

WASH WG North Greece

Meeting Notes – 06th June 2016

Agenda WASH Working Group Northern Greece:

- 1) WASH focal leaders in the new camps**
 - 2) Emergency support activities that can be available to all sites**
 - 3) Action point update from previous meeting**
 - a) Hygiene promotion activities and technical working group
 - 4) Additional topics**
 - a) Volunteer Coordination in the new camp
 - b) WASH standards in Northern Greece
 - 5) Organisational update on WASH issues in the camps**
 - 6) Any other business**
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1. WASH focal Leaders in the new camps

1a) WASH leaders in new sites

- Discussion on the wash activities required in the new Warehouse sites.
- Explored the need for WASH actors to understand the scope of work that is required in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene when expressing an interest in these new sites.
- IOM discussed that the WASH coordination may not be required given that the government is planning to assign sites and the NGOs will be responsible for finding WASH actors to address their gaps.
- Counter point was raised that in order to find WASH actors a forum for those with capacity would have to be created – which is the fundamental reason for the WASH coordination meeting existing in the first place.
- Current site expressions of interest remain as discussed in the previous meetings with no outright commitments at this time.
- The warehouses are a cause for concern by a number of organisations due to the fire hazards and security concerns – these would have to be resolved before a complete WASH commitment can take place.
- Organisations to submit a more detailed breakdown of which activities that they are able to carry out on a site – template to be provided for checking these activities.
- Smaller voluntary organisations were found to have being asked to provide long term support for WASH activities in large sites by military individuals– well above their capacity to provide.

1b) Emergency Support

- WASH activities can also be split by emergency responses given that the sites are supposed to be operational for three months.
- Emergency responses would be limited to light WASH approaches and not committing to infrastructure provision.
- A table of potential activities (split by emergency and long term service provision) to be shared and completed by all actors as soon as possible.

2. Action point update from previous meeting

2a) WASH leaders in new sites

- IOM indicated that they were assigned sites in Kalahori (SK Market) and Derveni
- As IMC is responsible for WASH activities in SK Market. IOM were encouraged to communicate with IMC about their WASH needs.

2b) Hygiene Working Groups

- Hygiene promotion technical working group focal point Henk Veerdig from IRC (henk.veerdig@rescue.org) will coordinate the first meeting (information on first meeting provided at the end of the coordination meeting).
 - Working Group is a platform for practitioners to exchange ideas, experience and approaches but also to discuss issues of consistency, coordination and hygiene approaches.
 - As IRC is sector lead it is important that discussions feeding back into the coordination group are shared by another actor to ensure that the discussion do not become unbalanced.
 - All significant communication on hygiene specific issues to be shared by the group.
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3. Organisational update on WASH issues in the camps

- **Petrus Olympus**
 - ADRA has been working to provide water supplies and sanitation to the Petrus Olympus camp.
 - Serious issues caused by the inability to dig in the ground due to restrictions as Petrus Olympus is an archaeological site of interest.
 - Petra Olympus Camp was visited by the Ministry of Migration. ADRA raised some serious concerns regarding the challenges that will come with the winter.
 - Improvement of the camp infrastructure are very cost extensive.
 - ADRA still to ensure that basic hygiene and other services are available on Petrus Olympus during the next months.
 - Their activity plans to be shared with the coordination group.
 - **Fragapol**
 - Volunteer groups and Air force commander have raised concerns about the water supply and hygiene situation in Fragapol.
 - IMC is currently supporting WASH activities in Fragapol.
 - It is recognised that this is a difficult camp conditions and if there is a need then IMC to share with the coordination group to see if any additional support can be provided.
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4. General Discussion

Standards in the North

- UNHCR provided a discussion on the new standards document
- Document is mostly completed and contains Essential, Desirable and Needs based indicators for the sector.
- Desirable standards will be updated as lessons are learned in the programming sector
- Light document that is able to be shared across the WASH sector.
- Hygiene component to be completed with the input of the Hygiene Working Group.
- Includes communal kitchen discussions which are also discussed as part of the shelter working group.

MSF review of warehouses

- Review of facilities carried out by MSF.
 - Though clear issues can be seen they have also stated that work has progressed since their initial visits.
 - MSF have not committed to providing full WASH support to any of the sites at this time.
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5. AOB

Fire Safety in the Warehouse

- Fire safety remains a concern in the warehouse facilities.
- Discussion on the need for fire safety engineers in support of the warehouses – this is a shared strategy by WASH and Shelter – to be followed up independently.
- Further information required on the safety and security of these sites.

Volunteer coordination

- The need for volunteer coordinators has been evident in recent weeks.
 - This is concerned with the international and national volunteer groups (not the volunteers from the refugee population)
 - Volunteer groups need an NGO focal person for the equitable exchange of information.
 - Potential WASH activities that could use the flexibility and speed of volunteers to engage in WASH activities in the coming weeks.
 - Discussed if other organisations had, or intend to have, similar volunteer coordinators – this information to be shared with sector lead paul.byars@rescue.org
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6. Action Points

- Document on potential contributions to the new sites to be shared by IRC
[All organisations/Deadline: 6/6]
- Hygiene Working group first meeting to be agreed (date and location to be shared to the working group).
[All organisations/Deadline: when required]
- Organisations to share if they have any volunteer coordination activities (with voluntary groups – not refugee volunteers).
[All organisations/Deadline: 10/6]
- UNHCR to share WASH standards in Northern Greece with coordination group
[All organisations/Deadline: 7/6]
- Hygiene group to contribute to WASH standards
[All organisations/Deadline: after first meeting]

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