



NATIONAL HUMANITARIAN WASH SECTOR COORDINATION PLATFORM

Coordination in Humanitarian Contexts aims to:

- Address gaps and increase the **effectiveness** of the response through strategic coordination, prioritization and **collective actions** to avoid duplications.
- Ensure **clarity** amongst responding agencies on their **roles and responsibilities** in different areas.
- Ensure better **organization** of response actions and increase **accountability** to affected people, hosting governments, and resourcing partners.
- Ensure **timely** and **responsive** rather than reactive actions, e.g. stockpiles
- Strengthen **partnerships** between national authority counterparts with UN agencies, NGOs and other humanitarian actors.

National WASH Sector: Line Ministries

Four line ministries coordinating WASH issues, namely:

- 1) Ministry of Water and Environment (lead ministry for all water supply in the country; but also have a Sanitation unit)
- 2) Ministry of Local Government (WASH in district town councils);
- 3) Ministry of Health (lead agency in Sanitation and Hygiene); and
- 4) Ministry of Education (Institutional WASH)

National WASH Coordination Challenges

- **Clarity of roles:** The number of line ministries coordinating WASH issues; as well as the lack of clarity on the **role of line ministries** in emergency interventions has contributed to the unstructured humanitarian WASH coordination arrangements that we have currently.
- **Information Management:** WASH infrastructure/ services data captured at district level and consolidated at national level does not include WASH facilities in the refugee settlements. This misrepresents the water coverage of the district.
- **Partner capacities:** Technical evaluation of the capacity of WASH actors involved in the refugee response is non-existence as the vetting process does not include line ministries (it is done by OPM)
- **National representation:** Most actors in the field do not have representation at national level which results in an information gap at national level since there is no coordination platform to

National WASH Coordination Efforts

- **Water and Sanitation Technical Working Group:** Coordinates long-term WASH and various policy issues under the Ministry of Water and Environment. The TWG meets on a quarterly basis.
- **WASH Emergency Coordination Group:** This platform was set-up to coordinate WASH interventions during the landslides disaster in 2010. Membership includes UNICEF and the Ministry of Water (Rural WASH department) representatives.
- **Sanitation Working Group:** This platform brings together different ministries engaged in Sanitation activities (in development contexts). It is chaired by the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM). Meetings are irregular/ held on an ad hoc manner.
- **Uganda Water and Sanitation Network (UWASNET):** This is a coordination platform for local WASH actors that aims to harmonizes activities of different National WASH NGOs/CBOs in Uganda
- **Public Health Inter-sector Coordination:** This is a coordination platform that brings together different actors involved in broad public health interventions. Meetings are held twice a year.

National WASH Coordination Arrangements



Proposed National Humanitarian Coordination Arrangements

Coordination Leads:

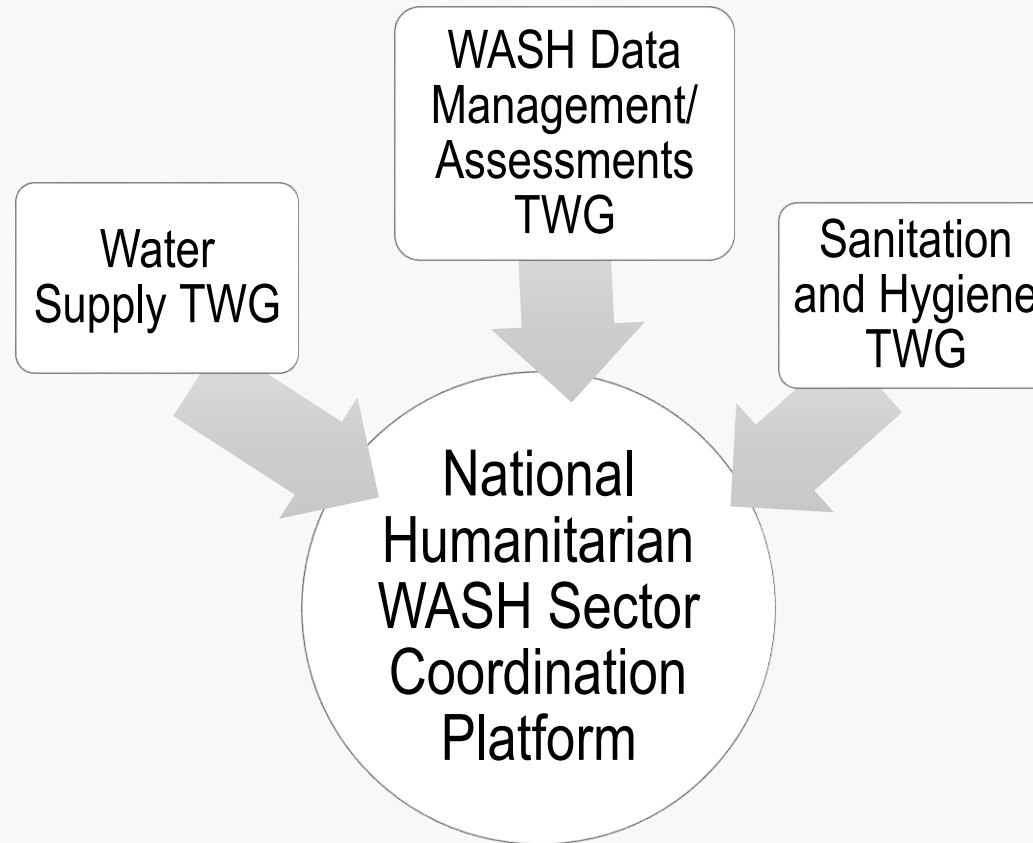
1. Ministry of Water and Environment - Lead in overall humanitarian WASH coordination;
2. UNHCR - Lead in WASH in refugee contexts and related matters; and
3. UNICEF - Co-lead in WASH emergencies outside of refugee contexts

Membership:

Ministry of Water and Environment, UNHCR, UNICEF, Oxfam, IOM, UWASNET, Ministry of Health, Office of the Prime Minister (Liaison officer), Ministry of Education, National Water and Sewerage Corporation, Donors (to be invited)

Information Management: Ministry of Water and Environment - with support from UNHCR/ UNICEF

Technical Work Groups (Proposed)



MoWE Structure

Operational Issues

1. The national WASH meetings will be held on a **monthly basis** (first week of the month - dates to be agreed by members)
2. WASH sector leads will carry out **joint monitoring** visits to the field (prioritizing emergency operational areas) on a monthly basis - two weeks before the sector coordination meeting
3. MoWE will be responsible for the WASH sector **Information management** due to their in-house MIS capacity - with support from UNHCR and UNICEF
4. The WASH sector coordination platform will establish a **web-based platform (google)** which will act as a repository/ online resource centre for the sector and will be used to disseminate information to WASH partners on relevant sector policies and guidelines
5. The 3 TWG will be led by different WASH partners depending on the areas of expertise/ interests - who will report to the larger group. Partners need to nominate TWG members at this meeting

Proposed Terms of References

- Providing **strategic** overview and **guidelines** for WASH interventions in emergency contexts
- **Vetting** WASH agencies involved in refugee interventions (to support OPM)
- Support on **gap analysis** and monitoring implementation of WASH interventions
- **Research and learning**: Promote innovations through research and experience sharing in the sector
- **Capacity development** of humanitarian WASH actors (capacity analysis, and identifying resources to support/ reinforce technical capacity)

Terms of References (cont..)

- **Emergency preparedness:** Improve readiness and standby capacity in the sector to respond to both refugees influxes and other emergencies (water supply equipment, sanitation policies, contracts with private sector actors, staffing, capacity of WASH coordination structures)
- **Linkages with long-term/** development policy actions (e.g. implementation of ReHOPE strategy)
- **Advocacy** for resource allocation in WASH, and follow-up on commitments of WASH actors

Next Steps:

Draft ToR will be shared alongside the minutes of the meeting

For discussions: How best can the National Humanitarian WASH Coordination Platform serve field coordination mechanisms at both settlement and district levels?