

8 Clean water

OVERVIEW



Clean water is essential to stop the spread of many epidemics such as diarrhoea and cholera.

As volunteers, you can help provide the community with clean water, mainly for drinking, but also for cooking and cleaning.

How to provide clean water

- ➔ The best way to provide safe and clean water is to obtain it from a groundwater source, such as a protected well or borehole.
- ➔ If safe groundwater is not available, you can provide clean water in other ways. These include:
 - ➔ **Boiling water** for at least 1 minute of rolling boil will help kill germs.
 - ➔ **Chlorination** can kill germs in the water and make it safe, but you can **ONLY** do this if you are supervised by a water and sanitation specialist and if you are trained in how to do it.
 - ➔ **Water purification tablets** are small tablets that you can put in water to kill germs. Each type of tablet will have its own instructions for use, so read these carefully before using the tablets. You can also give the tablets to families to clean their water. Make sure to tell them about the importance of clean water and how to use the tablets.

Safe water storage and handling

All efforts to make water clean are pointless if the water is improperly stored or handled. Follow and share the advice below to make sure water is kept clean and safe from contamination. Water should be stored in clean containers. There are two kinds of container, each with its advantages and disadvantages:

- **Narrow-necked containers:** These prevent contamination but are difficult to clean.
- **Wide-necked containers:** These are easily contaminated but easily cleaned.

If the container is narrow necked, encourage people to clean it regularly with a soap solution, chemical disinfectant (if available) or pebbles.

If the container is wide necked, encourage people to keep it covered and design a system for removing water that avoids hands coming into contact with the water. People should also be encouraged to clean their containers regularly.

Encourage people to **ALWAYS** wash their hands prior to handling drinking water themselves.

Use community message(s): 4, 5

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Make sure that:

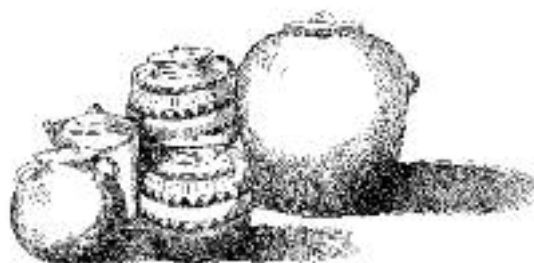
- People have/get enough water with which to carry out their daily tasks.
- Families have clean containers to put water in and that those containers are covered to prevent anything from getting into the water and making it unclean.
- You promote clean water use and good hygiene practices in the community.

Always remember to:

- Use clean containers to transport and store water.
- Cover the water container with a lid.
- Fetch and handle water with clean utensils.
- If water is not clean, boil, filter or treat it with chlorine.
- Keep your water sources clean and protected from animals.



Use safe water sources



Store water properly