Diarrhoea is common amongst children. In an average two week period, an estimated 82 million children aged 0-5 years old have diarrhoea. Diarrhoea varies its severity - some children recover quickly, a small proportion but large number die. Access to clean water and rehydration salts can reduce prevalence and minimise the impact.

The highest prevalence of diarrhoea amongst children was recorded in Niger, where 4 in every 10 children had diarrhoea in a typical two week period. Most children in Niger will have many episodes a year causing general chronic debility.

“I now know that how critical it is to wash hands with soap before eating so as to prevent germs from entering my body. This will protect me from infections such as diarrhoea.”

Manoj Patel, 2005