Minutes of Meeting

WASH Cluster & DRD Coordination Meeting

14 July 2016

**Introduction**

During the visit of Directorate General of DRD from Naw Phi Taw, there was an invitation for the WASH cluster in Rakhine State to attend WASH coordination meeting at the DRD office. The objective of the coordination meeting was to bridge the current ongoing floods emergency response, and long term Rakhine Development Plan. The Directorate General of DRD were expecting to have more input and attention from the WASH actor on the development of WASH sector in Rakhine State.

**Opening remarks by Director General**

At this moment, DRD and UNICEF at the National level is working to establish long term WASH development plan for Myanmar. There are some other documents such as WASH Strategy for Rural Area, WASH in School, and Water Quality which are currently being finalised and waiting for the approval and official endorsement from the Ministry.

**WASH Cluster/Unicef**

As every WASH cluster members are aware, there are big challenges in the area of WASH in Rakhine State. This challenge includes basic access to safe drinking water supply, sanitation, and hygiene. In addition, there is also a challenge to provide adequate WASH services in public facilities, such as in hospitals and schools. WASH cluster is looking forward to address these development challenges in the area of WASH, as well as to tackle the current emergency.

On the emergency response, most of the WASH partners are providing emergency assistance towards the affected population, in the camp, host community, and rural areas. In addition, now the WASH cluster is also mobilised to work closely with the government to provide assistance to the current floods response in Rakhine State, such as in Kyaktaw, Minbya, Ann, Bauthedaung, and Rathedaung.

**DRD**

* So far DRD have MOU with 3 NGOs; with Plan, and Oxfam and ###; it is expected that all agencies have MOU with DRD
* For future emergency response, DRD with the support from UNICEF is planning to setup 4 warehouse in 4 districts.
* DRD Minbya is proposing the DG to develop better design for water ponds. Most of the water ponds are always flooded during the rainy season due to low embankment, furthermore most of the water ponds are not fenced.
* DRD DG is highlighting the important of community participation in the area of WASH. The community participation from RKS is considered very low.

**Oxfam: a).** Oxfam is providing assistance for the flood response, and there is a plan to

Rehabilitate 4 water ponds in Kyaktaw.

b). There is uncertain information about restriction for international staff to

Access some camp and townships.

**DRC:** Under PCA with UNICEF, DRC now is working in camps and also providing hygiene kits and others, especially in Kyaktaw.

**IRC:** IRC is currently working with the PCA support from UNICEF. The PCA is expiring in the next few weeks. The main target area is Rathedaung and there are about 2000 individuals in the camp, mostly from non-muslim population.

**SI:** Solidarites International is working in major three camps in Sittwe, such as in Paktaw, Sittwe, and Baw Du Pha. They have stopped the work in ANNY camp due to the current fighting between old CMC and new CMC. About 500 HHs are displaced to the host village and so far there is no long term solution. There is a plan from State Minister to select new CMC member, but there is no update until now.

**WASH Cluster:**

There is some NGO/Agencies are only working in the camp due to restriction of budget arrangement and commitment from donor. For most of the partners who are working in the camp, NGO partners are usually working closely with the Camp Management Committee (CMC). However, there are some challenges working with CMC, such as high cost, low and poor quality of material, low quality of work, therefore NGO partners are trying to find another solution to work with CMC.