

WASH CLUSTER
Bangladesh
Super Cyclone Sidr Response

UPDATE
27 January 2008 (Week 10)

KEY POINTS

- Priority remains on pond cleaning, PSF rehabilitation and sustainable operation, pit-latrines rehabilitation, and supply of WASH-related NFIs to extremely vulnerable groups in areas which are classified as both 'water scarce' and 'severely damaged'.
- The Cluster's 'Strategic Operational Framework' (SOF) for Early Recovery is being drafted by SAG and will be circulated to all partners by 1 February for comments
- At least three INGOs are phasing out their WASH programmes by end February 2008.
- A WASH workshop was held in Barisal, with the participation of 30 agencies, on 16 and 17 January to discuss the Cluster's Early Recovery Action Plan' and explore current approaches to household and community level water treatment, sanitation, and hygiene practices.
- Cluster coordination is being strengthened at District (and Upazila) level

ON-GOING ACTIVITIES

Cluster Coordination

- Cluster coordination has ceased at national (Dhaka) level and has transferred to Divisional (Barisal) and District levels, with DPHE being supported by Cluster partners as follows:
 - Barisal: UNICEF
 - Pirojpur: BRAC
 - Barguna: OXFAM
 - Patuakhali: Save The Children Alliance
 - Jhalakhati: NGO-Forum
 - Bagharat: CARE InternationalThe Cluster Coordinator will discuss mechanisms and timings with all partners in the field week-commencing 27 January.
- The Cluster's 'Strategic Advisory Group' (SAG) continues to meet ad-hoc in Dhaka to formulate operational and advocacy strategies, and facilitate provision of appropriate, coherent, and consistent technical advice via 'Technical Working Groups' (TWIGs) – see below.

Information Management

- Cluster partners were invited to submit written or verbal updates of their current and planned WASH activities in 2008. Fifteen (out of 32) did so. These updates have informed the manufacture of a new set of 3W (Who-What-Where) maps to inform gap analysis. These maps will be produced for each affected District down to Union level. Such maps will include Ward boundaries. Map production will be done in phases:
 - i. WASH partner presence / Water Scarce Unions / Severely Affected Unions (using damage data) / Salt water inundation / Embankment Locations
 - ii. Population affected / population reached / Proportion of Water, Sanitation, Hygiene, and NFI distribution / Incidence of selected WASH-related communicable disease
 - iii. Vulnerability overlays, including poverty and landlessness
- The WASH Cluster intends to create a sector-specific website that includes links to other Clusters and the GoB Sidr website (in the absence of a Cross-Clusteral website). Historical documents and key technical guidelines can continue to be found on the Cluster Google Group (see end).

- Two WASH-related questions were inserted into the Shelter Cluster's ongoing validation survey which is seeking to correlate outstanding need with GoB data on needs met to date in terms of emergency and transitional shelter.
- A WASH rapid needs assessment is being planned for late February/early March (probably via a two-stage, 30 Cluster, random sample survey)

Early Recovery

- An 'Early Recovery Action Plan' was workshopped on 7 January in Dhaka and 16 January in Barisal with the involvement of DPHE, and is currently being endorsed by GoB. This will be presented to the GoB by UNDP on 28 January alongside the World Bank damage assessment findings.
- The 'Early Recovery Action Plan' is being converted into a 'Strategic Operational Framework' (SOF) by the SAG on behalf of the wider Cluster membership. This will be supported by a Cluster workplan outlining the activities, objectives, risks, and assumptions associated with programmes scheduled to continue through 2008

Technical Working Groups (TWIGs)

- Cluster partners are invited to volunteer to facilitate TWIGs on the following topics:
 - Key Messages for community-based health and hygiene promotion (including Health Cluster)
 - Appropriate design for new Pond Sand Filters [UNICEF to facilitate]
 - Pond Liming procedures
 - Low-cost Pit Latrine Options [UNICEF to facilitate]
 - Household Water Treatment Options

ANALYSIS OF CURRENT SITUATION

NFTR

CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS

NFTR

IMMEDIATE PRIORITY ACTIONS

- Strengthen District-level coordination
- Conduct geographic gap analysis
- Distribute 3W maps
- Update distribution matrices
- Rationalise web-based Cluster information

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Alternatively, browse: <http://www.lcgbangladesh.org/derweb/cyclone/index.php>
 For Cluster documents, see: <http://groups.google.com/group/wash-coordination-group-cyclone-sidr?hl=en>

