



INTERNET ARTICLE

DWS and UNICEF Fight Covid-19 at Taxi Ranks

28 May 2020

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) in Free State partnered with United Nations Children's Fund on a campaign at taxi ranks to influence commuters in ways to reduce the spread of the Coronavirus. The threat of the spread of coronavirus in densely populated areas without access to running water was a cause for concern to DWS as well as UNICEF.

According to Stats SA 2018 General Households Survey, only two-thirds (67,5%) of households in South Africa have easy access to hand washing facilities with soap.

Communication Specialist from Unicef, Sudeshan Reddy says no institution is an island and the only way to beat the pandemic is through partnerships.

"UNICEF is a member of the WASH Technical Team which reports to the COVID-19 Water & Sanitation National Command Centre. The purpose for these Eazi-wash Communal Hand Wash stations is to prevent the spread of the coronavirus by improving access to hand washing facilities in densely populated underserved informal settlements and at risk communities", said Reddy.

This campaign was taken to taxi ranks in Botshabelo, Thaba Nchu and QwaQwa where Eazi-wash Communal Hand Wash stations and water tanks are strategically placed. These are supplemented with a liquid soap dispenser as well as soft touch water release system for community members to utilise before they embark on a journey.

The Eazi-wash stations structures are placed at Bloemfontein long distance taxi rank, Peet Avenue taxi rank, Thaba Nchu Central and taxi rank, Botshabelo taxi rank, Maluti Crescent Taxi Rank, Itshokolele taxi rank and Setsing shopping centre.

Dipulelo Mphose from Rocklands in Bloemfontein used the communal hand wash station for the first time recently. "I appreciate the efforts of the Department of Water and Sanitation and UNICEF especially in these uncertain times", said Mphose.

Lefu Lefeta also from Bloemfontein said that the wash stations came at just the right time. "I feel safer knowing that I can wash my hands before stepping into a taxi, this way we all protect one another", he said.



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

At a time when the Covid-19 confirmed positive cases are raising rapidly, the partnership between these two organisations is intended to educate community members of hygienic practices that have been confirmed by World Health Organisation to flatten the curve of this novel virus.

DWS has been at the forefront of efforts to fight this pandemic by supplying water and hygiene goods to communities. To date, 1909 water tanks and 137 water delivery trucks have been distributed across Free State to assist communities with hygiene during this period.

As the winter season is already upon us, dam levels are beginning to drop. DWS therefore urge South Africans to continue to use water sparingly and close the tap after washing of hands.

Larry Crisp