

# WASH WG North Greece

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## Meeting Notes –10<sup>th</sup> of October 2016

### Agenda

1. Action point update from previous meeting
2. Organisational update on WASH issues in the camps – all sites
3. Winterisation plans in Northern Greece
4. Update from the Hygiene Promotion Technical Working Group
5. Any other business

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#### 1. Action point update from previous meeting

- The gap analysis for Northern Greece should be updated by all the NGOs. Each organisation should fill with the activities covered. The analysis is also showing who the WASH actor is in each site.
- The contact list of the WASH working group will be updated. Any recommendation is welcomed and should be addressed to the chair of the Working Group.

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

##### **Oraiokastro**

- NCA is the WASH focal point of the site.
- NCA took over the desludging of the septic tanks. There were reports that the desludging will most likely increase during the winter months.
- NCA will monitor the contractor and ensure the quality of the service.
- The army may install two additional septic tanks (to be confirmed)
- NCA is about to recruit hygiene promoters for activities in the site.
- The water of the site is provided by the municipality (the connection with the central water network is completed) and the water is potable and safe.
- Caritas stopped the distribution of bottled water. IRC could provide water test for the borehole if needed.

##### **SK market**

- The army is providing the chemical toilets/showers in the site.
- IMC is doing any necessary connections and fixing of the sinks and the shower blocks. IMC is also desludging the septic tanks.
- TDH may install laundry containers with washing machines in the camp. IMC will take charge of all the connections (electrical, water, sewage).

### **Softex**

- The group discussed the inappropriateness of the area to host people.
- ECHO is not doing any long-term investment in Softex.
- The Ministry has repeatedly stated that the site is to be a long-term site and the government still wants to place containers in this location.
- There is no drainage system behind the warehouse.
- The tents placed outside may be moved inside the warehouse.
- The group agreed that the soil may be contaminated (skin infections of the beneficiaries) because of the former site function.
- An additional soil contamination test will be provided by IFRC regarding the suitability of the soil on-site.

### **Karamanlis**

- There is leakage from the roof during the rain and it is difficult to repair it or replace it, due to asbestos. Replacing this could potential result in a significant risk to health of the refugees if the mechanical nature of the roof is disturbed.

### **Alexandria**

- The main WASH facilities will open soon.
- There might be no need for chemical toilets, after the opening of the WASH facilities, except for the ones placed at the other site of the site (to cover all the areas). Also, if there is a need for chemical toilets for the staff, that should be communicated.
- The shelter containers to be placed temporarily in Alexandria have not facilities. The WASH block will serve the population.
- Part of the IRC winterization plan for Alexandria is to connect the communal kitchen and maintain the roof.

### **Cherso, Diavata**

- IRC is moving ahead with the construction of the main WASH facilities on both sites.

### **Veroia**

- IRC is the WASH actor of the camp and is working with NRC.
- IRC will relocate WASH containers from Giannitsa to Veroia and will support the gaps in the sites.

### **Nea Kavala**

- On Thursday, 18 WASH containers were placed in the site and are now functional.

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## **3. *Winterisation plans in Northern Greece***

- The list of the plans for winter is open to consider, according to the needs of each site, some issues to be addressed are: Drainage, Protection of the pipes, Hot water supply, Upgrade of the tap stands.
  - All the activities shall be attached to the gap analysis and should be filled as soon as possible.
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#### 4. Update from the Hygiene Promotion Technical Working Group

- Beneficiaries, particularly the children have been seen drinking from the tap stands with their mouths on the taps, which may pose hygiene issues.
  - It was noticed improper disposal of waste (especially food waste), which attracts a lot of vectors and pests in the sites.
  - The group expressed concerns on how the beneficiaries will wash their clothes without access to hot water in the camps.
  - UNHCR will distribute a table for organizations to fill in order to have a better understanding of whether there is a gap in cleaning materials.
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#### 5. Any other business

- UNICEF, till now active in Athens is looking to increase its presence in Northern Greece.
  - They are now in Fragapol, SK market, Vasilika and are planning to work in Serres. They are also doing Hygiene Promotion activities in Redestos.
  - UNHCR has addressed invitation for construction of kitchen and laundry containers.
  - In Fragapol (population: ~500), there are six washing machines operating since last month.
  - The WASH actors should consider the hygiene of the washing of the clothing. The recommendation is to use industrial washing machines rather than commercial machines.
  - IMC will support the translation of the English WASH working group Minutes into Greek.
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#### 6. Action Points

- Next WASH Working Group is on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> of October 2016, at 10am, in the Ministry of Macedonia and Thrace.
- **[All organisations/Deadline: 17/10]**
- Next Hygiene Promotion Working Technical Group is on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> of October, at 10:00, at the IMC office
- **[All organisations/Deadline: 18/10]**
- GAP Analysis to be shared by the WASH sector lead
- **[All organisations/Deadline: 12/10]**
- GAP Analysis to be completed by all organizations in North Greece
- **[All organisations/Deadline: 12/10]**
- Minutes Document to be translated into Greek
- **[IMC/Deadline: 14/10]**

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