Regional Emergency Coordination Advisor Project’s Trip Report

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| **Trip conducted by** | Souleymane SOW, Regional Emergency Coordination Advisor |
| **Region** | South East Asia and Pacific |
| **Countries / Cities Visited** | Myanmar: Yangon, Myitkyina (Kachin States) and Sittwe (Rakhine State) |
| **Duration of Visit** | 02nd March to 14th March 2014 |
| **Support and Facilitation:** | UNICEF Myanmar Country Office |

**Trip Objectives:**

Main objectives of this visit were to support the capacity building activities included in both Myanmar WASH Custer and Regional Emergency Coordination Advisor Project action plans as shown in the table below:

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| Myanmar WASH Cluster Action Plan | | | | | | | | Reference of the activity in RECA Work Plan |
| Cluster Core Objectives | **Specific activities to developed or reinforced** | | **Location** | | | **Leading/main players** | |
| Kachin | Rakine | |
| I- Supporting service delivery | | | | | | | | |
| Core functions of wash cluster are ensured through proper and relevant coordination mechanisms and tools | Training on wash cluster Partners on Cluster Approach, related mechanisms and Tools | | X | X | | Cluster Lead Agency (UNICEF) with support from RECA SEAP | | **MY6:** Support reinforcement of coordination capacities of WASH Cluster Partners in Kachin and Rakhine States by Training them on wash cluster coordination mechanisms (Humanitarian Reform, Cluster Approach, Transformative Agenda, etc) |
| III- Planning and strategy development | | | | | | | | |
| Promote capacity building of local actors in this area | | Train local partner on Technical Standards and Guidelines for WASH interventions | X | |  | | Cluster Lead Agency (UNICEF) with support from RECA SEAP | **MY7:** Support reinforcement of technical capacities of WASH Partners in Kachin: Workshop on quality and standards of Emergency WASH infrastructures |
| Train local partners on monitoring and data analysis | X | | X | | Cluster Lead Agency (UNICEF) with support from RECA SEAP | **MY8:** Reinforcement of Capacities of WASH Cluster Partners in Kachin and Rakhine on Monitoring, analysis and reporting through an IM Workshop |
| Re-enforce integration in WASH interventions of cross cutting issues on Gender, disability, … | X | | X | | Cluster Lead Agency (UNICEF) with support from RECA SEAP | **MY9:** Support reinforcement of capacities of WASH Partners to mainstream Cross-cutting Issues (Gender in particular) in both Rakhine and Kachin-Workshops on mainstreaming cross-cutting issues in WASH |

Activities/Achievements

* Prepared and facilitated a 3 days training in Myitkyina (Kachin State) with support from UNICEF Country Office (including the Myitkyina Sub Office). The training agenda which took care of the gap and support areas mentioned in the above table is attached for easy reference/crosscheck. UNICEF support included notably (1) logistic and administrative support for visa, travel authorization, hotel and domestic plane ticket booking, movement (Car) in Myitkyina, (2) identification and funding of venue for training which included meals and coffee, (3) provision of supply, material and services required for the successful implementation of the training such as printings, flip charts, projector etc. Furthermore the lead agency provided (1) guidance with briefing and debriefing in Yangoon with the National WASH Cluster Coordinator, (2) personnel to support the facilitation of some of the training sessions and to take care of the documentation of the training (Training Report). For example (4) UNICEF Chief of Field Office opened the training by delivering a key address to the participants; (5) WASH Sub Cluster Coordinator for Kachin delivered closing remarks whereas (6) the session on integration of Gender in WASH was facilitated by a UNICEF National Female WASH Consultant. Regarding participation, while awaiting for the full workshop report that will include (a) a summary of key learnings from the participants (b) the evaluation of individual sessions as well as the overall training, the following can be shared:
  + - 17 WASH organizations of which 1 UN agency, 4 INGOs and 11 National Organizations including the Red Cross and 1 Government agency attended the training. These were: Solidarites International, HPA, Plan International, KBC, KMSS, KRC, AYDC, AVSI, Sholom, Metta foundation,Oxfam, DRC, UNICEF, TDA, Save the Children, Myanmar Red Cross
    - 23 people attended Day 1, 29 people were present in Day 2 and same number of people participated in Day 3
* Prepared and facilitated a 3 days training in Sittwe (Rakhine State) with support from UNICEF Country Office (including the Sittwe Sub Office). The training agenda which took care of the gap and support areas mentioned in the above table is attached for easy reference/crosscheck. UNICEF support was identical to what was mentioned earlier with the exception of (5) since the newly recruited sub- WASH Cluster Coordinator is not yet in place and (6) the session on integration of Gender in WASH having been facilitated by the RECA. Concerning the participation of agencies in the training, while awaiting for the full workshop report, the following can be shared:
  + - 10 WASH organizations of which 1 UN agency, 8 INGOs and 1 National agency (Myanmar Red Cross) attended the training. These were: Solidarites International, Consortium of Dutch NGOs (CDN), Save the Children, Oxfam, Action Contre la Faim (ACF), DRC, Malteser, UNICEF, Myanmar Red Cross and Relief International
    - 18 people attended Day 1, 13 people were present in Day 2 and 10 people participated in Day 3 which was not initially planned. Indeed what was planned was for RECA (only) to visit few camps to update himself and compare the situation of WASH services with that of the last visit in Rakhine (June 2013). Given the interest of many participants to join the RECA, the visit was converted to a filed monitoring training exercise.
* Got detailed briefings from the National WCC about the status of resources/staff that are being hired by the lead agency to support cluster functions in Rakhine and Kachin as well as the need for IM support from the Global WASH Cluster Field support Team
* RECA SEP offered to the National WCC that a half day briefing is conducted in Bangkok for the incoming WASH Cluster Coordinator for Sittwe, taking the opportunity of her visa pick-up here, which was agreed

Follow-up Actions

* National WASH Cluster Coordinator to follow-up on Training reports for both places with his Sub- National WASH cluster Coordinator and Capacity Building Officer in Myitkyina and WASH Consultants in Sittwe
* Upon release of drafts, RECA SEAP to provide input before final version is shared with wider WASH Cluster partners
* National WASH Cluster Coordinator to send a written request to RECA SEAP on the IM support required for the National WASH Cluster IM Officer
* National WASH Cluster Coordinator to plan and inform RECA SEAP in advance for the half day briefing in Bangkok with incoming WASH Cluster Coordinator for Rakhine.