**Myanmar WASH Cluster**

**Minutes of Meeting - DRAFT**

**Date:** 15/02/2016

**Venue:**  UNICEF Yangon

**Time:** 14.00 – 15.30

**Chair:** National WASH cluster coordinator

**Attendees:** (see attached)

**1. Kachin update:**

* Currently a good presence of WASH actors; 95% of WASH actors present at end of December 2015; reducing by the end of February, with a bigger drop at end of March, 2016.
* Good WASH coverage facilities = 98% of water facilities; 88% of latrines (increased numbers of semi-permanent – reached the limit of the need)
* Main focus on maintenance of WASH facilities; work with WASH committee and CMC;
* Myitkina and Bhamo water shortage potential - WASH partners to identify areas prone to water shortage; identify which partners need support.
* WASH cluster to WASH sector – increased responsibility with local authorities in both emergency and development settings
* Small scale emergency: ERF managed by OCHA, led by Solidarités consortium, for integrated WASH/shelter response.
* 2016 outlook: trend for more movement of IDPs between temporary locations.

**2. Rakhine update:**

**IDPs:**

* Ongoing issue with O&M of infrastructure and Sewage/sludge management is becoming a major issue.
* Pilot testing of onsite treatment, including biofilters, tiger worms, biogas digesters
* Ongoing rehabilitation of latrines
* Ceramic water filter consultancy, plus pilot testing of alternative household water treatment, including biosand filters. Results soon forthcoming.

**Returns:**

* Many resettlement packages undertaking a ‘habitat’ based approach which includes latrine in package.; government KNP – shelter no latrine.

**Komen:**

* ongoing pond rehabilitation and community level latrines works nearly complete
* refilling of ponds damaged by cyclone ongoing.

**Dry season water scarcity**

* DRD making contingency plans at township levels in Rakhine.
* WASH Cluster reviewing preparedness plans

**3. 2016 WASH cluster Strategic Operational Framework**

WASH cluster will seek agreement on the content of SOF; draft to be shared by end of February, translated and finalized by early March.

* SOF will be linked to the three objectives of HRP 2016
* Caseload as per HRP numbers, similar to 2015 with small change in Rakhine due to limited returns/resettlement (Minbya & Mrauk-U).

Four **key priorities** targeted by WASH cluster in 2016:

1. Community ownership of infrastructure in IDP camps and villages, to provide improved sustainability and VFM
2. Greater integration with other sectors, including CCCM, shelter, protection, education, health, early recovery (ensuring continuity of conflict-sensitivity approach)
3. Transition to WASH sector, including State- and township-level approaches, targeting increasing collaboration with government, including WASH in Schools and Health Facilities; request to consider who would lead at the township: “WASH Support Technical Committee” in Kachin, with representatives from DRD or GAD, and active support from agencies involved in township. Mandate has to be approved from NPT, agreed upon through National Rural WASH Strategy. Government should be leading small-scale emergencies response, with WASH cluster as the last resort. Consideration for the role of “WASH in Emergencies” TWG.
4. Strengthened disaster preparedness

* WASH Cluster Structure, as per 2015, including an additional role in Shan. Membership of SAG to be considered in advance preparedness for major disasters.

**Proposed Techincal Working Groups for 2016**

**Rakhine:**

- AWD (IEC from SHD C4D working group)

- Emergency Preparedness

- Returns/resettlements

**Kachin:**

Desludging (outputs to be shared with Rakhine)

**Yangon:**

* Emergency Preparedness, including contingency stock updating, setting emergency standards, standardizing contingency stocks
* Emergency Standards

**Information Management**

* New website/revised MIMU website
* Google forum & potential of google drive to be explored
* 4W to be reviewed and simplified.
* Cluster monitoring reviewed
* Transfer of some monitoring tasks to CCCM for greater efficiency

**4. Rural WASH strategy update:**

- National Strategy for Rural WASH, WASH in Schools, WASH in Health Facilities: task force, consultant team and consultative work have been undertaken. Tomorrow (Feb 16th) is final consultation workshop for second draft strategy. Bishnu to send details. [Key parts relevant to humanitarian actors include: Emergency Law and Emergency Rule, SOPs]

- Output: Strategy plus investment plan (costed activities); final to be issued in March 2016

- National Standard for WASH in Schools, including monitoring tool and Three Star Standards; first draft to be shared in workshop with partners within the next month

- CLTS review and toolkits development: final draft review document to be shared with partners in March 2016; toolkit to include ODF verification, trainer’s manual, triggering guidebook, advocacy brief, guidelines for scaling up; finalization of toolkit is targeted for March 2016.

**5. Minimum preparedness**

Drought preparedness:

* National Cluster consulting with other agencies, DHM & RIMES in Bangkok.
* Key recommendations to be sent out by email
* Contingency stock lists to be updated soon (email to be circulated by cluster)
* Planned OCHA ERPP meetings in Sittwe.

**AOB:** None