

WASH CLUSTER
Bangladesh
Super Cyclone Sidr Response

STRATEGIC OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK

INTRODUCTION

This framework is intended to act as a guide to programme orientation by WASH Cluster partner agencies. It is written in the context of 'Early Recovery' i.e that period from February to October 2008 when 'quick impact' that bridges the gap between disaster response and development can be achieved. It is also written in the context of 'risk reduction' in as much that emergency funds may be 'leveraged' to support preparedness and mitigation measures for future such disaster.

WASH Cluster partners are expected to conform to the broad operational framework outlined in this document, and should be prepared to justify where this has not proved possible.

BACKGROUND

Cyclone Sidr transited Bangladesh on the night of 15 November 2007. In WASH terms, an accompanying tidal surge of up to 3 metres in coastal areas caused extensive damage to water and sanitation infrastructure and resulted in salt-water intrusion to surface water ponds used for drinking water supply, and pit latrines. Pond water was further contaminated by resulting sewage. Wind-speeds of over 240 kph resulted in additional contamination of these ponds by debris, solid waste, and fallen trees – not to mention animal carcasses and dead bodies. There was also extensive damage to shelter, including pit-latrines super-structures, and anything not tied down, such as water containers and personal hygiene articles, was swept away. Over 3 million people were affected in this way.

Since then, GoB (DPHE) data suggests that up to 90% of the needs caused by Cyclone Sidr have been met. However, pockets of vulnerability remain where the status-quo ante has not been reached. Emergency measures are still required in such under-served areas. Meanwhile, where donor conditionality allows, unspent funds intended for relief activities are being re-oriented to meet short-term early recovery needs that improve upon the situation prior to Cyclone Sidr's passage.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Partner early recovery programmes should support, to the extent possible, Government policies and strategies, namely:
 - Nat water supply and sanitation policy 1998
 - Nat sanitation strategy
 - Pro-poor strategy
- Integrate with the strategic and operational approaches of other Clusters, particularly Health, Shelter, and Education
- Include cross-cutting issues, with particular emphasis on gender equality, age, and the environment, in programme planning
- Use SPHERE or GoB minimum standards, whichever is the higher. Where adaptation to local realities is required, this will be decided by the SAG (see 'Coordination' section below)
- Support cannot be given to 'proscribed' organizations
- All written communications should be in Bangla wherever possible. Verbal presentations (in coordination meetings, for example) should be simultaneously translated to/from Bangla/English
- Include beneficiaries in programme design and allow complaints to be aired
- Cluster performance and performance of partners within the Cluster may be independently monitored

POLICY FRAMEWORK

- Follow DPHE water quality and related WASH protocols endorsed by WASH Cluster Technical Working Groups (see 'coordination' section, below)

DRAFT - 0

- Ensure integration of outreach (education and training) with all physical rehabilitation or construction projects
- Ensure active participation of women in Village user groups and WatSan committees
- Provide free latrine kits to extremely vulnerable households only
- Target selective assistance to most vulnerable groups and individuals (“poorest of the poor”)
- Focus on ground-water scarce areas
- Focus on areas un-served or under-served by DPHE or NGOs
- Beneficiaries must be directly or indirectly affected by the passage of Cyclone Sidr
- Restoration of livelihoods will be supported through local manufacture, with the fund-holder responsible for quality assurance and conformity with GoB standards
- Build capacities of GoB counterparts as well as affected communities through ‘trickle-down’ of technical know-how
- **PHAST**
- **Cash-for-Work / Food-for-Work**
- **Capacity-building**
- **Dependency Reduction**
- **Cost-recovery**

GOAL

The goal is to improve public health by reducing the incidence of Diarrheal Diseases for the affected population by October 2008.

OBJECTIVES

Overall

- Restore access to safe drinking water to pre-Sidr levels
- Improve access to safe drinking water from surface-water sources
- Restore access to sanitation facilities to pre-Sidr levels
- Provide water and sanitation facilities in temporary communal centers
- Enhance personal hygiene standards

Water

- Reduce incidence of water-borne disease
- Raise awareness of the need for, and techniques of household water treatment
- Ensure 6 litres of safe drinking water available per person per day
- Reduce time taken to access safe drinking water

Sanitation

- Number of pit latrines constructed and in regular use
- Number of pit latrines that afford suitable dignity for women and young girls
- Reduce rate of open field or canal defecation

Hygiene

- Reduce child mortality due to water-borne disease in Sidr-affected areas
- Raise awareness of safe hygiene practices as indicated by hand-washing
- Increase use of soap and/or ash after defecation and before eating

STRATEGIES

To meet these objectives, priority strategies for the period February-October 2008 inclusive are therefore to:

- Focus on ground-water scarce areas where access to safe surface water is limited, and continue emergency supply until sustainable alternatives are restored
- Target the most vulnerable in the affected areas, especially female-, elderly-, and child-headed households, widows, families with more than six children of school age
- Prioritise pond cleaning, disinfection, and structural rehabilitation (of banks, linings, and Pond Sand Filters), and ensure sustained operation through training of Village User Group engineers
- Enhance rain-water harvesting at community level

DRAFT - 0

- Provide WASH-related NFIs including soap, sanitary items, and aluminium water containers as required in close cooperation with other NFI distributions (e.g Shelter)
- Support provision of safe water and sanitation in temporary schools, 'child-friendly spaces', communal facilities, and cyclone shelters
- Support community-based hygiene promotion using multiple communication outreach methods
- Strengthen local management of water supply systems and water quality control through Village User Groups
- Strengthen community WatSan committees in operation, maintenance, and management of water supply and sanitation
- Monitor progress made in improving availability and access to safe water through survey
- Strengthen sub-national coordination, preparedness and early-warning mechanisms with selected NGOs working in close cooperation with DPHE and local civil and military authorities
- Build DPHE Information Management capacity at national and divisional level
- Improve water quality monitoring

STANDARDS

Water

- Pond liming up to three times as required. Once liming has taken place, a notice should be erected to inform others when, and by whom this was done.
- Pond Sand Filters should follow DPHE technical guidelines with enhanced pre-filtration (including gravity backwash), oxygenation, and mechanism to prevent the sand from drying out.
- All infrastructural works should be accompanied by appropriate training, provision of maintenance equipment, and mobilisation of Water-Sanitation Committees at Village level.
- Provision of Water Purification Tablets (or sachet equivalents such as PURE) are to be accompanied by explanatory leaflets in Bangla with suitable photographs (or graphics) for the illiterate
- Household water treatment measures (slow sand, membrane filters, 'Chulli') should be considered where access to safe surface water from PSFs or safe ground water from tube-wells is compromised
- Measures to provide at least 6 litres per person per day for drinking, hand-washing, and cooking should be adopted
- Construct shallow tubewells only where hydrologically feasible (subject to survey)

Sanitation

- Low-cost pit latrine designs should follow DPHE standards as appropriate for the conditions (water-table, flood and tidal surge risk, and soil type). The basic household kit should provide a minimum of three rings (maximum of eight) plus one concrete slab and water-seal
- One pit latrine should be re-established per affected family unless lack of raised space necessitates a communal design
- Consideration should be given to community-based solid waste disposal

Hygiene

- All infrastructural rehabilitation projects should be accompanied by community mobilisation activities to enhance impact and sustainability
- Hygiene promotion efforts should make use of folk media (puppet shows and theatre) as part of any wider multi-media 'knowledge, attitudes, and practices' (KAP) community-based education programme
- Key hygiene promotion messages should include:
 - Wash your hands after defecation, after washing babies, and before eating

COORDINATION

Meeting Management

- Coordination meeting will be co-chaired by DPHE and either UNICEF (as WASH Cluster Lead) or one selected NGO. Meeting Notes should be copied to the WASH Cluster coordinator in Dhaka.
- Strategic issues will be decided on behalf of Cluster partners by a representative stakeholder group called the 'Strategic Advisory Group' (SAG) which meets on an ad-hoc basis in Dhaka. Members of this group may opt out at any time but should make every effort to find a willing substitute. Current members

DRAFT - 0

are: CARE Int'l, BRAC, NGO-Forum, IFRC, OXFAM, DANIDA, UNICEF, DPHE, and Solidarités. Representatives of other Clusters, particularly Shelter, Education, and Health, may join according to the agenda.

Technical Assistance

- Technical matters requiring further elaboration are discussed in small technically-qualified teams under the facilitation of a Focal Point from within the WASH Cluster as identified by the Cluster Coordinator. These groups are called 'Technical Working Groups' (TWIGs), convene according to needs as expressed by any Cluster partner, and meet as often is required to arrive at a conclusion. Terms of Reference are set by the Cluster Coordinator, to whom the TWIG Focal Point reports.
- Excreta Disposal
- Water for Livestock

Information Management

- Information is managed centrally by the WASH Cluster Information Manager with the support of other Clusters and a sub-contracted national public trust called CE-GIS (Center for Environmental and Geographic Information Services). WASH Cluster partners can request information, including maps and matrices, at any time by contacting the WASH Information Manager.
- Distribution data is to be shared with the WASH Information Manager on a regular (e.g monthly) basis

DEFINITIONS

- Extremely Vulnerable Groups comprise:
 - Female- and Child-headed households
 - Households with six or more children of school age
 - Physically and mentally disabled
 - Elderly
 - Widows
 - Members of ethnic or socio-economic minorities
- A household comprises all those sharing one hearth

INDICATORS

- % of damaged ponds cleaned and limed
- % of damaged water points rehabilitated
- Number of people using one PSF
- Diarrhoeal Disease incidence
- % of damaged pit latrines rehabilitated
- % of pit latrines with soap or ash available (i.e in use)
- % of households for whom collecting water takes longer than 1 hr per day