

1 Problem

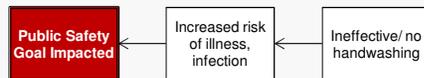
What	Problem(s)	Difficulty properly washing hands
When	Date	Ongoing
Where	Different, unusual, unique	Goats eat soap!
	Facility, site	Worldwide
	Unit, area, equipment	Soap and running water
	Task being performed	Washing hands

Impact to the Goals

Public Safety	Increased risk of diarrheal illness
	Increased risk of respiratory infections
Environmental	Hand-washing water contaminated

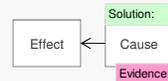
2 Analysis

Basic Level Cause Map - Start with simple Why questions.

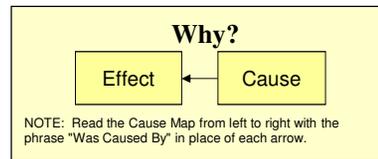


Basic Cause-and-Effect

It has been established (by various studies) that the public safety impacts of increased risk of disease result from ineffective handwashing (or no handwashing at all).



More Detailed Cause Map - Add detail as information becomes available.

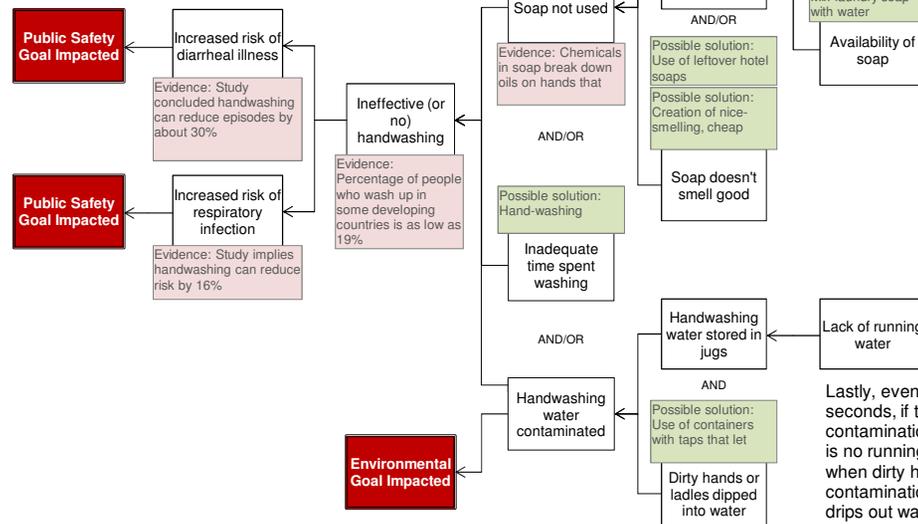


Cause Mapping is a Root Cause Analysis method that captures basic cause-and-effect relationships supported with evidence.

CAUSE MAPPING

Problem Solving • Incident Investigation • Root Cause Analysis

Step 1	Problem	What's the Problem?
Step 2	Analysis	Why did it happen?
Step 3	Solutions	What will be done?



If no soap is available, washing won't be able to remove disease-causing microbes. Obtaining soap may be difficult due to cost or availability. If soap is obtained, it may be eaten by goats (seriously, goats eat everything) or may not be used if it doesn't smell good. Solutions suggested include making a protective cover to protect the soap from goats, finding less expensive soap supplies, or creating hand soap out of laundry soap and water. Hardening soap in the sun can help it last longer. Some groups have also started developing nicer-smelling, inexpensive soap or allowing donation of leftover pieces of soap from hotel use.

Even with soap, washing for a period of time (about twenty seconds) is required to give it time to fully remove germs and oils. Various versions of handwashing jingles (songs about the importance of handwashing that last at least the required amount of time) have been developed and are being spread across many areas of the world.

Lastly, even if handwashing involves lathering with soap for at least twenty seconds, if the soap is then rinsed off using contaminated water, the contamination will spread to the just-washed hands. In areas where there is no running water, water used for handwashing can be contaminated when dirty hands or ladles are dipped into the water. To reduce the risk of contamination, many areas use plastic containers that contain a tap that drips out water to use for handwashing.

PROPER HANDWASHING: NOT THAT EASY

Money, scents and goats all stand in the way of getting a good wash

Cause Map

It's very clear that proper handwashing can prevent disease. Yet proper handwashing is still not happening in many places. It's estimated that the rate of handwashing is less than 20% in some developing countries. There are many reasons why - and some may surprise you.

Global Handwashing Day is an annual global advocacy day dedicated to increasing awareness and understanding about the importance of handwashing with soap as an easy, effective, and affordable way to prevent diseases and save lives.

Handwashing remains the most effective, inexpensive way to prevent disease across the globe. No matter where you live, it's important to wash your hands properly and frequently, to fight the spread of disease. Proper handwashing involves 3 things: clean water, soap, and time. Lathering with soap for about twenty seconds detaches oils and microbes from the skin and water washes it away.

3 Solutions

For a free copy of our Root Cause Analysis Template in Microsoft Excel, used to create this page, visit our web site.

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