

WASH-Shelter Joint Inter-Agency Working Group

Kick-off meeting

13th October 2016

MINUTES

Place: UNHCR Office, 1st floor, 91 Michelakopoulou Street

Time: 14:00 – 15:45

Chaired by: Ralph Bland (WASH Sector coordinator)

Minutes by: Ioannis G (Attica WASH lead), Ralph Bland (WASH Sector coordinator)

Discussion

1) WASH + SHELTER at National Level – Involving the Greek Government

- The actors agree unanimously to merge WASH and Shelter at national level in order to address strategic issues as one voice together with the Greek Government and Donors.
- The purpose of the WG is to support the Greek Government in its work to deal with the current refugee situation. To that end, the general consensus among the actors is that the Joint WG should endeavour to bridge the gap in understanding between Government policy and its implementation strategy in the field, and the way we as an international body of agencies interpret their policies and strategies.
- The actors would therefore like to extend an invitation to the Greek Government to participate in the new Joint WG structure and would welcome a representative of the Government to co-lead the Joint WG and in time to lead it.
- The actors suggest that when planning meetings, a representative of the Joint WG should meet with the Government before the meeting to be informed about the Government's needs and communicate these to the WG at the meeting.
- When it is not possible for a Government representative to attend the meetings, the WG representative would present the outcome of the meeting to the Government.

2) WASH + SHELTER at National Level – Meeting frequency and leadership

- The actors agree that national level meetings should take place once per month.
- Minutes of the meetings will be translated into Greek and presented in hard copy in Greek to the Government.
- Regional WASH and Shelter WGs should meet weekly or bi-weekly.
- The WG should be represented by an international actor and a Greek counterpart.

3) WASH + SHELTER at Regional Level

- The actors agree that WASH and Shelter field, planning and project activities should continue to be addressed separately at regional level.

4) Planning issues

- ISLANDS / Actors on the mainland do not have a clear picture of what is happening on the islands and the actors on the islands do not have direct access to policy makers and Government representation. Both sides need to be better informed about each other's concerns.

- PRIVATE LAND / Actors working on privately owned sites need to be aware of the lease contract and of possible legal implications of their investments when these involve making alterations to existing infrastructure (e.g. Redestos/Softex).

5) Technical issues

- Separate meetings should be held for specific technical issues, such as heating, communal kitchens, winterization of tents, etc., as appointed by the national level WG.

Action points

- WG representative: present new structure to the Greek Government.
- WG representative: invite representative from the Greek Government.
- WASH-Shelter WG: appoint specific groups/meetings to discuss specific issues, as based on the Government's needs and the WG's concerns.
- WG representative: present new structure at the next IAIS WG meeting (Friday 14 October).

Dates for the next meetings:

- Joint WASH-Shelter WG / Thursday 27 October, 10:00, UNHCR office, Athens
- Attica WASH + Hygiene Promotion / Tuesday 25 October, 10:00 at NCA office, Athens
- North Greece Hygiene Promotion / Tuesday 18 October, 09:00 at IMC office Thessaloniki
- North Greece WASH / every Monday at 10:00 at MoPM, Thessaloniki

Today's Joint WG meeting was attended by (round the table clockwise):

Name	Organisation	Email address	Phone
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