

# WASH WG North Greece

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## Meeting Notes – 11<sup>th</sup> July 2016

### **Agenda WASH Working Group Northern Greece:**

1. Action point update from previous meeting
  2. Hygiene Promotion Technical Working Group
  3. Update on permanence of all sites in the North of Greece
  4. Security update in the camps
  5. Organisational update on WASH issues in the camps – all sites
  6. Any other business
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### **1. Action point update from previous meeting**

Five sites were discussed in detail in the previous meeting. A follow up on each site was discussed in more detail:

#### **Raideostos**

- IMC is engaged in hygiene promotion and has distributed Hygiene Kits in this site.
- Caritas provided information to the beneficiaries for the WASH issues and administer the chemical facilities (50 toilets, 50 showers and 2 for PWDL. They also have a water tank 10m<sup>3</sup>).
- The Air Force also provided some chemical toilets and showers prior to Caritas arrival.
- There is no update at this time on information about the drainage of the camp. UNHCR are offering camp management and will undertake this task.
- The maintenance of the facilities is under the responsibility of the Air Force at the moment and there is no clear short or medium term plan for whose responsibility this will be at this time.
- Coordination discussion asked for a Focal Point for WASH in Raideostos given that there are three actors on site (UNHCR, Caritas and IMC). An answer to this question is required by next week.

#### **SK Market**

- The camp has stagnant water and some issues with the water tanks.
- NRC reported that they have had a discussion with the Army, UNHCR and IMC to resolve the drainage issues raised in the last meeting.
- IMC is looking to see what START funding can be used to provide a technical solution to the drainage problem.

#### **Petra Olympou**

- Around 250 Yazidis moved from Cherso to this site.
- Urgently requires additional toilet and shower facilities at this site
- ADRA is the WASH focal lead on this site and is required to provide support.
- Caritas may be able to link with UNICEF to ensure that they have sufficient chemical toilet facilities.
- IRC can offer an emergency distribution if ADRA requires support.

### **Oraiokastro**

- Caritas distributed the water the last months (Ramadan), twice a week. Now, because of the number of volunteers they cannot continue the distribution. They have asked for help in this distribution activities.
- The army is distributing the food. We could ask to provide an extra bottle of water (1,5lt) together with the food. By now, 3lt of water are distributed for each day.
- There is a problem in storing of the supplies on site because of the vandalisms and thefts of last week.
- There is the potential contamination of the water. It caused diarrhea and stomach aches to the population. The water is not appropriate for usage, even for washing the body or teeth.
- IRC will carry out water quality testing that need to be from a certified Greek laboratory to define what solutions are required.
- After testing, solutions must be discussed (tablets, filters, etc)

### **South Sindos / Karamanlis**

- Awaiting the results of the water testing that was carried out on Friday.
  - There is need of bottled water. IRC distributes bottled water in the camp but only in an emergency state.
  - IRC are looking for a WASH actor to provide longer term support to this site until its closure and to take over the bottled water distribution activities.
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## **2. Hygiene promotion technical working group**

- Meeting will take place in IMC's office in Thessaloniki.
  - The minutes of this meeting will be sent out with the Agenda for next week's WASH meeting.
  - Hygiene promotion technical working group will continue to use focal point Henk Veerdig from IRC ( [henk.veerdig@rescue.org](mailto:henk.veerdig@rescue.org) ) to coordinate the next meeting.
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## **3. Permanence of all sites in the North of Greece**

- No information has been provided at this time on the permanence of sites in Greece. A meeting was supposed to take place on the 10<sup>th</sup> of July but no information as yet has been shared in this regard.
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## **4. Security update in the camps**

- In Cherso, there is a continuous tension in the camp because of the consecutive fight between two groups of refugees in the camp. Fifty people were arrested on Wednesday after repeated violent incidents occurred. Some of the beneficiaries went to hospitals, because of injuries, caused by rocks, iron or wooden sticks.
- In the camp of Nea Kavala, there were also some fights, but nothing significant at this time. No one was arrested. The tent for the distribution of food was vandalized.
- The warehouse space for storage in Oraiokastro was vandalized and some supplies were stolen.

- WASH actors were recommended to review and update their security procedure, if necessary.
- It was also recommended that distributions could happen in non-secure sites by carrying them out within a day and removing the need for storage.
- It is recommended that WASH actors address this issue urgently because of the exposure of technical staff (particularly Hygiene Promoters) throughout the sites.
- It is likely that the situations will continue to worsen with regards to security in the coming weeks.

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## 5. Organisational update on WASH issues in the camps – all sites

### **Nea Kavala**

- Samaritan Purse reported the presence of E. Coli in the water of the camp.
- The water is chlorinated by the municipality in the pipelines.
- SP asked for help to find a certified laboratory in order to have more valid results of the water quality.
- In the camp there is not good coordination and communication between the NGOs and the army who posted this information without informed discussions with the WASH actors.
- Additionally, the Army did not reveal what specific contamination was tested and therefore reduced SPs ability to respond to the needs.

### **Softex**

- Hellenic Red Cross distributed hygiene kits in this site.
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## 6. AOB

### **Water Quality Testing**

- IRC reported that there were multiple sites that were tested for water by the military and were declared unsuitable (similar to what happened to SP in Nea Kavala). This included Cherso and Giannitsa.
- There was no discussion on this from the Army prior to them declaring the water unsafe.
- It is recommended that if WASH actors want to test the water and officially discuss it with the government – they use government approved labs over humanitarian emergency kits.
- It is emphasised that water quality falls under European Law and it is recommended that it is tested properly before results are discussed. WASH actors are responsible for ensuring that the testing is done using the correct procedures.

### **NFI and Shelter**

- IOM highlighted the issue at the NFI meeting where no WASH actor indicated that they were distributing hygiene/WASH kits to the warehouses on a regular basis.
- IRC will not at this time do WASH Kit distributions in Warehouse sites - only emergency hygiene kit distributions.
- NRC recommended that the NFI/Shelter meeting be split into two to avoid duplication with the WASH meeting and to focus on each activity. This will be passed to the NFI/Shelter Working Group for their input.

### **Activity Tracker**

- The information on WASH gaps in the North will once again be shared with all WASH actors and is being asked to be completed.
  - The representatives of the NGOs were asked to prepare an updated list with a complete list of their activities.
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### **7. Action Points**

- WASH coordination to request information on permanence of sites – this information to be shared when available
- ***[WASH coordinator: 18/7]***
- HPWTG meeting minutes to be shared
- ***[All organisations/Deadline: 15/07]***
- All organisations to provide information on their WASH activities in the camps
- ***[All organisations/Deadline: 15/07]***
- ADRA and Caritas to discuss providing additional toilets to Petro Olympiou
- ***[ADRA & Caritas/Deadline: 15/07]***
- IRC to carry out water quality testing in Oriocastro
- ***[IRC/Deadline: 14/07]***
- WASH actors to update and review their security procedures on site
- ***[All organisations/Deadline: 15/07]***

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