

WASH Sector Inter-Agency WG

Meeting of 5th May 2016

MINUTES

Place: New UNHCR Office, 1st floor, 91 Michalakopoulou Street

Time: 10:30 – 12:30

Minute taker: Jane Vogt Evensen NCA/Apostolli (co-chair)

ACTION POINTS

1. All agencies: Each agency to send their NFI list (hygiene items) to sector coordinators asap.
2. All agencies: Share lessons learned from permission processes with the group – if any.
3. Sector coordinators: Ralph/Nikos/Jane will finalize a WASH tracking matrix and share it with the rest of the group no later than Monday.
4. Natasha/Adrian: Share final version of minimum standards before next meeting.
5. Adrian/Jane: Finalise and share ToRs before next WG meeting.

POINTS DISCUSSED

1. 4W alignment (OXFAM/IRC/NCA/UNHCR)

Suggestions from WASH WG discussion on what to be included in the national WASH 4W/google doc:

- Start date must be included
- Pipeline projects - when planned works are to be implemented.
- Perhaps include human resources and access to the camps?
- Permission: Who are the authorities/door openers for permission? Do we have permission; yes/no?
- Water supply situation?
- Identify/share other gaps on site that your agency is not filling

Ralph/Nikos/Jane will finalize a google doc and share it with the rest of the group no later than Monday.

2. Minimum standards (Adrian/Natasha/Yasir)

To be finalized by the next national WG meeting. Natasha/Adrian to share final draft for comments from WG.

3. ToRs (Adrian/Jane)

To be finalized by next national WG meeting.

4. Container allocation update, including building permission and ground preparation

Right now the budget is EUR 1 million as per 1st of April. UNHCR could order something like 40 more containers, so it is unlikely that UNHCR will be able to order all the containers on the list that agencies submitted. These 40 will be divided in terms of population and needs; how to reach the maximum number of people with these. Priority will be given to where there is permission. It is more

likely that we have to go for a 1/40 ratio at this stage then Sphere standards (1/20). The new revised budget comes at 1st July and the situation might change then.

Design changes can be made, but not if it does not affect the price. One possible change is to bring in is to include showers in the disabled toilets. IRC raised a concern about some challenges with door handles braking and the hoses in the toilets being too long so they fall into the toilets.

5. Chemical toilet contracts and replacement

Not discussed.

6. Relevant Greek legislation and guidelines with respect to WASH

Not discussed.

7. Hygiene NFIs

There are currently overlaps between hygiene kits' distribution in the WASH sector with other NFI distributions taking place. Ongoing discussions about whether hygiene kits belong in the WASH sector or in Shelter and NFIs sector. IRC has been doing laundry kits distribution. There's also lack of clarity about what NFIs belong to WASH and what NFIs are not WASH, e.g. mosquito nets (part of WASH vector control – or part of broader NFI distribution?).

There was a concern raised about mosquito borne diseases like dengue. SP has a meeting with the Health Authorities where they will try to get an overview of the risks for such diseases.

Another concern was raised about water supply. There are sites where water supply is not sufficient in the summer for the local population in the municipality, so this is likely a challenge that the sites will be facing with summer approaching.

Each agency to send their NFI list (hygiene items) to sector coordinators ASAP.

8. Hygiene promotion

IRC has just finished big KAP surveys in four northern sites Greece, and will share the findings with the group. UNHCR has posters/placards that can be downloaded from their website and be laminated. IRC has had training with their promoters and are thinking of opening up the next training also to other organisations. Developing trainers/promoters from the refugee community is a good idea, but all agencies in a given site should ensure that the same payment/reward is made for such jobs; be it cash or in-kind.

NCA/Apostoli and IRC will be meeting for a specific hygiene promotion discussion in two weeks. Any interested agencies are welcome to participate.

9. AOB

Regional weekly meetings are happening on a weekly basis, and the frequency is satisfactory.

Regional Attica WASH meeting to start up bi-weekly Thursdays 9:30-10:30am and take place before the national WASH WG meeting. Ioannis from NCA/Apostoli to organize a first meeting on Tuesday 10th May in Apostoli's office.

A suggestion was made to identify and recruit plumbers from the population in the sites. In order to obtain permits for working in sites, it was also discussed that it could be helpful to involve local authorities more directly in the work, or at least communicate more clearly to the municipalities that these facilities will be remaining with the municipality and be of use for them in the future.

Oxfam in Ioannina reported that they have close contact with the health inspectors. There may be challenges with environmental assessments, particularly concerning construction of holding tanks. Oxfam is encouraging the local authorities to take the lead.

IRC has many permission challenges, incl. permission to construct septic tanks.

As many agencies seem to be facing a slow process with obtaining permissions to do WASH interventions in targeted sites, it was discussed that it could be good to gather lessons learned from various agencies permission processes to be shared amongst us.