Minutes of WASH Sector Meeting – Moldova

Time and Date: 11:30-12:30, 27 Jan 2023 (Moldova Time)
Location: Virtual meeting, Moldova
Chair: Noor Bakhsh (Sub WG Coordinator/WASH Specialist, UNICEF)

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**Moldovia WASH Sector Structure and Members**

- The Sub-WG is part of and contributing to the Accommodation and Transport Sector co-lead by MLSP and UNHCR (Andrea Cuisana - cuisana@unhcr.org)
- WASH Sub-WG Coordinator Mr Noor Bakhsh, nabkhsh@unicef.org

**PROCEEDINGS:**

1. **Update on the WASH needs, gaps and response by the partners 2023**

The Coordinator shared that WASH Sub-WG has developed a matrix to collect the partners’ planning figures for the first half of 2023. The objective of collecting the planning figures of partners is to avoid duplication and address the critical gaps, if any. Some partners might be planning to scale up and expand some of the WASH interventions in different areas, including the host communities. Additionally, some partners may already be planning to focus on the humanitarian-development nexus.

Following are the primary focus of the organizations and interventions in different areas, including;

**Action Against Hunger/ACF**

- The partner focuses on the host communities by distributing hygiene kits and solid waste management in Stafanvoda. AAH has already distributed some of the baby kids through a local partner. Family hygiene kids and some baby hygiene kids are also distributed through another local partner in the host communities in Stefan Voda. The distribution has started this week and will continue in the coming weeks. AAH has already supported Palanka municipality to improve the solid waste management with waste containers in December and will provide more waste containers in February. AAH has also been providing hygiene kits through vouchers along with food since November; this activity will last till March.
Viktoriia Lupan said that the war is entering the second year and we need to understand what are the needs of both refugees and the host communities; therefore, an expert from HQ will help the AAH Moldova office to define the interventions and primary focus for 2023. I will most likely contact some of you to request meetings with the HQ expert.

- **ACTED:**
  - Evangelos EFTHYMIOU mentioned that ACTED carried the many huge WASH interventions in 2022; however, ACTED will only focus on the minor WASH services/repair in the 67 accredited RACs. He added that ACTED would stop the WASH activities at the border crossing points. ACTED is in coordinating with SI to hand over the WASH activities at the bus station in Palanca.

- **Caritas/CRS:**
  - Marian Onică mentioned that Caritas distributed hygiene kits to the refugees in host communities and also some non-accredited RACs outside the big cities. Marian added that the future focus would be south to target the newly arrived refugees. Marian will share the names of the RACs where some interventions were carried out.

- **IOM:**
  - Marte mentioned that IOM carried out the rehabilitation of WASH services in the six contingency RACs and also ensured the services were disabled-friendly. IOM distributed hygiene kits and will continue it this year. Currently, 1000 hygiene kits distribution is ongoing in Transnistria. IOM will also preposition hygiene kits in case of massive displacement as part of the contingency. He added that IOM donated a bathing and a bathroom container to the authority, but I am not sure where they will install it.

- **SI/UNICEF:**
  - Clement mentioned that SI is carrying out the WASH interventions at the BCP, including the bus station in Otaci while the Bus stations and camp are in Planca. SI also carries out the assessment of WASH facilities in the schools. Additionally, SI will help with the connection of the generator to ensure sustainable electricity provision to the sanitation containers in Palanca.

2. **Progress at Contingency Plan**

  ✓ SI mentioned that the installation of the sanitation containers is in progress at border crossing points 2, 3 and 4 in Palanca
3. **Standardization/harmonization of the hygiene kit contents**

   Thanks to Viktoria, AAH for taking the lead. Viktoria mentioned that seven organizations have already shared the hygiene kit contents as of now, if any are left, please share them by today. She added that the technical committee would review the contents and recommend the standardized based on the needs and post-monitoring distribution findings. She added that if any organization has not received the invitation and is interested in joining the technical committee, please let me know, or others can further share with them.

4. **Host communities’ WASH needs**

   Three organizations, AAH, Skat and SI, have WASH interventions in the host communities. The interventions are mentioned in the brief of each organization. Viktoria said that AAH currently focusing on the interventions in Stanfan Voda and Palanca but may expand the activities in other parts of Moldova.

5. **AoB**

   - WASH Sub-WG may circulate the brief update of partners’ WASH response once the IMO will join.

**Participants List**

1. Andrea, UNHCR
2. Clément Fauchois, SI
3. Evangelos EFTHYMIOU, ACTED
4. Igor, SI
5. Marte, IOM
6. Marian Onica, Caritas
7. Viktoria Lupan, AAH

**Next Meeting:**
The next WASH Sector meeting will be on last Friday of Feb