



## **WASH Cluster Report, Somalia - January 2009 -**

### **Coordination and related activities**

Besides the regular cluster meetings held, a series of meetings involving other clusters, most notably nutrition, food and health were held towards the end of 2008 to develop integrated responses to the alarming situation in central regions with very high malnutrition rates. Upcoming is a similar exercise for the Gedo region where the level of malnutrition has increased substantially. The first meeting will take place on February 11.

From January 27 to February 2, 2009 the WASH Cluster had a training course on 'Water and Sanitation in Emergencies'. The training was held in Nairobi in close collaboration with RedR and NETWAS. The training was supported by the Global WASH Cluster and ECHO. For more on the training, please see separate section below.

Interviews for the position as Health-WASH Cluster Support Officer have been conducted, and the selected candidate is hoped to be joining within the next few weeks. The key task for the support officer would be to develop a database capable of providing relevant outputs, e.g. maps, tables with information on activities, needs, indicators, etc.

Please remember to return the filled in [www.washcluster.org](http://www.washcluster.org) form (WASH, Who, What, Where, and When) to [etoft@unicef.org](mailto:etoft@unicef.org). A number of organisations have not yet returned these, mainly IASC members and national NGOs.

Minutes from cluster meetings are available on the OCHA Somalia website (<http://ochaonline.un.org/somalia/wash>), or use [washcluster.org](http://washcluster.org).

The next WASH Cluster meeting will take place in Nairobi on Tuesday, February 17 at 14.30 at the Kalson Tower. Please note that we are now again using the Kalson Tower.

## Access and other constraints

Delays in implementations are still occurring due to the security situation restricting access.

The WASH CAP 2009 has only received 300,000 USD as compared with a total request for WASH of 36 million USD. This of course is a significant limitation to the implementation of activities.

Following the decision by the IASC to develop a six-month contingency plan a number of potential 'hotspots' have been identified. A main concern is of course if cluster members will be able to assist the people in need due to limited access. When the overall planning assumptions for the contingency plan are updated and shared the WASH cluster contingency plan will be finalised and shared. The WASH cluster contingency plan focus mainly on pre-positioning of supplies in anticipation of population movements.

## Drought/Flooding

The dry season is now affecting the water supply in many areas, and it is important that partners start preparing themselves for this, i.e. plan accordingly and apply for required funds.

## IDPs

Up to perhaps 90,000 people around Duriel and Dushamareb are affected by displacement due to conflict. The displacement was expected to be only temporary but seems to be prolonged. ICRC and MSF-B is trucking water to 72,000 and 18,000 people respectively. Due to the relative scattered locations of the IDPs within host communities the situation with regards to sanitation remains satisfactory. However, all partners are kindly requested to monitor the situation and to initiate appropriate measures should the situation deteriorate. Please keep the cluster coordinator informed of developments.

A revised map and revised population estimates for the Afgooye Corridor has been distributed. The latest data indicates that there are now 403,000 IDPs.

Information on activities undertaken and meetings held in relation to WASH interventions for IDPs should be shared with the Cluster Coordinator.

## Training on Water and Sanitation in Emergencies

The six-day training on 'Water and Sanitation in Emergencies' for WASH Cluster members was very successful, not least thanks to the very active and engaged participants and the outstanding facilitators, some of which were associated with or from cluster member organisations, e.g. RedR, NETWAS, UNICEF, OXFAM, SWALIM, WHO, and Mentor.

The training aimed at providing participants with an overview of key emergency interventions in hygiene promotion, vector control, excreta disposal, water supply, , coordination, O&M, water quality, water treatment, assessments and how these are applied specifically to floods, droughts, IDP situations, conflicts, and during cholera outbreaks in Somalia.

The training was held outside Nairobi at the Swara Safari Hotel, where there was plenty of room for the practical exercises, including mixing of concrete, construction of latrine slabs and latrine superstructure, water jetting, water quality analysis, chlorination, sand filtration, solar distillation of saline water, etc. The water jetting included the construction of a 4 m deep artificial sandy river bed. The picture below illustrates the process of well jetting as well as the dedication of participants and facilitators.



Due to the very broad range of topics covered, it was not possible to provide in-depth information, but participants were introduced to a number of resources for further information, including 2 CD's worth of materials as well as a literature list and relevant websites. The two CDs will be posted on the WASH Cluster website as soon as possible.

The evaluation of the training by participants showed that the training was very successful and highly rated by participants. On a scale from 1 to 5, no session (out of

38 sessions) only one session got below 4.1, with an average rating of 4.4.

A total of 17 staff from WASH Cluster member organisations participated in the training.

Based on the experience from this training it will be considered if there for future training courses should be optional in-depth training sessions for those interested in more details.

### **Comments/Inputs**

Comments and inputs for the next cluster report should be submitted to the WASH Cluster Coordinator Erik Toft, email: [etoft@unicef.org](mailto:etoft@unicef.org).