

## **Bangladesh Emergency Response to Cyclone SIDR**

Draft Minutes of DER WASH Cluster Meeting

Date: 19<sup>th</sup> December 2007

Venue: UNDP Dhaka

The WASH Cluster meeting was held from 1 pm to 2.30 pm

In attendance:

Paul Edwards	UNICEF (chair)
Naquib Ahsan	DPHE
Sudhir Kumar Gosh	DPHE
Simon de Haan	DANIDA
Ayesha Hossain	DANIDA
Golam Morrhed	WHO
Enamul Hoque	Oxfam
Nek Alam	IFRC
Ian Rodgers	Save the Children
Rezaul Karim	BRAC
Md. Mamtaz Uddin	NGO Forum
Mizanur Rahman	Concern
Marga Ledo	Spanish Red Cross
Ahmed Fadel	Premiere Urgence
Sanower Hossain	EPRC
Adam Koons	IRD
Paul Currion	UNICEF
Sheruzada Boualia	UNICEF
Lalit Patra	UNICEF

### **WASH meeting agenda:**

1. Introductions
2. Review Draft Agenda
3. Action from last meeting
4. Progress from DPHE's control room by Mr. Naquib
5. Water quality in groundwater scares areas, action to be taken
6. Sub-national coordination, how is this working
7. Report back from Strategic Advisory Group (SAG)
8. Monitoring of WASH cluster work (CEGIS work)
9. Vulnerable groups; household selection criteria
10. Meetings over holiday period
11. AoB

### **Draft Agenda**

Accepted as it was

### **Action from last meeting**

WASH cluster meetings in the districts/ sub national level are facing some teething problems; expected to be overcome as DPHE intervenes.

*Action; potential shortcomings in absence of WASH cluster sub-national meetings is planned to be avoided through a workshop to review/discuss sanitation/hygiene promotion issues on 6<sup>th</sup> January; and on water quality management including pond cleaning and pond sand filters on 7<sup>th</sup> January at Barisal*

Monitoring visits to Sidr affected schools and transitional facilities indicated poor sanitation condition. UNICEF Education section is working on to provide assessment of damage in schools by 10<sup>th</sup> January.

*Action; cluster members requested to pay attention to the provision of WASH facilities and cleanliness within schools and transitional facilities.*

ToR for WASH cluster has been drafted and shared with cluster members. The document is also available in WASH cluster google group for your comments.

*Action; requested to share comments/suggestions with Paul Edwards Chief WES and Lalit Patra WES Specialist.*

Richard Luff WASH cluster coordinator has left for Kathmandu. Paul Currión is scheduled to leave on 21 December and will not return.

*Action; James Shepherd-Barron is scheduled arriving Dhaka to support cluster coordination.*

### **Progress from DPHE's control room**

Mr. Naquib Ahsan presented the rehabilitation and relief work for water supply and sanitation by DPHE.

DPHE has responded to all 12 Sidr affected districts with special attention to 5 severely affected districts: Bagerhat, Barguna, Patuakhali, Pirojpur and Jhalokhati. This effort was carried out by mobilizing additional staff from other districts and from Dhaka. Control room was established Barisal and Khulna, in addition to the one in Dhaka.

The response primarily includes:

- Treatment and transportation of water to the locations where surface water is the only source for drinking. This effort is limited to 6 upazillas such as Sharankhola, Morelganj, Patharghata, Kathalia, Bhandaria and Mathbaria by the use of 10 treatment units, where groundwater is unfit and surface water is polluted. Dhaka WASA has supplied 500,000 water bottles soon after disaster.
- Pond cleaning work has progressed cleaning 3230 ponds as against 6082 contaminated; includes 846 ponds made fit for drinking and domestic use
- Out of 12,980 affected tube-wells, 10,680 has been reported repaired
- Distribution of supplies includes jerry cans and water treatment tablets supported by UNICEF. Other supply includes bleaching powder, alum and lime.

The effort is also supported by DANIDA JICA and WHO as they have allocated resources for tube-wells PSFs RWHs and School WASH facilities.

Emergency and short term plan of DPHE includes:

- Cleaning 3,000 ponds, rehabilitation of 500 PSFs and 750 VSST installation
- Construction of 6,733 latrines

Medium and long-term plan includes:

- 5,000 water points will be installed under WB assistance
- 10 desalination plants, 5 million WPTs and 1 million PUR will be supplied by UNICEF

It was envisaged that DPHE-UNICEF carrying out assessment that will feed to medium and long-term WASH interventions.

The briefing also included explanations to the DPHE's water quality test facilities and some tips to disinfect pond water for drinking.

DPHE expressed the need to strengthen sanitation and hygiene interventions. It was also explained that Chief Advisor is insisting on location-specific plan preparation.

### **Water quality in groundwater scares areas; action to be taken**

Presentation of DPHE addressed issues pertaining to water quality management in water scares areas. Mr. Naquib once again explained about the laboratories in Barisal, Kulna and Dhaka those may support water testing. Lime available with DPHE at the district level could be used by NGOs to assist pond cleaning works.

*Action; Barisal meeting/workshop, on 07 January, will cover this aspects further. Mr. Ihtisamul Haq SE will take up this issue there.*

*Action; UNICEF will discuss this matter with DPHE to issue instruction to Executive Engineers in the district to share lime with the NGOs for pond cleaning works.*

### **Sub national coordination**

Sub national coordination is arranged with DPHE in each of these 5 districts. One agency/NGO is to co-chair this coordination in each of the districts.

*Action; the issue of WASH cluster coordination will be followed up with the DC in Bagerhat.*

### **Report back from strategic advisory group (SAG)**

Simon de Haan from DANIDA reported the details of SAG meeting scheduled on 17 December.

The purpose of the SAG meeting was to assess collective capacity/resources of WASH cluster to respond to the restoration of damage by the cyclone.

The need assessment is primarily done for the rehabilitation/construction of latrines, hygiene promotion software, and water supply restoration.

Latrine damage assessment was done based on the information on extreme poor and those estimated affected. It is assumed that all the households are presently using latrines. Of the extreme poor, total number of fully damaged latrines was estimated as 22,864 and partially damaged latrines were estimated as 121,942. *The total repair cost of such latrines was estimated as USD 900,000.*

In case of promoting latrines with superior materials, by use of bricks and roofing materials, additional cost of USD 40 per latrine is required. *Thus build back better costs is estimated as USD 4.9 million.*

The tube wells are being repaired by DPHE and most of them are already restored. Resource need is primarily calculated based on the number of ponds and level of pond sand filter coverage. DPHE reported damage of 5,982 ponds out of total 9,289 ponds. Cost of cleaning one pond is estimated as USD 20. It is assumed that 33% ponds i.e. 3096 numbers are with PSF and only 50% of them needing repairs at a rate of USD 50 per PSF. Additional 6,192 ponds require new PSFs at a rate of USD 650. *The total cost estimate USD 4,300,256.*

Hygiene promotion cost is estimated in the range of 5-8% of the total water/sanitation intervention costs, *which counts to about USD 1 – 2 million.*

*Cost of NFIs have not been gathered but may be in the order of 1-2 million. In addition collective cost of relief and early recovery would be approximately USD 1 to 1.3 million.*

Thus the overall costs for relief and early recovery would be approximately in the order of USD 10 million. The verbal indication of committed resources from key agencies indicates availability of USD 10 million and about USD 2 million more in the pipeline. *This concludes significant funding is available for early recovery and relief needs.*

- UNICEF urges agencies to allocate resources to meet to the WASH needs of child friendly spaces, communal facilities and permanent cyclone shelters.
- Agencies are requested by UNICEF to make allocation of their resources for hygiene and sanitation and emphasize such interventions.
- Working groups, on sanitation/hygiene promotion and on water supply, will meet to further identify issues/solutions early January.

*Action; these issues will be further discussed in Barisal meeting/workshop. The meeting will be opened by Additional Chief Engineer.*

### **Monitoring of WASH cluster work**

It has not been easy to monitor WASH cluster work due to poor information flow from cluster members. A complete list of ‘who is doing what where’, with available NFIs and interventions, is updated and made available through Google Group. Agencies are requested to provide update on this to make the 3W document useful. The assessment and monitoring works of WASH cluster needs strengthening.

*Action; to improve the efforts on WASH assessment and monitoring interventions, it is planned to hire an agency of GIS and monitoring competency. The scope of such work will be presented in a ToR and shall be shared with the SAG members. The agency will be hired by UNICEF to work with the WASH cluster and to report to SAG through cluster coordinator.*

DPHE acknowledges that there exists a poor system to support monitoring and assessment. Mr. Naquib emphasized improved assessment and monitoring system is something Ministry/ Advisor and Army is looking forward. He endorsed the idea of UNICEF hiring a competent agency to support the effort.

### **Vulnerable groups; household selection criteria**

NGO forum has shared selection criteria of vulnerable groups:

- Women headed families
- Children earning families
- Old man managed families
- Extreme poor families who have more than 5 children
- Poor families with disabled person
- Extreme poor families with school going age children; especially girl children
- Jobless and very less income earning families
- Affected families with damaged assets (house, lands, crops, cattle, etc.)

*Action; NGO Forum will discuss with Care to arrive at a final list. They all will give a close look to the criteria defined by the GoB.*

Chair emphasized this as an important issue and need to be consciously worked out; as often complaints are received 'poorest of the poor' not receiving the services.

### **Meetings over holiday period**

It was in general agreed not to schedule any meeting next week due to forthcoming Eid and Christmas holidays.

Chair suggested scheduling the coordination meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> January instead of 2<sup>nd</sup> January as the new Cluster Coordinator James Shepherd Barron is arriving on 2<sup>nd</sup> evening and he can participate the next coordination meeting.

### **AoB**

No additional issues raised.