

WASH WG North Greece

Meeting Notes – 22th July 2016

Agenda WASH Working Group Northern Greece:

- 1. Organisational changes on WASH coordination**
 - 2. Municipal Water Supply issues**
 - 3. Update on permanence of all sites in the North of Greece**
 - 4. Hygiene Supplies - NFI**
 - 5. Hygiene promotion technical working group**
 - 6. Any other business**
 - 7. Action Points**
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1. Organisational changes on WASH coordination

- The WASH Working Group will be placed in the Ministry, by-weekly, every other Friday.
- The chair of the meeting will be the Ministry of Immigration.
- It will be hosted in the ministry building as normal.
- The minutes will be shared in English and Greek.
- The agenda this week is flexible, but the upcoming meetings will be issued with a specific agenda for the meeting as was done before.
- The main language of the WASH Working Group will be Greek and the NGOs have to present with one Greek speaker representative.

2. Municipal water supply issues

- The water company of the municipality (DEYAP) send a letter to the organisations and the army writing that the company will shut off the water of the camp in Nea Kavala, because it is not paid.
- It was stated that it is the army's obligation to provide and ensure that there is water in the camps.
- Though the water supplies were disconnected the Ministry assured that the services will resume.
- The responsible from the ministry discussed the issue on Friday with the army. The army called the water company and arranged that they will continue providing water to the camp.
- Official response about the continuation of the flow cannot be sent as it is communicated interdepartmentally across Ministry sectors.
- A governmental or municipality service discusses an issue with each another and have no obligation to share the information with Non-Governmental Organisations.
- The ministry informed the group that the army is not obliged to send official information to NGOs about this issue as well as others that are not only related to the water.
- Samaritan's Purse is ready to start the installation of WASH containers at Nea Kavala once the new pipeline is constructed, but they are unsure how when to proceed without guarantees regarding water payments the pipeline construction timeline.

- Samaritan's Purse will proceed is willing to assist UNHCR to write the SOWs for the construction the pipeline for the water connection as soon as possible if it will help move the process along faster.
- In Oreokastro, the water was unpotable and the construction of an alternative source outside of the camp started. The army will take charge the connection of the external network to the internal and NRC will deal with the connections inside the camp.

3. Update on permanence of all sites in the North of Greece

- UNHCR raised the issue of the time, effort and money needed to begin with construction or practicing hygiene promotion in the camps. They also raised the issue of authorization for long term sites and short term sites.
- Particular information was required about Radestos as they are moving ahead with their construction activities and planning at this time.
- The representatives of the ministry were not at the time authorised to inform the NGOs about the permanence of the camps without specific information from Athens.
- There will be an official announcement soon.

4. Hygiene Supplies - NFI

- The representatives of the ministry asked to get informed about the distribution of diapers (mostly about Diavata)
- IRC because of the great amount of money need to be spent for diapers have been searching for alternatives to reduce the consumption on diapers (potties, activities, washable diapers)
- IRC will start discussions on Monday in the Hygiene Promotion Technical Working Group meeting.
- This will be disseminated throughout all organisations and will be put forward as a recommendation to the NFI/Shelter Group.

5. Hygiene promotion technical working group

- Hygiene promotion technical working group will continue to use focal point Henk Veerdig from IRC (henk.veerdig@rescue.org) to coordinate the next meeting.
- The next meeting to be held in the IRC office in Thessaloniki, Siggrou **30 Monday, 25th of July 3:30pm.**
- This meeting will focus on the issues discussed above as well as general strategies for hygiene promotion across all sites in Northern Greece.

6. Any other business.

Submission of SOWs

- The ministry expects proposals for construction or major maintenance activities in camps. The technical team of the ministry will forward any document to the appropriate service if needed.
- The participants agreed that all technical documents and Scopes of Work (SOWs) will be sent to Paul Byars (Paul.Byars@rescue.org) from IRC as the focal person for WASH in Northern Greece.
- Paul Byars will send the documents to the ministry when they are submitted.
- The Scope of Works (SOW) and all the documents shall be in English and Greek. It is essential that they are in Greek as they cannot be verified by Ministry staff who check the documents.

Emergency Responses in Camps

- People in Need (PIN) offered to help if any issues arise in any camp. They have an emergency budget that could be suited to fast interventions.
- The ministry can help with any ~~issue even if it is not under their authority~~. If any gaps met, the NGOs could communicate with the ministry and they will help with the coordination.

7. Action Points

- Next WASH Working Group is in two weeks' time at 09:30, in the Ministry of Macedonia and Thrace.
- ***[All organisations/Deadline: 05/08]***
- All SOWs for new work to be sent to the WASH focal lead
- ***[WASH coordinator: Deadline - as required]***
- HPWTG meeting
- ***[All organisations/Deadline: 25/07]***
- HPWTG meeting minutes to be shared
- ***[All organisations/Deadline: 30/07]***

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