

WASH WG North Greece

Meeting Notes – 4th July 2016

Agenda WASH Working Group Northern Greece:

- 1. Introductions**
 - 2. Action point update from previous meeting**
 - a. Emergency support activities in the camps
 - b. 4W's feedback
 - 3. Bottled water and water trucking in the camps**
 - 4. Hygiene Promotion TWG Feedback from recent meeting**
 - 5. Permanence of all sites in the North of Greece**
 - 6. Organisational update on WASH issues in the camps – all sites**
 - 7. Any other business**
 - 8. Hygiene Promotion Technical Working Group Minutes**
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1. Action point update from previous meeting

a) Emergency support activities

- Emergency support activities ongoing in the camp and emergency hygiene kits are available for short term responses.
- Certain camps are dependent on bottled water as a method of having drinking water (discussed later). UNICEF may be able to provide support for this activity and WASH actors are encouraged to partner on sites that they are already supporting or can support in future.
- IRC can support the sites that require emergency bottled water distributions, but only as a stop-gap measure, until another partner can take on these responsibilities. This will have to be discussed before a distribution can happen.

b) 4W's document feedback

- 4W's submitted as planned on the 30th June.
 - There were a number of issues with this document:
 - o Issues with the macro enabled printing function auto-turned on disrupting the use of the excel document.
 - o The WASH activities were barely listed and some of the pull down menus limited the activities to two or three options.
 - o Some activities are described in exceptionally basic terms.
 - o Basic critical information (i.e. 'location') did not include the site specific information. For example: only one of IRC's four sites was on the listing.
 - A new 4W's document may be proposed which is more reflective of the activities in the north.
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2. Bottled Water and Water Trucking in the Camps

Bottled Water

- It is understood that bottled water is not efficient method of distributing water however the needs in certain camps have necessitated their usage.
- Camps currently requiring bottled water include South Sindos, Oriocastro, Sinatex and Viagohori – others may have emerging needs based on new migration events in the camps.
- Caritas are reported NRC to be supporting certain sites with bottled water (Oriocastro and Radestos) but that this is only intended to work until the end of Ramadan (7th July).
- Caritas is required to confirm if Radestos is receiving bottled water.
- Water is distributed with meals but only one bottle (1.5lts) per day. NRC queried if they received one bottle per meal but most actors agreed that this was not the case.

Water Trucking

- Water trucking is suitable for showering and for reaching the minimum standard of water for domestic purposes (cleaning and laundry)
- Water trucking is expensive in this context, as Greece is not really prepared for this sort of distribution (for example in Fragapol the air force is currently using fire trucks costing around 1 to 2 Euros per person per day).
- The lack of residual chlorine in the water on the trucks will cause issues that would need to be taken into consideration when planning storage and contamination at point of use and distribution.
- Trucking requires multiple storage and distribution areas (and tap-stands) on larger sites.
- Each tent would have to have a method of collecting and storing water from these taps.
- Monitoring of water usage to prevent people using it for other purposes – this already happens with the existing water storage as it is continually repurposed (i.e. for cooking, cleaning and domestic chores).
- With the potential for violence at the distribution points this may also be a source of tension when shortages emerge.
- Central distribution point(s) must be continually reliable and have technical actors on 24 hour standby to resolve technical issues.

3. Hygiene promotion technical working group

- Meeting to be held was held on Monday in the IRC office.
 - The minutes of this meeting were discussed at the coordination meeting and are **attached at the end of this document**.
 - Hygiene promotion technical working group will continue to use focal point Henk Veerdig from IRC (henk.veerdig@rescue.org) to coordinate the next meeting.
 - The next meeting to be held at IOM building (location and time to be confirmed)
 - It was emphasised the importance of this meeting and the need to scale up hygiene promotion activities.
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4. *Permanence of all sites in the North of Greece*

- It has been discussed at Athens level about the permanence of sites in Northern Greece.
- As yet no final decision has been shared about which sites will remain permanent and which shall close.
- The only repeated information about sites has been the intention of the Ministry to close all temporary (warehouse) sites by September. No information is available on where these populations will be moved to or how this relocation will happen.
- There was some confusion at the sectorial level about the 'permissions and technical issues' document that was shared from the previous meetings with the inter sector meeting.
- As a clarity - the WASH coordination group does not in any way prohibit organisations from carrying out their activities in warehouse sites (no decision to not go into warehouses was made by the coordination group, however it has been made by specific actors).
- The main issue in the North is the lack of WASH actors for the number of sites currently present (23 in total).
- It is clear that WASH has a role in discussing which sites should or should not remain open, however it is also clear that other sectors have specific needs (i.e. access to markets) that are also a contributing factor in this regard.

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

Nea Kavala

- SP and NRC shared information on the emergency water supply system that has been installed and is now working.
- This new system is providing water as required by recharging overnight from the municipal water line.
- It now takes four hours for the sites emergency water storage to recharge however this can only be achieved at night when the pressure is large enough.
- The existing water supply network continues to have low pressure throughout the day.
- Further storage is recommended to ensure that the site has sufficient quantity of water.

Petro Olympou

- ADRA have continued to provide support to this site as the WASH focal lead.
- It was reported that 300 Yazidis from Cherso were reported to have been transported to this camp. The emergency needs of this site will be monitored.
- Water supply services are currently working and they are capable of supporting the community.
- Difficulties in providing longer term solutions a limiting factor in the site given the permissions to carry out construction blocked by the Ministry because of the archeologically significance of the site.
- The site is also high altitude and will have longer term issues for being prepared for winter due to the cold.

South Sindos

- IOM still intending to support the site by providing a water filter project to protect the water source.

- IOM is also looking into having a pressure pump to ensure that higher quantities of water are available.
- IRC will support the site to ensure that the access to potable drinking water does not have a gap in service delivery.

Derverni

- IOM carried out an emergency distribution of hygiene kits.
- They have also provided a more substantial distribution of WASH items as a follow up response in the same week.

Radestos

- UNHCR will visit Radestos to provide an update on the WASH situation on this camp.
- It is reported that there is the availability of showers and chemical latrine cubicles on this site
- There are issues with regards to standing water that cannot be removed from this site given the drainage.
- There was also a discussion about the use of water trucking and bottled water usage on this site.
- Further information in this regard is required - Caritas or UNHCR will confirm information on the site.

SK Market

- NRC reported their concerns with regards to the standing water and ponding in SK market
- IMC as the WASH lead have claimed that they do not have a responsibility in this regard as they army have not handed over these toilet or shower facilities to them.
- It was reiterated that WASH leads are expected to have responsibility for all WASH needs on their sites however the role of the coordination group is not to supervise or police the activities of other organisations on their sites.
- The issue has been noted and IMC can provide an update on how the situation is being resolved.

6. AOB

Government responses at the WASH coordination meetings

- ADRA raised the issue that the government are not present at the coordination meetings
- This issue has been raised before and the Ministry are welcome to attend any meeting of their choosing. They are aware of the meetings as they are hosted within the Ministry building.
- It was discussed that the Ministry is present at the Athens based sectorial meetings and at the camp management meetings as opposed to the sub-national meetings.
- Further discussions on this will be had over the next week.

Municipal payment of water, electricity, waste management and waste treatment

- The issue of municipal payments paid by donors or by NGOs was discussed
- Some sites this has already been an issue (Nea Kavala) where organisations have the capacity to pay but the information has been confusing.
- It is also clear that the payment amounts will be large and continuous (and would increase with volume).

- Information is required from the government about what NGOs are expected to pay with regards to these basic municipal services
 - It is understood that certain municipal authorities do not have the capacity for payments, but it is also clear that this is not the role of the NGOs to support these costs.
 - This issue will be discussed at the National WASH sector meeting in Athens.
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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: 04/07]***
- Coordinator to discuss payments to municipal authorities on water, sanitation and electricity.
- ***[All organisations/Deadline: 05/07]***
- UNHCR or Caritas to provide feedback on WASH in Radestos
- ***[UNHCR or Caritas deadline 07/07]***
- HPWTG meeting location and time to be shared
- ***[All organisations/Deadline: 07/07]***
- HPWTG meeting in the IOM office
- ***[All organisations/Deadline: 11/07]***

No	Name	Organisation	Phone Number	Email
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4	Brian Grogan	UNHCR	6951971611	groganb@unhcr.org
5	Varvara Ntavoni	UNHCR	6947994766	ntavoni@unhcr.org
6	Mark D'Souza	Samaritan's Purse	6970426949	mdesouza@samaritan.org
7	David Wagner	Samaritan's Purse	698.832.5230	dwagner@samaritan.org
8	Jasmin Helbling	swisscross.help	698 407 3323	jasmin.helbling@gmail.com
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10	Angelos Oikonomou	DRC	6972035019	angelos.oikonomou@drc-greece.org

WASH Hygiene Promotion Working Group North Greece

Meeting Notes – 27 June 2016, 2nd Meeting, IRC Office Thessaloniki

Agenda:

- 1) Introduction
 - 2) Minimum Standards on hygiene promotion and hygiene items
 - 3) IEC Materials
 - 4) Practical Actions and Protocols to deal with hygiene related issues such as scabies and diarrhoea
 - 5) Any Other Business
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1) Introduction

- Actors present: IRC, IMC, UNHCR, UNICEF, Samaritan's Purse.
- See attendance list with contact information at the end of this document.
- See attached list of who is doing what in hygiene promotion in N-Greece (not complete yet).

2) Minimum WASH Standards Document

A draft has been prepared on Chapters 5 (Hygiene Promotion) and Chapter 6 (Hygiene Items) of the minimum standards document of the WASH sector inter-agency national level working group for Greece. The UNHCR is keen to finalise this document as soon as possible, then translate it into Greek and disseminate to all WASH agencies in Greece, to maximise consistency and continuity in quality and quantity service provision to the refugee populations.

You are requested to carefully review chapters 5 and 6 of the minimum standard document and provide your comments and suggestions to Henk.Veerdig@rescue.org by Wednesday 6 July for final editing of the document. You will find the document in the dropbox in the folder Hygiene Promotion Working Group/Minimum Standards, link: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/8x1y88foj9v59dc/AABMQFMD06ITGOM4iLA7fA9Qa?dl=0>. During the meeting some suggestions provided have been included in the document.

3) IEC Materials

IEC materials help to reinforce activities and messages provided by hygiene promoters to the site populations.

IRC has collected a variety of existing IEC materials in Arabic, uploaded in the dropbox (same link as above, in folder IEC materials).

All agencies are invited to enlarge the pool of IEC materials by sending their IEC materials to Henk Veerdig for uploading in the dropbox.

IMC is in the process of designing IEC materials and preparing shirts and hats for children who take part in hygiene promotion related activities.

As there is considerable vandalism and graphic materials disappearing, the suggestion was made to paint messages at strategic point in the site.

4) Practical Actions and Protocols for Common Issues

As WASH facilities such as reliable, accessible, sufficient and quality water supply, toilets, waste collection, hygiene promotion and essentials such as soap and shampoo are not up to standard in many of the camps, we can safely assume increasing cases of WASH and hygiene related health issues such as scabies, head lice and diarrhoea. The prevalence of such health issues are an indicator on the success of our WASH interventions and can help us prioritise our hygiene promotion activities.

Apart from that we need to know how to respond to the outbreaks of WASH related health problems. Good coordination and collaboration with on-site medical services is strongly recommended.

Some documents have been uploaded in folder 'Information, Protocols and Guidance ...' in the dropbox (link above).

Agencies are invited to submit relevant documents to Henk.Veerdig@rescue.org for uploading in the dropbox.

5) Any Other Business

A number of other relevant issues were discussed and views exchanged, as follows;

According to IMC, refugees who have been registered as an asylum seeker can be contracted by registered WASH agencies. Pre-registered refugees would only be able to work as volunteers with agencies. There are restrictions as to how many hours and days they can be engaged. It is highly recommended to get more certainty on the above.

Another important issue to be resolved is consistency in providing incentives (in kind and/or cash) to refugee volunteers participating in hygiene promotion activities. If one or two agencies working in the same sites start providing incentives which the other agency cannot offer, naturally this will be at the expense of the efforts to mobilise community volunteers of the latter.

A discussion was held about ways to motivate refugees to voluntarily (without incentives) participate in improving the overall hygienic conditions on the site, in the context of refugees being primarily pre-occupied with the speed of the asylum process and moving on to the country they want to be. Social cohesion and community leadership is only likely to take shape when refugees start to accept the fact that they may not be able to travel to Western Europe anytime soon, hampering the development of intrinsic motivation to take part in improving the living and environmental conditions of their current site. Agencies are invited to share their experiences and results in mobilising volunteers from the refugee populations.

Next meeting:

Monday 11 July 15:30 – 17:00

Either IRC or IMC (to be confirmed)

Attendance List

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