RAKHINE STATE

Cluster Monthly review

September 2015

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| Produced by: Rakhine Wash Sub Cluster teamOrganization: UNICEFLocation: SittweMonth: September 2015Resources: <http://www.themimu.info/emergencies/wash-cluster> |

# Context, main events of the months

## Wet season and contingency planning

The WASH response to Cyclone Komen, led by DRD, continues in ten townships, by 16 NGO, UN and government actors. The key activities are: rehabilitation of water ponds, including fencing and improvements to jetty access; distribution of ceramic water filters; repairs to damaged WASH facilities in schools and TLS; rehabilitation/reconstruction of emergency and community latrines; hygiene promotion including distribution of hygiene items; and small amounts of household purification tablets for villages with low quality water.

The emergency response was delayed by receipt of emergency funding through ERF and CERF processes, with many agencies commencing activities late in September. Initial distributions were largely provided from existing contingency stock.

Agencies continue to contribute to 3W for flood response, however an adhoc assessment process has not facilitated an appropriate process for identification of gaps.

Lessons learned by WASH cluster agencies have been summarized and included into the OCHA-led cross-sectorial process.

The WASH cluster is undertaking contingency planning for the following events:

* Additional cyclone events, up until end of October/early November;
* Water scarcity, particularly related to ponds that were dewatered during Cyclone Komen; and
* Longer-term contingency planning and stocking for future events at Rakhine state level.

## Relocations/returns

Shelter cluster has provided a draft schedule for returns in 2015/2016 for locations outside of Sittwe camps. Phase 1 is finalizing, with the construction of more than 500 houses and latrines in Kyauktaw.Returns packages are being constructed according to the design agreed upon in WASH/shelter habitat approach. In this phase,funds are directly provided to RSG/Township Authority, who then contracts local supplier to distribute material for beneficiary to build up themselves ensuring appropriateness and even upgrade of plan shelter by personal contribution.

The Habitat approach has been applied in Kyaw Taw, including a village type latrine associated to the shelter. It seem that the approach is successful and well systematized.

## *No monitoring visits have yet been undertaken by the WASH cluster, in an attempt to keep the reconstruction “low profile”, however will undertake a monitoring visit on completion of the adjacent phases. These visits should be undertaken in conjunction with the Protection cluster and should officially agree on the status of these communities as “displacement ended”, as appropriate.*

## *RSG are targeting 3, 750 houses in six phases for returns (not relocations)..*

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## *Recommendations:*

## *Continued advocacy for habitat approach integrating latrines to be generalized to any donor sources*

## *WASH cluster monitoring ASAP*

## *Final site visit to be undertaken with Protection cluster to agree upon “displacement ended”*

## Coordination with Health Sector

The WASH Cluster in increasing collaborations with Health sector, given the arrival of a Sector Lead for Rakhine State. Collaborations include:

* Sharing of health data for targeting of increased attention to water quality and hygiene promotion activities, through both:
	+ weekly reporting by the Health cluster, and
	+ monthly inputs to the WASH cluster’s Strategic Monitoring Framework
* Combined Health/WASH Acute Watery Diarrhea preparedness/response plan. Education sector to be included in the later stages of the plan, for inputs for monitoring and response at schools/temporary learning spaces (TLS)
* Support to rehabilitation/repair of WASH facilities damaged by Cyclone Komen.

## Assessment of coordination needs for WASH Cluster in Maungdaw district

The WASH cluster met with ACF, CARE and Malteser, during a field visit who are all doing village WASH and either first phase or early recovery Cyclone Komen flood responses in Buthidaung and Maungdaw. The WASH cluster also met with TAs, TMO and DRD in the two townships and visited some government WASH sites.

Both the INGOs and government authorities were very interested in ongoing participation and support from the WASH cluster. In particular, INGOs were interested in training that could be provided by the WASH cluster for their national staff, who are unable to attend Sittwe-based training.

Whilst the government authorities reported that they did have some preparedness measures in place for events such as watery diarrhea outbreaks, floods, cyclones etc, they generally expressed eagerness for additional support/collaboration with enhancing these measures.

## TWG for camp latrines

Six working group sessions are being led by Save the Children to review/update latrine design for camps, focusing on the following topics:

* Superstructure
* Alternative design
* Pit, receptor tank (on site treatment)
* Treatment (off site treatment)
* Desludging

DRD has been invited to attend for relevant topics, particularly for off-site treatment options and associated land ownership issues.

The working group aims to finalise the collaboration by December, with a guidance note published by the WASH cluster.

# 4W and M&E system analysis

The number of functioning semi-permanent latrines in IDP camps has been reduced in recent months due to:

* Cyclone Komen, with winds damaging or totally destroying superstructures; floodwaters causing continual inundation to pits;
* Inability to desludge pits due to land ownership and access issues at the sewage treatment station; and ongoing rains constantly re-filling pits, increasing massively the volume of sewage;
* Theft of latrine materials by camp residents for both cooking fuel and shelter repair materials;
* Overall deterioration of latrines, which were initially built for a two year period;
* Poor quality construction techniques, causing inappropriate failures of both pits and superstructures; and
* Land ownership issues for the construction of new semi-permanent latrines, and the decommissioning of emergency latrines.

The greatest decreases in latrine coverage in IDP camps are noted in Kyaukpyu (98 to 90% from July to September); Rathedaung (91 to 72% in the same time period) and Sittwe camps (90 to 79%). Several agencies have ongoing maintenance activities, which were suspended during the floods, but expect to resume shortly. Agencies are waiting emergency funding for the repair and reconstruction of latrines affected by Komen. The WASH cluster continues to advocate for increased shelter repair and maintenance activities to RSG, the Shelter Cluster and donors; and to agencies for increased provision of fuel for cooking.

Figure 1 – Latrine coverage in IDP camps between July 2015 (prior to cyclone Komen) (left) and September 2015 (post cyclone Komen) (right)

Additionally, the coverage of functioning latrines in TLS continues to be insufficient, largely associated with the need for desludging or accessibility during school hours. No TLSs are reported to have 100% latrine coverage in September, with the majority of TLS having between 0 – 50 % of latrines (55% in September; increased from 32% in July).

Increased coordination between Education and WASH actors is necessary to clarify roles and responsibilities for cleaning, operations and maintenance of latrines, notification and implementation of desludging activities.

**Recommendations: WASH and Education clusters to clarify roles and responsibilities for WASH facilities in TLS.**

# Produced by the WASH members

* 4W WASH matrix for September
* 3W WASH matrix for Cyclone Komen response for September
* Guidelines for pond dewatering
* Updated contact list of WASH sub cluster members

# Main Priorities for next month

* Water scarcity strategy, in conjunction with DRD
* Assessment of WASH needs in Kyaukpyu and Ramree IDP camps
* Ceramic water filter consultancy
* Returns shelter/habitat progress with TIKA