

## WASH CLUSTER TOR

### Overview

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Tajikistan remains the poorest country of the 15 members of the Commonwealth of Independent States. Over half of the population lives below the absolute poverty line and the economy relies heavily on the remittances. Only two thirds of the population has access to safe drinking water and 1.4 million people are food insecure; 15% of children under five are underweight. Maternal and infant mortality are also high.

According to the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense (CoES), between 2000 and 2009, at least 2,000 people were affected by disasters each year, with a peak in 2008 when 2 million people were hit by the extremely cold winter. Damage caused by disasters was between \$22 and \$70 million per year.

With 93% of its territory being mountainous, Tajikistan is a disaster-prone country suffering from recurrent natural hazards like floods, mudflows and landslides. It is also situated in a seismic high-risk zone; an earthquake in Qumsangir in the south of the country destroyed 2,600 houses in 2006. Overall damage to water systems constitutes approximately XXX yearly.

The spring of 2010 is characterized by unusual heavy precipitation, triggering avalanches, floods, mud and rock flows, and landslides in many of the country's 66 districts. Localized hazards, sometimes with loss of life, were recorded in over 20 districts. These events destroyed and damaged houses and infrastructure and negatively impacted on livelihoods, amongst others is damage of water supply systems and sanitation facilities.

Secure access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation is especially critical during emergency situations. Lack of safe water and poor sanitation can cause serious disease problems which may lead to infectious disease outbreaks, especially among children.

### WASH Cluster Objectives and tasks

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**Overall objective:** Ensure effective and coordinated rapid and recovery responses related to safe water, basic sanitation and hygiene to the affected people in emergencies

#### Specific objectives:

- Be an impartial forum of agencies and institutions, representing no individual members or their interests, and whose goals and objectives are of unique character, that is to provide a best possible assistance to the affected people in emergencies by taking commonly accepted and binding decisions;
- Ensure coordination of emergency WASH programmes and activities among the partners engaged in the emergency WASH response by providing humanitarian response assistance through sharing of responsibilities and sites, deployment of staff and commodities to assist affected populations with immediate needs;
- Facilitate effective collecting, processing and sharing of information and data among WASH cluster partners and across other sector clusters, including establishment of information management databases such as 3W, etc;
- Ensure adequate emergency preparedness strategies, plans, staff, and support cluster partners to provide timely WASH response during emergencies;
- Identify gaps and address disruption in the provision of WASH services during emergencies;

- Bringing issues to the attention of the central coordination bodies, such as REACT, Government and Donors;

### **Specific tasks:**

#### 1) On WASH Sector Coordination and Advocacy:

- a). Facilitate the exchange of ideas, information, guidelines, statistics and other data among partners
- b). Advocate for access to water, sanitation facilities and improved awareness on good hygiene practices for the population living in humanitarian emergency to protect them against public health risks.
- c). Support planning on the basis of mapping, to avoid overlap and duplication of efforts, and address gaps.
- d). Provide or request guidance and capacity development for WASH response that is viable, cost effective and meets agreed minimum standards and is in accordance with government and international guidelines.

#### 2) On Information Management and Standards Policy:

- e). Ensure the application of unique standards on WASH in Emergencies (SPHERE);
- f). Raise, discuss and make recommendations for arising policy issues and refer to the cluster as required.
- g). Develop/ identify standards and ensure harmonization of procedures as appropriate.
- h). Collect and provide updates to OCHA on-line database and inform members accordingly;

#### 3) On WASH Sector Capacity for Humanitarian Response:

- i). Facilitate cluster partners to assess and map the WASH needs of the affected communities.
- j). Map capacities of organizations participating in the WASH response efforts, where organizations are working, and what inputs they are providing.
- k). Provide input for the Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP) and formulate WASH Contingency Plans.

#### 4) On WASH Sector Preparedness:

- l). Establish mechanisms and develop tools for monitoring the progress and extent of WASH services provided, and prepare updates on activities and results of the collective work of cluster partners in light of the agreed minimum standards including cross-cutting themes and emerging priorities (like polio outbreaks, H1N1, etc).
- m). Liaise with the field-based WASH cluster focal points, TAJ WSS, national line ministries and other relevant stakeholders on policy issues and support, technical and capacity development and implementation needs, supply needs, and operational support needs.

#### 5) WASH Sector Best Practice and Learning

- n). Document challenges faced in reaching the agreed standards with respect to water supply, sanitation and hygiene promotion in emergencies, and advise all actors on what could be done to overcome the issues.
- o). Monitor and maintain current information on developments in policy and practice improvements that are being engaged by other bodies and/or projects such as DIPECHO projects, TAJ WSS (OXFAM), SDC construction programs, UN DRMP National Strategy Development, national policies and regulations;

### **WASH cluster structure**

WASH cluster, as a unique entity, shall have a clearly outlined structure that is appropriate for the purpose of this public entity. The structure shall consist of **Management (The Lead), Secretariat, and Membership.**

The lead agency will carry out the functions of cluster management, by this undertaking all necessary measures to call and chair the meetings, act as a coordinator of the cluster and coordinate the efforts of the various member agencies in time of emergencies and response.

Secretariat will carry general responsibilities related to the taking necessary arrangements with regards to keeping up communications by and between the cluster members, taking necessary logistic and administrative measures to prepare and conduct of meetings, taking minutes, other relevant information and their dissemination throughout the cluster.

Members are the member agencies, international, national, governmental, non-governmental, public and UN agencies, present in the WASH cluster and those who might express wish to participate in the cluster activities, and are expected to take part in the meetings and communications. Members are also expected to share and exchange available information, take part, to the extent possible, in all WASH cluster activities, such as meetings, conferences, assessments, emergency response measures, and others.

### **WASH cluster members**

The WASH cluster membership is as follows:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ UNICEF (lead agency)</li> <li>▪ WHO</li> <li>▪ Save the Children</li> <li>▪ IFRC</li> <li>▪ RCST</li> <li>▪ CESVI</li> <li>▪ ACTED</li> <li>▪ CARITAS</li> <li>▪ Mission East</li> <li>▪ OXFAM</li> <li>▪ German Agro Action</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ WFP</li> <li>▪ Rural Water Works</li> <li>▪ UNDP/ DRMP</li> <li>▪ SUE Khoijagii Manzili Kommunal</li> <li>▪ Ministry of Education</li> <li>▪ Sanitary Epidemiological Service</li> <li>▪ Committee of Emergency Situations</li> <li>▪ Healthy Life Style Center</li> </ul> |
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WASH Cluster Donor Partners:

- JICA
- DFID
- ECHO
- USAID
- Swiss Cooperation Office
- TICA
- KFW
- ADB
- WB

Other relevant agencies may be invited to the cluster meetings when required.

### **The WASH cluster members are expected to:**

- Endorse the overall aim and objectives of the WASH Cluster.
- Attend WASH cluster meetings and participate actively
- Be proactive in exchanging information and reporting, highlight needs, gaps, and duplication.

- Share responsibility for WASH Cluster activities, including assessing needs, developing plans, and developing policies and guidelines through working groups.
- Respect and adhere to agreed principles, policies, priorities, and standards.
- Work as a team, fulfill agreed action points as per the set deadlines and provide feedbacks.
- Make available technical capabilities and means when required during emergencies

### **The WASH cluster meetings**

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WASH cluster meetings shall be normally called once in 3 months (quarterly). The responsibility of calling meetings, identifying time, venue and agenda of the meeting will lay upon the Lead agency. The quarterly meetings will be considered valid in the case of the quorum of 7 (seven) persons representing 7 various agencies. In the opposite, the meeting will be cancelled or postponed to another date. The member agencies shall have the right to request the lead agency to call for ad-hoc meetings relevant to the issues normally considered by the WASH cluster.