

## Making sure evidence is available in people's preferred languages



Cochrane published a rapid review about whether cleaning hands with ash reduces the spread of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases in areas where soap is not widely available.

It was important to get this evidence out widely, so Cochrane First Aid translated the rapid review findings into six languages.

## What we did



### Aim

Cochrane First Aid is a global network of people interested in developing, disseminating and implementing high-quality evidence about first aid. We wanted to share evidence about handwashing with ash with lay people who educate the public in low-income countries.



### Activity

We asked for volunteers to translate the findings from a Cochrane rapid review about handwashing with ash into their own languages.



### Collaboration

We worked with:

- Centre for Evidence-Based Practice, Belgian Red Cross
- Global First Aid Reference Centre of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
- Southern and Eastern Hub, Cochrane Africa
- Cochrane Malaysia
- Cochrane China
- Cochrane Taiwan
- Cochrane France

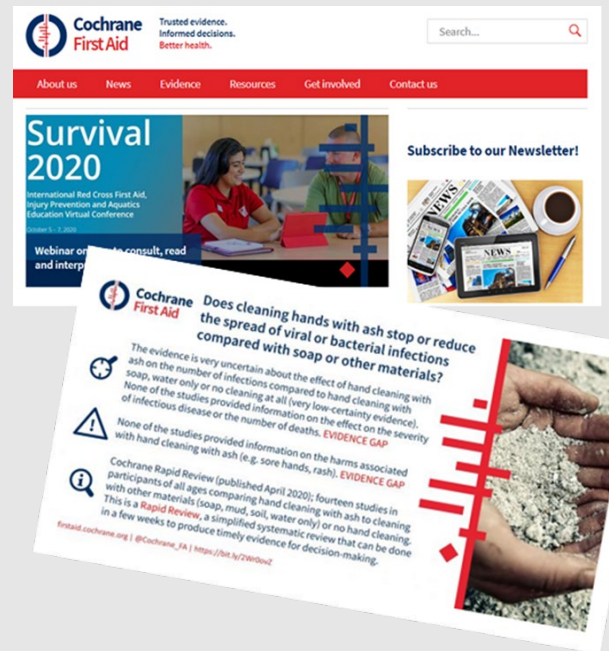
# What we achieved

We developed a simple one-page summary (blogshot) about the key findings from Cochrane's rapid review about handwashing with ash. We worked with volunteers to translate this. We shared the blogshots on social media and through our newsletter. They are available in **English, Dutch, French, Kiswahili, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese and Malay.**

There has been a good response to the blogshots. 18000 people have seen the blogshots on our social media accounts.

Community educators have used the information as a less expensive alternative to handwashing with soap and water, when speaking with the public in their day-to-day work, especially in Africa.

A recommendation about handwashing with ash as an alternative to handwashing with water and soap is also included in the "Basic First Aid for Africa" manual developed by the Belgian Red Cross, and will be included in the updated version of the IFRC international first aid guidelines.



See more here:

<https://firstaid.cochrane.org/resources/first-aid-blogshots/translated-blogshots>

# What we learnt

1

The World Health Organization said it was a high priority to know whether handwashing with ash made a difference, so Cochrane responded quickly. We found that it was just as important to spend time translating and sharing the evidence as it was to review it rapidly.

2

Volunteers add a lot of value. Lots of people were willing to donate their time to help translate and share research evidence with local communities. Working directly with communities is a benefit of our approach.

3

Cochrane First Aid is always focused on stakeholder needs. It is possible to share evidence widely in a way that is not too technical so it can be used in practice. Social media is a good way to promote simple evidence-based message.



## Learn more

For more information contact:  
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