

Bangladesh Emergency Response to Cyclone SIDR

Draft Minutes of DER WASH Cluster Meeting

Date: 25 November 2007

The WASH cluster meeting was held on 25 November 2007 from 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm. Mr. Richard Luff, DER WASH Cluster Coordinator chaired the meeting.

Agenda of the meeting:

The agenda of the meeting were

1. Introduction people attending
2. Information sharing about key web sites, DPHE contacts, other WASH actors etc
3. Overview of WASH situation
4. Overview of which organizations are providing WASH assistance and highlighting obvious gap areas
5. Key WASH related issues that we are facing
6. Developing working groups on WASH, strategic, including funding and technical
7. Any other business

1.0 Introduction:

Introductory remarks;

- The Gov Bangladesh has the key lead role to coordinate overall efforts, and for WASH DPHE is the key Government agency.
- The DER WASH cluster works to support and complement work of DPHE.
- It is noted that DPHE coverage and formally supported work in WASH does not reach 100% of the population. NGOs and other actors can complement coverage in those areas not formally covered. Any such works should be in consultation with Upazlia level – UNO.

Participant introduction;

Mr. Rod Snider, Emergency Response Advisor, Save the Children

Mr. Omar Farook, Technical Coordinator, CARE Bangladesh

Mr. John D Marsden, Country Manager, FHI

Mr. Iqbal Hossain, Programme Coordinator, Islamic Relief

Engr. Rupan K. Chakma, National Engineering Specialist, World Vision

Mr. Veronique Lebourgeois, Water Hygiene Sanitation Coordinator, Solidarities

Mr. Mizanur Rahman, Concern Bangladesh

Ms. Emily Rogers, HAP International

Mr. Imran Bhuiyan, Swiss Agency for Development & Cooperation

Mr. Roman Majcher, Oxfam

Mr. SMA Rashid, NGO Forum

Mr. Md. Refatul Islam, NGO Forum

Mr. Tauscher Gerhard, IFRC/BDRCS

Dr. Bushra Alam, DFID

Ms. Lise Tunelli, CARE Bangladesh

Mr. Abdul Jalil Miah, Muslim Aid

Mr. Muhammed Munas, IRD

Mr. Birendra Shrestha, Project Officer, UNICEF

Mr. Richard Johnston, Project Officer, UNICEF

Mr. Lalit M Patra, Project Officer, UNICEF

2.0 Information sharing about key web sites, DPHE contacts, other WASH actors etc

Key points;

- Use of website “DER” that gives an overview of the emergency programme of Bangladesh government, UN and other agencies. (IFRC/BRCS and NGO information can and is be posted on this platform too)

<http://www.lcgbangladesh.org/derweb/cyclone/index.php>

- A Google group will be set up for information sharing (this now done);
<http://groups.google.com/group/wash-coordination-group-cyclone-sidr?hl=en>
- WASH contact list will be updated and shared. This will include DPHE division heads so we can coordinate with DPHE at a sub national level.
- New information. UNICEF/WFP office in Barisal has wi-fi internet access. WASH NGOs are invited to use these facilities for internet contact. We hope this will also be available in Baguna soon

3.0 Overview of WASH situation

Key points;

- Mr. Shrestha of UNICEF provided an overview of the situation drawing from data from UN assessment report of 22/11/07 (see DER website). Data is rudimentary and but does paint a broad early overview of the situation. Further information will become available and a clearer picture will emerge. Table included here for reference;

	No people Affected	Total	Food	Shelter	Water	Sanitation	Clothing	Medicine
Barisal	1,155,325	704,000	407,500	456,000	184,100	290,600	224,900	122,000
Bhola	160,000	80,000	80,000	80,000	80,000	60,000	60,000	40,000
Patuakhali	935,187	522,440	397,434	241,046	47,100	203,736	187,450	0
Borguna	514,556	222,605	361,905	113,742	234,600	133,027	164,442	0
Jhalokathi	517,900	413,120	325,250	329,050	174,375	312,840	290,700	89,924
Pirojpur	932,159	299,181	269,263	71,434	217,000	0	20,747	0
Bagherat	345,000	250,500	250,500	84,327	201,600	201,600	201,600	201,600
Khulna	94,000	54,075	54,075	54,075	54,075	54,075	54,075	54,075
Satkhira	47,500	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
Total	4,701,627	2,560,921	2,160,927	1,444,674	1,207,850	1,270,878	1,218,914	522,599

- Media Reports and logistical constraints make it likely that WASH coverage/activity is least available in coastal areas. SC (Save Children) reported that their recent

assessment experience in affected areas showed that situation varied from village to village, i.e. damage to water sources was very varied. This could imply that village to village surveys is the only way to gather an accurate picture. This will be time consuming.

- DPHE has a control room and is producing data on their work progress. This will be provided in next couple days via WASH Google group.
- Surface water is the main source of water for many people thus pond clearance of pond is the most immediate task.

4.0 Overview of which organizations are providing WASH assistance and highlighting obvious gap areas

- Many organisations are still doing assessments and making decisions about where they will work and what they will undertake .
- Provision of information to the WASH Information focal point Mr. Lalit Patra of UNICEF is key here. Formats have been shared. 3 NGOs have so far filled out these formats. Please do contact Mr. Lalit to arrange sharing of information.
- Please see detailed information sheets on who is doing what where which will follow in next day.

5.0 Key WASH related issues that we are facing

- Discussion around surface water treatment issues related to ponds. The relevant issues discussed here were; saline inundation of ponds, debris and bodies in ponds, leaves in ponds. How ponds can be cleaned. How surface water, whether from ponds or other sources such as rivers can be treated by mobile water treatment units. Several organization have or will provide bulk water treatment units.
- Many organizations are distributing a variety of relief items, often in packages. Many of these packages include water containers, soap, and women's hygiene items. They may also include WPTs (water purification tablets). We don't have details of the types and quality of these WPTs previous experience from flood situations elsewhere show that their effectiveness is significantly improved where there is accompanying information about how to use these and provision of water containers too.
- Debris and dead body clearance (solid waste) is a complex issue as it includes human bodies and associated cultural and legal aspects of body disposal, along with animal bodies and physical debris. This may be undertaken through Cash For Work initiatives too. This is an area that may cut across clusters and work may be undertaken under auspices of shelter and or food, though food for work.
- UNICEF touched upon the importance of sanitation and hygiene promotion to make sure that these aspects of work were fully addressed. UNICEF welcomed applications for funding applications for work to cover these areas.

6.0 Developing working groups on WASH, strategic, including funding and technical

The WASH overall coordination meetings should be focused on the big picture; strategy, resources capacity, gaps. There was some discussion about the need for formation of sub groups. There are benefits and potential disadvantages to this approach. Advantages are that we can form smaller more functional working groups that can go into detail and problem solve. These could be face to face or at least through e-mail exchange and phone conversations. The disadvantages is that these mean more meetings or e-mail exchanges to deal with. However if issues are raised at meetings, they need to be dealt with somewhere. While we partially agreed that some working groups could be formed around key issues, I

would like to suggest the following sub group could form to deal with these issues. Please note that this is a suggestion and that any such groups should be inclusive. I have listed those organizations that are currently engaged in this aspect of work to get the ball rolling. Others who may just be interested and have something to contribute should feel free to join.

Bulk surface water supply and treatment

To cover issues of bulk water treatment, from ponds or other sources.

Muslim Aid, Solidaritie, SC alliance, Oxfam GB, Care, UNICEF/DPHE, Norwegian Church Aid.

I suggest these should form the nucleus of an e-mail group around this issue

Debris and dead body clearance (solid waste)

Agencies; Muslim Aid are active in this area and others too.

WASH NFI item distribution

Most relief items are typically distributed in the first few weeks after a crisis and then cease, so this working group may be quite time bound.

Agencies who are involved in general NFI distribution which may include some water containers and WPT are; IFCR/BRCS, Muslim Aid, Oxfam, Islamic relief, Care, SC,

Hygiene promotion and sanitation

The information on who is currently active in this area is not clear at this stage but UNICEF would welcome a group forming around this. The issue of what is in a hygiene kit, how long we need to provide WPTs for all need to be addressed.

Agencies with passion and commitment welcomed!

AOB:

- Clarification sought from UNICEF about mechanism for organizations to apply for CERF funds, through UNICEF requested. Pre approved NGOs can be processed faster than those that are not. UNICEF to provide greater clarity by Wed 28th

Next meeting Tues 28th 14.00hrs at UNICEF office Dhaka