

WASH Sector Inter-Agency WG

Meeting of 26th May 2016

MINUTES

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

Time: 10:30 – 12:00

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

Message of encouragement from the national-level WG to the sub-level WGs

With serious health and hygiene issues increasing almost everywhere, more sites appearing, PoCs being moved to new locations, sites to be re-planned, Ramadan in two weeks, summer water shortages ahead, and WASH hardware facilities only partially constructed/installed, the National Level WG strongly encourages all actors on the ground to concentrate their efforts on filling material gaps as a matter of urgency, with the objective of achieving a tangible improvement in the general sanitary conditions of the refugee population we are here to serve as quickly as possible.

From a coordination perspective, the national-level WG encourages all actors on the ground to focus on and implement the action points below.

Action points

1. Each agency:

- A. **Should pay particular attention to action points and the deadlines for delivering on these.**
- B. Needs to go through the appropriate sub-national WG if it wants to work in a given site. The first point of contact is the sub-national WG coordinator (IRC in the North, Apostolli in Attica, OXFAM in the West).
- C. Must map potential summer water supply challenges in the sites where they are the WASH lead and report these back to the sub-national WG, identifying possible solutions and if they can deliver them.
- D. Should do a vector control and food waste/storage checkup in their sites.
- E. Should fill in the 4Ws as requested. If the agency prefers using another format, please suggest this to the WG who will consider the proposal and decide democratically whether or not to adopt it.

2. Sub-national WGs:

- A. Jointly have to take full responsibility for filling most critical WASH gaps in their region(s).
- B. Discuss what particular gaps have to be filled during Ramadan.
- C. Discuss and share responsibility for dealing with current/potential water shortages in the region's sites.
- D. Begin WG meetings by reviewing action points and holding the actors accountable for their actions.

3. UNHCR WASH staff:

- A. To advocate more on the relationship between WASH, health, food and waste management.
- B. UNCHR WASH (Nikos) with the assistance from Ioannis (NCA/Apostoli) and Maria (IRC) to look into compact treatment units and then into water treatment units.

Quick information sharing:

Minimum standards are finalized and will be brought into the PowerPoint Guideline document which has already been circulated together with additional information on sewage connections and legislation.

Brainstorming on how to make the WG work:

- Information sharing and respecting the 4W is key. Decision: Go through the sub-national WASH WG for information and if you want to work in a site.
- WASH gaps are not being filled quickly enough and all WG members need to take that seriously. We need to use the sub-national WGs for filling gaps.
- Suggestion for each sub-national WG to establish a small advocacy team that can talk to the municipalities on WASH related issues (e.g. waste management from the municipality). But needs to be done in a strategic manner, focusing on the benefits to the municipality. Members present from the Attica/Central WG already agreed to take this discussion forward in the Attica/Central WG.
- Advocacy needs to be lifted to a higher UNHCR – government level. UNHCR WASH to advocate more about the relationship between WASH, health, food and waste management, and participate in these national working groups.
- 4W: Too complicated. Agencies have already filled them in, but we need to simplify the next version and focus on what the agency is doing, planning to do and what gaps remain and that the agency is to planning to fill.
- Should WG work for positive media coverage to highlight the good stories of WASH – as an advocacy tool?

Waste management and vector control:

- Need for separated waste management. Food waste around sites and food storage in tents often cause the vector control challenges we are facing.
- Vector control tips from MSF Idomeni: Cut grass, advocate for waste management.
- WG should contact Ministry of Agriculture for tips on eliminating the presence of snakes and rats.

Water related challenges:

- Water shortages for the summer months continue to be a key challenge. Each agency must look into and report back on the situation with a contingency plan for each site where they are lead WASH agency.
- Waste water: Compact treatment units were discussed as a possible solution to water challenges affecting also toilet and shower installations. UNCHR WASH (Nikos) to look into compact treatment units

AOB:

- Ramadan: Extra hygiene NFI needs (razors, soaps, etc). Sub-national WGs need to put this on their agendas.
- Follow up of action points: Many action points agreed upon in group meetings are not being followed up. From now on, action points are to be reviewed at the beginning of each WG meeting so that each and every one of us is held accountable.

Dates for the next WG meetings:

- **Attica/Central**: Tuesday 7th June at 9:30am in Apostoli office.
- **North**: Every Monday morning at 10am.
- **North-West**: Contact Oxfam if you want to participate.

- **National:** Thursday 9th June. The next national WG meeting will bring together the coordinators from North, Attica/Central and West. A Skype solution will be set up for this. Time and location TBC.
- **Hygiene task force for Attica/Central:** Wednesday 1st June at 9:30am in Apostoli's office. A Dropbox has been created to share materials.

Today's National Level WG meeting was attended by:

Name	Position	Organisation
Yara BURKA	HoM	Solidarités Internationale
Yves BERTRAND	Program Coordinator	Solidarités Internationale
Jane Vogt Evensen	Hum. Coord. + Team leader	NCA/IOCC/Apostoli
Ioannis Georgiadis	WASH Advisor	NCA/IOCC/Apostoli
Nikos Koukoulas	WASH Assistant	UNHCR
Ralph Bland	Wash Sector Coordinator	UNHCR
Maria Politi	WASH Manager	IRC
Sophia Mokokoros	Project Coordinator	IOM
Iro Pappa	WASH Officer	IMC