



## **Environment Digest 12**

**March 31st 2020**

### **Hygiene and Covid-19**

Washing hands and taking other hygienic precautionary measures are among the key components of addressing the corona virus crisis, as advised by the World Health Organisation (WHO). South Africa, like most countries in the African region, continuously grapples with a shortage of water which threatens to intensify as populations increase and the effects of climate change manifest themselves. Adding to the problem are pressing challenges of water governance and access.

<https://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article/fears-over-handwashing-in-africa-to-stem-coronavirus-seen-as-trigger-for-change-2020-03-22>

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/03/22/access-water-vital-covid-19-response-0>

<https://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article/covid-19-will-not-be-stopped-without-the-provision-of-safe-water-to-the-vulnerable-un-experts-2020-03-27>

### **Water Supply**

South Africa's water infrastructure is increasingly deteriorating due to a lack of maintenance and limited human resource capacity in water engineering. People in informal settlements, townships and rural areas are the most vulnerable to the Covid-19 crisis, since access to water as an essential service is a daily struggle for them.

<https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2020-03-26-the-city-has-condemned-us-to-death-says-khayelitsha-resident-after-water-turned-off/>

<https://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article/covid-19-reveals-the-dangers-of-south-africas-lacking-water-infrastructure-2020-03-27>

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**Lovedonia Mkansi**  
**Project Co-ordinator**