors to adapt to changing demand of 50% and 100% has reportedly continued to decrease.

**Five ideas for handwashing promotion during the 1st phase of COVID-19 response:**

- Make handwashing easier by increasing the availability of handwashing facilities, soap and water.
- Make handwashing messages surprising.
- Remind people of the power of soap!
- Normalise and celebrate handwashing.
- Share real experiences of COVID-19.

**More Information...**