



## **MoM – EWASH/WASH Meeting**

**Day/Date: Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 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:

Cluster Approach in the WASH Sector

CAP follow up

Update from Advocacy Task Force

Discussion about the issue of prepaid water meters

Updates on different water scarcity related issues

Information Management: Functions, products, roles & responsibilities

Monitoring of WASH Related Interventions

Overview from the World Water Week

### **Cluster Approach in the WASH Sector**

Prasad Sevekari, the new WASH Cluster Coordinator to the oPt, introduced himself. He will be based in UNICEF in Jerusalem for the next six months. The Global WASH Cluster approach was explained stating that there is no intention to hijack EWASH but rather to integrate into EWASH and to reinforce it by introducing resources, linkages and (global) concepts. The presentation prepared for this purpose is attached. For more information about the global cluster approach please refer to: [www.humanitarianreform.org](http://www.humanitarianreform.org)

#### *Action points:*

- *The presentation will be distributed after the meeting.*

### **CAP Follow Up**

The CAP process is now running. District level workshops were organized in August in the West Bank and Gaza to define the vulnerable groups and areas and specifying needs and responses. Upcoming is the national workshop on the assessed needs in Ramallah, 9 and 10 September. The presentation attached includes the timetable for the process, including deadlines for uploading of project proposals.

## **Update from Advocacy Task Force**

The media event in Gaza is going on as we speak. The ATF is now in the process of preparing the first fact sheet for the West Bank, some of the topics suggested to be covered include:

1. Water review in Palestine. (4 aquifers – Jordan River).
2. Oslo Agreement – water is unequally divided between Israel & Palestine.
3. Domestic consumption – unequal (Settlements – Agriculture – Area C).
4. Joint Water Committee (drilling wells).
5. Civil administration (doesn't allow infrastructure in the Area C).
6. Mekorot, Israel's National Water Company.

### *Action points:*

- *The Task Force will send out an e-mail to the group to collect opinions about the topic that should be covered in the first fact sheet to be compiled for the West Bank.*
- *Organizations that know of a case that would be worth following up please notify the ATF.*

## **Discussion about the issue of prepaid water meters**

A number of organizations have expressed their concern for the issue of prepaid meters and the possible impact that they may have especially on the poor following the installation of meters in Al Jaroushiya – Tulkarem. PHG submitted an official letter to PWA expressing their concern followed by an agreement that PHG will conduct a socio-economic assessment to evaluate the conditions and raise the appropriate recommendations.

Other alternatives should be looked into taking into consideration related issues such as leakage, illegal well connections and designing a suitable tariff system. If such meters should be adopted the Ministry of Social Affairs should introduce a social blanket to support the poor.

### *Action point:*

- *Subha will disseminate recommendations once available.*

## **Updates on different water scarcity related issues**

- 3 pumps have been donated by Jordan received at PWA and installed in some of the non functioning wells
- Today is the official Ceremony for operating the wells in the south. These wells are PW11, PWA3, Ezariya 2, JWC4. Ezariya 1 is already in operation. The total amount of water/day from these 4 wells is 13,800 m<sup>3</sup>/d. These wells will feed in Al Dehaisha and Halhoul reservoirs and then the water will then be distributed to the Hebron and Bethlehem Districts.
- By operating these wells together with the other wells (PWA1, Arab ar Rashayda, Beit Fajar, Bani Na'im2, Ezariya 3, Al Rihya) the amount of water that will be available is 40,400 m<sup>3</sup>/d.
- There is a support from the French cooperation (AFD) to equip Meithaloun Well (Tendering process) and also equipping Tubas Well and Tamoun well.
- Support from USAID to rehabilitate the wells in the south (pumps, maintain the electrical control panels, rehabilitation of Sair poster pump station).
- Water Police will support PWA and the Governorate for the illegal connections in the south.
- Operation of Roujeeb Well
- Kufr Deik and Bruqin network is ready. But the amount of water still very low to fill the network.
- Equipping Sabastiya Well + Transmission line + Reservoir: financed from USAID and the Ministry of Finance.

#### **Filling points:**

5 out of 9 filling points agreed on with the JWC were also accepted by Mekorot and the Civil Administration (Al Hadidya, Arab abu Fara, Jaba' and Moarajat, Southeast of Jaba' and al Baq'a). A visit was conducted to the agreed on filling points jointly with Mekorot

4 out of 9 were refused by Mekorot with following argumentation:

- Fuqaqis & Attwaneh (Hebron) : Mekorot refused to install in the agreed coordinates pretending there no enough water in this area. They propose another site near Karyat Arba'a junction.
- Faqua'a (Jenin): The suggested coordinates need a feeder line crossing the Wall, and Mekorot- if they agreed to install it- will charge us the cost. This will take time and so is not seen as an emergency intervention.
- Al Jib : Mekorot states having no lines in the vicinity but that a PWA owned line can be used at closer range.

Mekorot promised to send the design details of the filling points within two weeks of the field visit (from 20/08/2009). Mekerot was clear that they will install the main meter, two valves and one consumer meter.

Follow up and support needed for these filling points:

- 1- WBWD will work on preparing the technical specifications and requirements in terms of installing a filling pipe, fence, ... as well as a platform for the tankers.
- 2- As soon as Mekorot official writing approving 5 filling points arrives and the necessary valves are in place, WBWD can take action installing the infrastructure. Funding will be needed for this; partners are invited to express their willingness for support one or more filling points.
- 3- In order to control the selling of water, and to control the price of water, there is a need for support for the running cost of operation of the filling point at least for the first 4-6 months of operation until the situation is regulated and the filling point will be covering the operation costs.

### **Information Management: Functions, products, roles & responsibilities**

With the Global Cluster system a package with useful tools on monitoring and reporting is available. These will be presented to the Cluster/EWASH. Tools like the GRAD for GAZA and a similar 3W for the West Bank should facilitate planning purposes, indicate gaps and avoid duplication.

However, input is important: kind reminder to update the GRAD in order to have all agencies mapped adequately.

### **Monitoring of WASH Related Interventions**

Various agencies are engaged in of stated interest in monitoring of WASH related interventions. These include:

- Agriculture Projects Information System (APIS), managed by **MoA** with technical support from **FAO**, funded by Spanish Cooperation.
- Gaza Response Activity Database (GRAD), administered by the **WASH Cluster**, with an intention to produce the same for the West Bank.
- A database developed by **OCHA** to collect information about the activities being implemented in the North-West Bank.
- **PWA**: There is a proposal to create a centralized WATSAN database of projects (NWIS) to be linked to a GIS mapping system, with planning as the purpose.
- **PHG**: Under the framework of the WASH MP that is being implemented with support from UNICEF, Palestinian Assistance Monitoring System (PAMS), maintained by the MoP collecting project information on a donor level.

A first meeting has taken place with all agencies involved in order to streamline efforts. It is suggested that both humanitarian and development projects should be addressed in one or more databases, including all interventions. If more databases will co-exist, linkages are to be facilitated. Follow up is needed.

*Action point:*

- *It was suggested that a working group be set up for the purpose of monitoring.*

## **Overview from the World Water Week**

Beesan Osama an employee of PWA described the participation of the Palestinian delegation in the 19<sup>th</sup> World Water Week among around 2000 other participants from all over the world. This event was organized by the Stockholm International Water Institute under the title: "**Responding To Global Changes: Accessing Water for the Common Good with Special Focus on Tran Boundary Waters**"

Unlike the WWF in Istanbul the PWA delegation to WWW was formed of five people, their participation was targeted mainly to a session concerning Jordan River Basin under the title:

### **"Exploring an Arab Riparian Jordan River Basin Initiative"**

This session was prepared by the four riparians who agreed that the session should be academic, thus the fifth and sixth riparians were not asked to participate.

**The chairman of this session was Dr. John Waterbury /AUB.**

**The four keynote speakers were:**

- 1. Lebanon: Mr. Rami Khouri and Prof. Mutasem Fadel /AUB**  
They gave a condensed presentation about the situation in Lebanon, in addition to giving to brief about Isam Al fares Institution and its role concerning the Initiative.
- 2. Syria: Dr. M. Faisal Rifai /Euphrates –Tigris Initiative /Aub.**  
He spoke about their initiative, and the methodology they adopted, and then a summary about the lessons learnt was introduced so it can be utilized in the Jordan River basin initiative.
- 3. Jordan: Dr. Elias Salameh / University of Jordan.**  
He spoke about impacts of recently implemented policies on the water sector.
- 4. Palestine : Dr. Marwan Haddad / An-Najah University**  
Illustrating that Palestine mainly West Bank is suffering from a dry season were the water deficit became high in comparison with the previous year, then he made it clear to the attendees that Palestine does not use a single drop of the water rights in Jordan River.

The summary and discussion were introduced; the outputs of the session are available in PDF presentation format on [www.worldwaterweek.org/documents](http://www.worldwaterweek.org/documents)

After this session PWA represented by Dr. Shaddad Attili held several meetings with different parties, to discuss different issues and the progress of different projects:

- 1. A meeting with the Deputy Minister Of Foreign Affairs /Sweden, concerning Union of Mediterranean Countries as Sweden is heading the European Union, the aim was to encourage the Scandinavian countries to support the establishment of the Union of Mediterranean Countries.**

2. **A meeting with the US State Department** concerning assessment of their role in the tri- laterals Committee.
3. **A meeting with Sida and SIWI** to discuss their role in reform of water sector.
4. **A meeting with the Global Program** for supporting the mandatory plan , a joint program with UNDP
5. **A meeting with the World Bank** concerning the Red Dead Sea Project.

The WWW was concluded by the invitation to schedule natural water resources on the agenda of the world conference for climate next December in Copenhagen.

*Action point:*

- *It was recommended that something be prepared for the coming events about Palestinian female water experts.*

### **The case of Al Aqaba – Tubas**

It has been reported that the residents in the village of Al Aqaba are now facing severe water shortages in addition to being under continuous harassment from the Israeli army who are using nearby area as a military training base.

*Action point:*

*Agencies working in the area (PHG and Care) will further look into the issue and set up a field visit if necessary*

*Other action points:*

- *Thierry will send out a discussion paper about Area C for comments*
- *Ghassan (UNICEF) will share material related to the Global Handwashing Day (15 October). Organizations are invited to share their plans for the event with others and look into building a possible advocacy event on the occasion.*

### Attendance List

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