



**MoM – EWASH/WASH Meeting**

**Day/Date: Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2009, 11:00 am**

**Place: PWA Office/Ramallah**

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The main points that were included on the agenda to be covered in this week's meeting include:

CAP Process Update
EWASH Membership Forms
Debriefing from Steering Committee Meeting
PWA's Governorates Report
WASH response monitoring: APIS demo of Agricultural Sector
Debriefing from Water Scarcity Task Force & Area C pending projects
Update from Gaza
Update from Advocacy Task Force
Learning Needs Assessment

**CAP Process Update**

19 WASH agencies participated in the 3-month process of preparing the CAP 2010, 3 UN, 11 INGO's and 5 national NGOs. The final vetting of WASH projects was done by 7 agencies, including active participation of PWA and OCHA. In total 42 projects has been send through for the CAP 2010 for a total of US\$ 38,125,338 reaching out to an estimated 1.750.921 beneficiaries. This rise in budget since CAP 2009 is explained being induced the dramatic underfunding of the sector last year.

In order to seek a better funding of the cluster, agencies will have to follow up closely with donors to get their projects funded. PHO reports already having secured funding for 1 CAP 2010 project.

7 projects were referred to the Agricultural sector, marking the clear need for inter-cluster coordination. Another learning point from this year's CAP is that the assessed sanitation needs of the West Bank haven't been translated in any project proposal, probably due to the nature of such projects (big scale). The cluster partners would benefit from a presentation on wastewater situation in the West Bank.

*Action points:*

- *WASH Cluster will follow up final editing process of the CAP 2010*
- *PWA will organize a presentation of the wastewater situation in the West Bank at following EWASH meeting*

### **EWASH Membership**

In the past EWASH counted 31 members. During the last update of the membership forms only 22 members signed up. This could be due to removal from sector or due to negligence of the paperwork.

EWASH is not a dormant body, partners should be encouraged to participate to monthly and extraordinary meetings. EWASH is also the venue for coordination of activities with PWA. EWASH should facilitate information sharing with the Water Sector Working Group.

#### *Action points:*

- *Membership forms will be sent out to agencies that haven't signed up yet*

### **Debriefing of the Steering Committee**

According to its current guidelines the EWASH has an elected Steering Committee of 5 members (2 national NGOs, 2 INGOs and 1 UN body) plus the relevant governmental body as an observer. Last month the Steering Committee met twice to seek synergies with the new cluster approach and update the guidelines. The EWASH haven grown and been rewarded funding for advocacy work invokes an update of the current guidelines. A first draft is shared with the EWASH and will be sent out for commenting and feedback before putting it up to a (2/3) vote.

A particular point of interest is the signing off procedure for EWASH end products. Until now this is the responsibility of the Steering Committee. The update seeks for a more participatory but practical procedure, aligning it to the AIDA procedures of majority decision with individual sign off.

Last elections for Steering Committee members date back from more than 2 years ago (17 July 2007). New elections should be organized in the near future, possibly at the next EWASH meeting.

#### *Action points:*

- *Draft update of EWASH guidelines will be shared with members for feedback*
- *Steering Committee will convene over update of guidelines and organization of elections*

### **Governorate Report**

Before presenting the Governorate Report, PWA raises the issue the refugee committees of the refugee camps feel their wash problems remain unaddressed, that the refugee camps fall between the responsibilities of the PA and UNRWA. It is proposed to have a meeting and feedback to agencies on next meeting. This information should also be shared with the donors.

PWA presents the recent publication of its Governorate Report, with the support of UNDP. The report gives information on the WASH situation per district, including maps of connectivity to network, status of wells, lists of ongoing and needed projects. The information is updated until October 2009.

PWA will work on prioritizing the projects list for funding purposes.

*Action points:*

- *Organise meeting between UNRWA, PAW and WASH Cluster.*
- *Inform agencies and donors on procedures: who will/should address WASH needs of refugee camps.*

### **WASH response monitoring: APIS demo of Agricultural Sector**

On invitation of the WASH Cluster, FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture, give a presentation of their response tracking system: Agricultural Projects Information System (APIS). WASH Cluster in clear need of a similar tool, to map the Who is doing What and Where (3W), is looking at the applicability of APIS to the WASH Cluster. This tool could be a more detailed alternative to the upcoming 3W for the West Bank.

It is presented that APIS is an online database, in which one can search real time information (3W). It has capacity as a useful planning tool, which served as a solid basis for preparing the CAP. Being more detailed (upto activity and output information) and via an interface, APIS provides information to GRAD (Gaza) and PAMS (Ministry of Planning).

The GIS application producing real time maps of activities is in a pilot phase.

It is raised that UNICEF and PWA are working on upgrading PWA's database. If APIS will be used for the WASH Cluster, it should have similar interfaces to PWA as to GRAD and PAMS.

*Action points:*

- *WASH Cluster and FAO will organise an evaluation of APIS, testing its user-friendliness in general and its applicability to WASH needs in particular.*

### **Debriefing from Water Scarcity Task Force & Area C pending projects**

Mid-October the WASH Cluster called a working group meeting on the Water Scarcity at OCHA's offices in Hebron. National & international organizations, which had participated in the previous meeting of the Scarcity Task Force, as well as OCHA, PWA and WBWD participated in this meeting.

The meeting discussed the need for reassessment of the filling points, that were presented as key interventions during previous meeting. The future plans for drought preparedness were also discussed. WASH Cluster Coordinator introduced a draft for the proposed structure for a comprehensive WASH Scarcity Task Force, that would create an ownership of the issue with the Government and also enable pitching the scarcity issue at higher level. Minutes of meeting are shared.

WBWD provided quotations for the 5 filling points that are still pending for approval at ICA level. UNICEF expressed interest to fund their implantation.

The WASH Cluster has been identified - along with Education and Shelter- as a key sector for advocating the concerns around permitting process and the impact of the delay in implementing the projects in Area C. The Cluster is presently compiling the list of such WASH projects that have been delayed at various stages of permit applications, with either PWA or JWC or the ICA.

Information is solicited from the agencies operational in Area C. Efforts are being made to prioritise projects that are strictly humanitarian and conform to the indicators the cluster decided for the CAP interventions. Thus, projects which would have helped communities with water availability <60lpcd and paying water costs >20NIS per cu.m, are considered on priority basis.

*Action points:*

- *Field visit to filling points in the Jordan Valley early next week. Organizations working in the area are invited to join.*
- *Research on pending issues and specifically vulnerable communities in Area C is underway, agencies are requested to share all relevant cases.*

**Update from Gaza**

The WASH Cluster is working on a new initiative with the HCT to try to help materials enter Gaza. PWA and CMWU are informed of this process and are involved.

Drinking Water quality remains a priority, especially as providing safe water to infants and children was a recommendation of the UNEP report. Note that the UNEP report does not mention anywhere that this should be bottled water - its a common misconception. Moreover, distributing bottled water would be unrealistic as it would be a massive operation, and could not be monitored.

The Cluster has taken the following actions:

- a) Met with MoH in Gaza, who informed us that they are ready to cooperate with a public health campaign.
- b) Reestablished the Health Promotion Working Group which will formulate a strategy and key messages, especially regarding clean water for infants.
- c) PHG have a project in the CAP 2010 which will help by mapping the private drinking water sector.

Note that this issue would be best resolved in the long term by regulation of the private drinking water sector. However in the short term privately supplied drinking water should be boiled or filtered with e.g. a candle filter.

The Gaza Cluster is also looking at winterizing the programme. Key Priorities are:

- a) Getting already ordered generators and pump motors from Israel, to ensure reliability of water pumping, in case electricity supplies are unreliable.
- b) The Risk of flooding of some areas e.g. Jabaliya. CMWU have assured the WASH cluster that they have a project funded which will take care of this, and that no assistance is required from the cluster for this issue.

**Update from Advocacy Task Force**

The EWASH Advocacy Task Force has had a change of staff for its West Bank's office. Headhunting procedure is under way to replace the ATF Officer in Ramallah.

The team is about to publish its send fact sheet on access to water in the West Bank and preparing two more on Water Quality and Quantity in Gaza and Right to Water. Also in the pipeline is a factsheet on Area C.

The 21 and 28 of October the EWASH Advocacy Task Force organized two events in Friends International Center in Ramallah, one showing the first Gaza film produced by LifeSource for the EWASH 'Gaza is floating' and the other one presenting the Amnesty International report 'Demand Dignity: Troubled waters - Palestinians denied fair access to water'. Both events were well attended and enjoyed a lively debate.

The team, both in Gaza and the West Bank has been involved in media work around different events, such as the publication of the AI report, linking press with partners working in the field. The Gaza office has also been involved in the successful organization of another HCT media event on winterization.

An EWASH working group will convene November 5<sup>th</sup> to prepare the right to water campaign around the 10 December Human Rights day. A campaign call will be sent out. The campaign will focus on 3 levels: community level, national level and international level.

In a meanwhile, the second Gaza film is in preproduction, building up on the input by the Advocacy Task Force Working Group.

*Action points:*

- *an EWASH ATF working group convene November 5<sup>th</sup> to prepare the right to water campaign around the 10 December Human Rights day.*
- *Factsheets will be send out for commenting and for sign off by EWASH partners*

**Learning Needs Assessment**

The Cluster Coordinator send around a learning needs assessment form in order to grasp the needs of the partner organizations' employees in terms of capacity building. This information will be used to foresee capacity building activities early next year.

The group is also informed about a general cluster evaluation taking place in the following week.

*Action points:*

- *The partners are urged to send in this information asap.*