

Bangladesh Emergency Response to Cyclone SIDR

Draft Minutes of DER WASH Cluster Meeting

Date: 03rd January 2008

Venue: UNICEF Dhaka

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

In attendance:

James S Barron	UNICEF (chair)
Naquib Ahsan	DPHE
Ayesha Hossain	DANIDA
Ryuji Ogata	JICA
Md. Bodiuzzaman	BRAC
Md. Shaheen Siraz	NGO Forum
Md. Refatul Islam	NGO Forum
M.A. Wahed	Concern World Wide
Dr. Jahangir Hossain	Care International
Md. Javed Yousuf	Dhaka Community Hospital
Shazzadul Arif	EPRC
Lalit Patra	UNICEF
Birendra Shetha	UNICEF
Paul Edwards	UNICEF

WASH meeting agenda:

1. Previous minutes
2. Introduction of new cluster coordinator
3. Sharing of latest from the field
4. Needs Assessments
5. Early recovery workshop
6. Technical workshop on hygiene, sanitation and ponds
7. AOB

Previous minutes

Accepted as it was

Introduction of new cluster coordinator

WES Chief Paul Edwards introduced Mr. James Shepherded Barron.

Sharing of latest from the field

Lean attendance could not provide adequate details from the field. However, it was understood that improved local water supply scenario has lead to closing down of the operation of 6 treatment plants (2 of DPHE and 4 of CARE). CARE's treatment plants are not operational due to funding constraints as well.

DPHE explained the success in WASH cluster; as there was no major outbreak of diseases. However there are concerns over the way interventions were carried out.

Action; the workshop planned in Barisal should intend to enhance our understanding over the existing technical know-how among agencies and help promulgating guidelines issued by DPHE; and hence their use.

Needs Assessment

Participants looked for the scope of carrying out joint monitoring of responses in the field to avoid possibility of duplicate reporting and identifying the gap in WASH cluster response including water supply/sanitation interventions and in NFI distribution.

Cluster coordinator explained the challenges in comprehensive data collection to present who is working where and when.

Action; UNICEF is planning to hire an agency with MIS/GIS expertise to work on assessing the situation and in carrying out monitoring WASH interventions on behalf of the cluster. The agency will be reporting to the SAG through Cluster Coordinator.

Early recovery workshop

Cluster Coordinator explained the value added of cluster coordination in emergency response, especially at the field level. He outlined the need for strategic operation framework, technology and information management in support of cluster coordination.

The recently planned early recovery workshop, scheduled on January 7, is to provide a kick start to the idea of developing a common framework with the key government counterparts. By January 20, there should be an agreed plan for recovery period.

Action; WASH cluster coordination henceforth should help us developing a strategic operation framework through the workshop organized on January 7. This should also help identifying needs of emergency response and early recovery planning. Some of the SAG members need to contribute to this process in the workshop.

Technical workshop on hygiene, sanitation and ponds

Need for such a workshop was discussed in continuation to the assessment from the field.

Action; it was discussed that this workshop need to be postponed, from earlier schedule January 7, to get SAG members ready to define the content and due to conflicting priority of Early Recovery Workshop.

AoB

Participants requested the next coordination meeting between 2-4 pm Wednesday January 8, to be scheduled in UNICEF office for their conveniences.