

Using gourds for handwashing

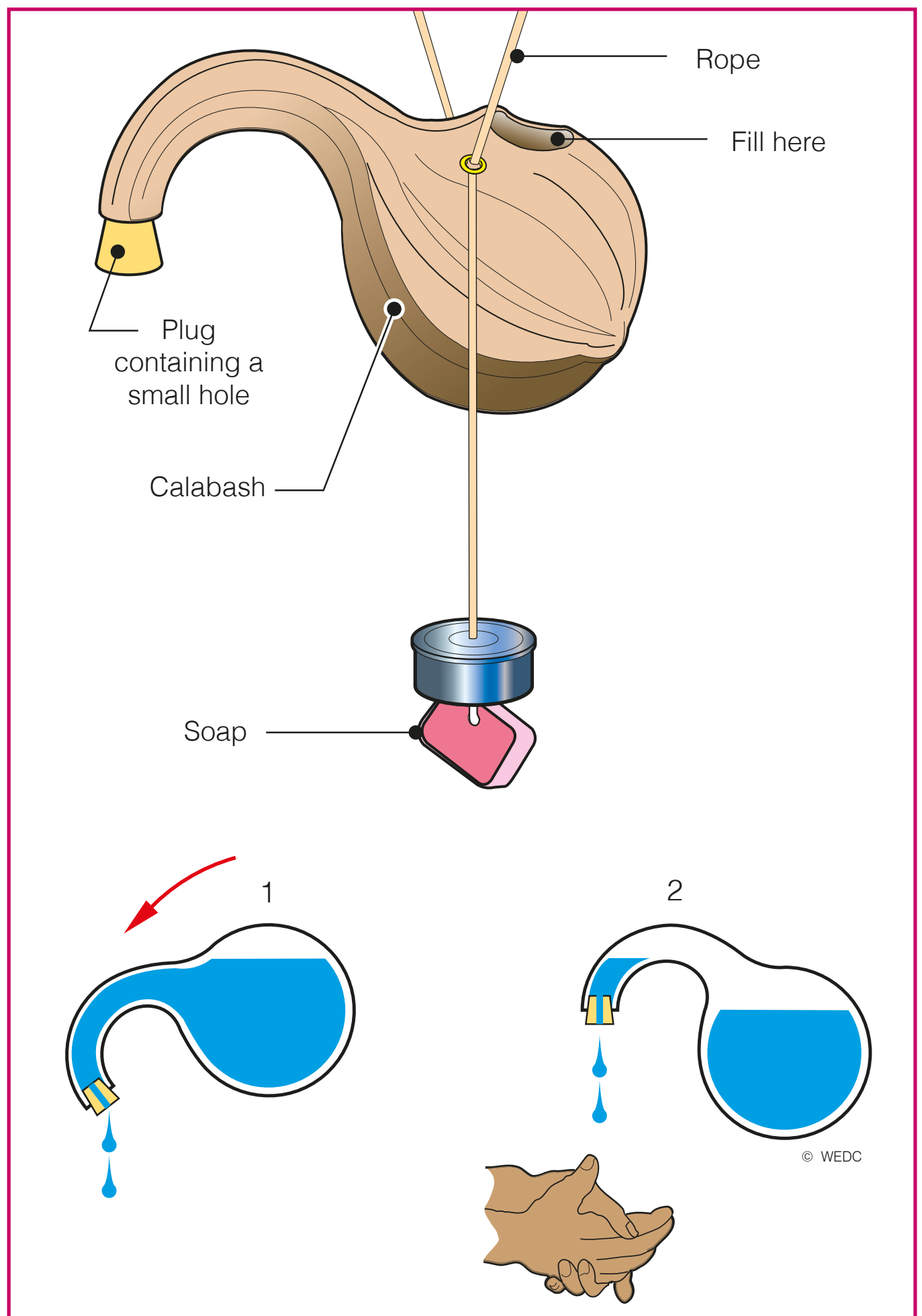
In some countries gourds are used as handwashing devices because they are plentiful and cheap.

Gourds do not develop algae as plastic containers do and they use very little water.

A gourd used for handwashing is known in Uganda as a 'Mukombe'.

How to make a Mukombe

- Choose a gourd which has a long curving neck.
- Cut a wooden plug to fit in the neck of the gourd, leaving a small hole for the water to run out.
- Cut a hole to fill with water.
- As the gourd is tipped, just enough water for handwashing flows into the neck (1).
- Make sure that the gourd hangs at the same angle shown in the diagram.
- Wash and rinse hands (2).
- A small half tin hanging above the soap protects it from rain.



Adapted from: Tearfund International Learning Zone at: <http://tilz.tearfund.org/Publications/Footsteps+11-20/Footsteps+14/The+Mukombe.htm> (accessed January 2013)