

Minutes of WASH coordination platform meeting

November 1st -2019 Interservice Hotel Kampala

Hosted by Malteser International

'Water is not a free good any more'

Introduction & opening remarks

- UNHCR IP selection 2020-2021: PPA negotiations started, aimed to be ready by the 15th of December. Overview of WASH partners:

Nsamezi	LWF	OXFAM	Water Mission
South West	Lwamwo, Adjumani, Palorinya	Rwamwanja, Kyka II, Kyanwali	Kiryandongo, Aua, Bidibidi
Integrate with implementation of environment		IWM, waste management & school activities (clubs etc.)	
VHT's & HP combined: health, WASH & environment. Moving forwards complete integration where practically feasible.			

- NWSC MoU Rwamwanja signed & kick started of handover. Conversations with DP, they are coming in with funds.
- Joint Sector Review is confirmed. Undertaking 13: inclusion & schemes to be implemented, & mapping that has to happen. **Organizations working in the settlements are expected to report to the MWE.**

Minutes of previous meeting

Thanks to IOM to capture minutes.

Action points:

- Numbers in Kyaka II to be kept low enough to make sure the service levels can be sustained. Next week meeting by senior management OPM & UNHCR.
- Interagency coordination: Share WESRRP. It was presented and adopted.
- List of development actors & projects: to be shared by David

National Water & Sewerage Cooperation

MoU key elements include: Responsibilities of UNHCR & NWSC. Legally NWSC is expected to provide water services to Rwamwanja. NWSC will receive the infrastructure from LWF and will manage the infrastructure (including hand pumps and water for irrigation. Service level: at least 20lpd, but NWSC is used to higher standards. UNHCR: meet bills for vulnerable population for protection reasons. UNHCR & partners main role will be to support access, in this case its tariffs. If partners want to install systems they can talk with NWSC.

Tariffs: negotiated pro-poor tariff. 25UGX per jerry can at public service point. To make sure we are not abusing the provision of the pro-poor tariff: for private connection this does not apply. Also at PSP

consumption above 20lpd will be paid for by refugees at market value. For institutions which are public also a pro-poor tariff: 1060UGX/m3.

Modalities of payments of bills: for first 20lpd a digital currency like food distribution with a barcode or QRcode. Vendor at PSP has barcode reader. If refugees do not collect: close by the end of the month. 1000UGX is still payed by refugees. If they do not pay we have some measures needs to be taken.

IP/Ops: ensuring access is there. Protection issues surrounding provision of water. Sanitation & hygiene part.

Transitional arrangements: technical assessment to be carried out between 4th and 8th of November. Grace period till January. Since last year institutions are already getting connected. Also pilots with prepaid systems through OXFAM (at market centres) will start asap. Benefits of prepaid: water taker is responsible for loss. Timeline for full handover is 3 months.

Malteser: can agencies working in refugee settlement work together with NWSC about water quality testing. David: we want to explore in the next few months. Maybe we plan jointly? We want NWSC & UA as our main partner.

It is one of the undertakings of MWE to gazette the other settlements. UNHCR engages PS to get several areas gazetted. We can only do advocacy and are doing that already.

IOM did a stakeholder meeting: outcomes similar to arrangement proposed by UNHCR or excluding PSNs from contributing to water bill based on community agreements.

Deep dive (+ discussion on the way forward in shifting to utilities)

Beautiful report from a development angle reporting issue we are talking about. Funded by Worldbank. Selected water schemes based on size, complexity & distribution. Solar, hybrid & fuel powered schemes. Small & bigger. Paid and not paid areas. Important for anyone to read. Including an economic side: ability & willingness to pay.

Willingness: higher in areas where they are already paying like in Oruchinga and Nyumanzi and Nakivale. Humanitarians come from a perception that refugees are not willing to pay but we have shown now that there is a willingness to pay. IOM: in urban areas the willingness to pay tend to be higher. Economic activities influence on their willingness and ability to pay. All the variables need to be taken into account when deciding on tariffs: the willingness, the income, the costs to pay for the service, the spread of households.

Partners need to stand as one and share one message: water is not a free good any more. GoU, OPM, NWSC & UNHCR and big donors agree: all systems should be integrated in the normal gazette procedure to proper service delivery by NWSC & UA. Continued sensitization on need to contribute to O&M of water is important. In exit strategy of partners it should be included that utilities collect payment. The policy is here and partners should not pay. Partner is supposed to follow the rules/policies/guidelines of the country. That is not covered in the MoUs between partners and OPM.

We need to be watchdogs of each other. We have to be partners and need to be able to speak up and follow up. Sometimes we do not know who is saying something else. We need all partners to include OPM.

Comparing NWSC & Umbrella. Due to the economy of scale in some places it is cheaper per household to be gazette under NWSC. The entities are very different. For UNHCR we would like to do an analysis to define which settlements are suitable for NWSC and which for UA.

Sanitweaks – OXFAM Simon

Global research, focused on refugee settings, many partners participated. Key result: 40% of women and girls do not use the toilets we provide during emergency phase because: not accessible, or not appropriate or basically not user friendly and safe. Sanitweaks is communication tool for technical staff on best practices.

OXFAM launched with WaterAid. Tweaking the design, the way we present and the way we construct. Also doing a video series to show the difficulties that refugees are having (animated). Already gained approval by OPM to do it in the night and with drones. Softcopy share of green card: quick scan for technical people. Global sector wide dissemination plan.

Designing for women with women. Important to consult users at all stages.

Invitation for workshop will follow shortly.

Reporting

- RRP (refugee response plan) quarterly
- WASH indicators: monthly WASH indicator table and we put it on the dashboard
- Activity Info & IRHiS
- **Additional mandatory requirement: Annual sector plan of the MWE.** Reports through UWASNET. Comes out in May-June.

UWASNET coordinates and compiles all key activities that have been implemented by all CSO's in sector so that the MWE can get an overview. Last year first time UWASNET incorporated humanitarian input. 19 out of 37 reported. Next meeting the data collection tool will be presented so we can discuss about improvements. In Activity Info only activities. For reporting you do not have to be a member. Also the report is shared to everyone, also non-members. Yunia will bring copies of annual report next meeting.

MWE

- Acknowledge many of WASH partners are trying to align activities with sector response plan. Encourage all other partners to align their activities and coordination mechanisms. Response plan has robust implementation mechanism: subgroups (not only government, also DP and experts are in the secretariat to oversee implementation). Request that everyone gets familiar with response plan. We already have development partners who has committed funds that state that all refugee

responses should be aligned with the sector response plan. This plan is in line with other sectors. OPM and ministry of local government take CRRF.

- Global compact forum on refugee: 17th & 18th of December in Genève. Uganda is going to showcase CRRF model.
- Looking for funds to implement WESRRP. In refugee forum we should cry out loud for money for the gaps in order to maintain our open door policy. Open door policy is still going to stay, even though the Ebola issues. We only ask assistance for screening for Ebola.
- Response plan will be launched this month.

Any other business

Red Cross: Harmonizing of approaches to O&M needed so that we all talk the same language.

UWASNET technology working group: collect innovations that work, OXFAM is collecting them. One challenge in sector review for NDPII, technologies were very robust, not pro-poor technologies. All technologies will be collected after which a consultant will review them.

Sheila: We try to go to the field to change mindset on payment for WASH level. Seems to be a disconnection between Kampala and field. Here in Kampala it seems we are all on the same page, but in the West Nile not all actors are on the same page. Sometimes field team wants communication from their bosses at Kampala level, so please take that up. Field team will need support.

Malteser International: finalizing modernization. O&M for 27 solarized pumping systems in Bidibidi Imvepi and Rhino. Also review on technical state of system before handover can take place. Also water testing. 21 health centers medical waste and 12 latrines and water service board.

Engineers without borders: Finalizing solar water pumping manual. Training for scheme operators from the 18th of November, extending invitations for partners who have solar systems in Arua.

Wishes are raised to have a general WASH email group in which reports can be shared. No gaps in information sharing. David UNHCR: For protocol reason we always task the main focal person to distribute.

MWE: Information sharing is very critical.

Next meeting, first week of December. LWF has committed. 6th of December.

Action point	Who	When	Remarks
Share WESRRP	UNHCR (David)	Asap	
Share Deep Dive	UNHCR (David)	Asap	
Share list of development actors and projects	UNHCR (David)		Action point from previous meeting
Update about Rwamwanja	UNHCR	Next meeting	
Read Deep Dive Study	Everyone		
Reach out to UNHCR WASH officers to make sure all partners are on the same page.	UNHCR (David)		
Action point: we need to do a round also with OPM to make sure we all promote the same message.			
SaniTweaks workshop invitation	OXFAM	Asap	(Already done at time of processing minutes)
Annual reporting to MWE through UWASNET	All	Annual	
UWASNET presentation of data collection tool	UWASNET	Next meeting	
Share copies of report UWASNET last year	UWASNET	Next meeting	