

DRAFT- Batticaloa Emergency Watsan Coordination Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: 29 August 2007/ 9.30AM
Location: UNICEF
Chair: NWSDB/ UNICEF
Attendees: ACLG, UNOPS, ICRC, NRC, ACTED, Archenova, MSF-France, IOM, IRD, Caritas-EHED, Oxfam GB

1. IDP Camp Updates by DS Division:

Vaharai:

- ACTED informed that bowsering is on-going at Alankulam IDP camp every other day. 39 families are in the village camp. ACTED plans to decommission the timber toilets constructed in November 2006. Toilet usage in the camp is low and the distance to water supply is a problem for flushing.
- UNICEF recommended that ACTED maintain or replace enough functioning toilets as required by SPHERE standards and increase hygiene promotion.
- ACTED informed that 10 families remain in Vaddavaan IDP camp.

Action points:

- ⇒ ACTED will conduct an assessment of the existing toilet condition

Kiran

- ICRC informed that SLRCS will handover hygiene promotion focal point role to Oxfam GB

Chenkalady:

- MSF water system in Kaluwankerny and Palacholai Camps is functioning with no problems.
- UNICEF informed that Merlin reported needs for gully sucking and toilet repairs in Koralankerny (K-3) and NRC Eastern University.
- UNICEF informed that a 100-ft gully sucker hose has been purchased for the PS Chenkalady to increase gully sucking distance.

Manmunai North:

- Archenova reported bowsering operations are on-going to the remaining camps. They have been collecting water from the Thiraimadu source.
- IRD agreed to take over as watsan & hygiene focal point at Saturkondan 3 and Thiraimadu World Vision camp formerly coordinated by World Vision. IRD will assess condition of camps.
- UNICEF informed that the MC had reported that gully sucker operations were suspended due to lack of funds. UNICEF sent a letter to the DS and MC of Manmunai North to restart gully sucker operations. UNICEF met with the AGA and he informed that 2 million LKR had been transferred from the Ministry of Disaster Relief and that the funds would be transferred to reimburse local government for services provided to IDPs and resettled areas.

Action points:

- ⇒ IRD to conduct assessment of the camps where they are watsan & hygiene focal point.
- ⇒ UNICEF to continue to follow-up about reimbursement of MC-Batticaloa for gully sucker use in IDP Camps.

Arayampathy:

- Oxfam informed that camp consolidation is on-going. Most families are in Kovilkulam. Oxfam is conducting training on safe water storage at the household level.

Kaluwanchikudy:

- World Vision was not present at the meeting
- Archenova agreed to take over Hygiene promotion at the 2 remaining camps.

Action points:

- ⇒ NWSDB & UNICEF to confirm continued interest in serving as Division Watsan focal point

II. Overview of Camp Consolidation:

- UNICEF summarized the status of the Camp Consolidation process. UNHCR had arranged a meeting at 8:30am to discuss the proposed sites and solicit input from other agencies and sector representatives. Agencies are asked to review the camps and provide comments.
- NRC outlined that list of recommended camps was based on the technical assessment of the site, particularly the infrastructure and susceptibility to flooding in the monsoon season. Input from education, protection, and camp management agencies was incorporated. However, the final choice is with the people.

Action points:

- ⇒ Agencies to review list of camps & provide comments.

III. Decommissioning & Upgrade of Camp Facilities

- UNICEF explained that through the camp consolidation process some camps will be decommissioned and some will remain for longer term occupancy.
- UNICEF explained that the camps had mostly been built to emergency standards, but that in the camps to remain for longer-term occupancy, there is a need to repair and improve the facilities to meet the improved SHPERE standards. Particularly there are opportunities to incorporate more gender appropriate, child-friendly, and disability accessible elements to the camp watsan facilities
- UNICEF asked for input from agencies about the approach for improvements. There was general consensus that agencies will assess the facilities at the camps where they are focal point. Also once the Camp Consolidation process and latest [phase of resettlement is completed, then the near future planning can take place for the facilities.

Action points:

- ⇒ Agencies to assess camps where they are watsan focal point to identify facilities for decommissioning and improvement.

IV. Care & Maintenance of WatSan Facilities

- UNOPS presented an overview of the "UNOPS Quick-Fix Team" structure & activities. Twelve guys compose 2 teams, which are visiting all IDP camps sites regularly to provide repair solutions for shelter, watsan, general camp maintenance issues. They are producing a weekly schedule, the Camp Matrix update, and a weekly report about the repairs completed. In the future they will conduct more activities around well cleaning and toilet decommissioning.
- NRC is also coordinating a similar team. NRC made the point that these mobile teams should not replace repair & maintenance by the responsible agencies. Mobile teams are intended for gap filling. Agencies should still take responsibility for the facilities that they have constructed.
- IOM informed that they have no plan for care & maintenance of conflict IDP camp facilities in Batticaloa District.
- Oxfam GB informed that they conducted Care & Maintenance of Watsan facilities training at 8 camps. 24 camp management members were trained to take over repairs and were provided spare parts.
- ACTED also presented their Operation & Maintenance Training program, part of the UNICEF-CERF project. Basic training in masonry, carpentry, plumbing, and handpump repair was provided by ACTED technical officers. Archenova trained the ACTED technical officers on handpump repair. Trainings were conducted in 7 camps to 14 individuals. Tool kits and spare parts were provided to each camp.
- Archenova informed that they are repairing the water taps on bowser tanks and handpumps on a continuous basis, as needed.
- ICRC informed that they will be repairing toilets with plywood pits.

Action points:

- ⇒ UNICEF to forward weekly plan from UNOPS to WatSan List.

V. Updates from Resettlement Areas

Vavunitivu

- MSF informed that the well cleaning activities are on-going in Karaveddy and that they are coordinating with the PS TO.
- Oxfam informed that they faced the problem to collect water from the Kallady NWSDB well.
- NWSDB replied that permission from the NWSDB is needed to take water from that source. The water from the Kallady source is mainly used for the hospital, but many bowser are taking water. NWSDB advised to instead extract water from the Thiraimadu well field. However, NWSDB agreed to give 2 days of permission for use of the Kallady source to Oxfam for Vavunitivu bowsering until they can arrange to collect water from Thiraimadu.
- ICRC informed that they tested the mobile treatment plant and that they will plan to install at Unnichai tank. Permission is needed from the GA.
- Archenova informed that they are bowsering 30,000L/day to 4 GN divisions.
- Oxfam is supporting the PS to bowser and will support the cleaning of watsan facilities at 25 schools in the resettlement area, but need request letter from ZDE.

Action points:

- ⇒ UNICEF to provide ZDE request letter to Oxfam for repair & rehabilitation of watsan facilities at schools.

Paddipalai

- UNICEF informed that still the PS is under-resourced, and they are only operating one small tractor bowser.

Action points:

- ⇒ UNICEF will coordinate with World Vision to support the PS.

Vellavelly

- ICRC reported that wells are dry in some areas and people are drinking water from irrigation channels. Irish Red Cross is conducting well cleaning program.
- UNICEF informed that Hepatitis Cases were reported by DPDHS in the Division.

Action points:

- ⇒ UNICEF to request ACLG to shift tanks from Kaluwanchikudy to Vellavelly PS.
- ⇒ UNICEF to coordinate with World Vision to retarget bowsering to Hepatitis affected areas.

Vaharai

- Oxfam GB informed that they held the opening ceremony for the Verugal Water Treatment Plant on Monday. The event was well attended. The plant will be operated by ESCO/ Oxfam GB for three months, and then will be handed over to the PS Vaharai.
- ACTED informed that they are still waiting for a request letter from the PS Secretary of Vaharai for the water bowsering fuel payment.
- MSF informed that they are continuing to clean and deepen wells in 3 Tsunami Camps.
- NRC plans to construct permanent toilets in 2 villages and schools.
- Oxfam informed that construction of 70 permanent toilets is on-going.

Action points:

- ⇒ ACTED to follow-up with PS about water bowsering request.

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VI. Advocacy to National Water and Sanitation Coordination Group

- UNICEF explained the outstanding payment situation for the local government and that essential services such as water bowsering, gully sucker, and garbage collection were suspended due to lack of funds. On behalf of the Batticaloa District Water and Sanitation Group, UNICEF prepared a letter to the National Water and Sanitation Coordination Group to request their advocacy to the Ministry of Disaster Relief and Resettlement.
- The Agency members of the Batticaloa WatSan Agency unanimously supported the letter.

Action points:

- ⇒ UNICEF will send the letter to the National Water and Sanitation Coordination Group on behalf of the Batticaloa District WatSan Group.

AOB:

- IOM informed that the same problems of payment by the GA for the running costs incurred by local government is happening in Ampara. He recommended UNICEF to contact Merlin-Ampara.

Next meeting: Wednesday 12th September at 09.30 AM at UNICEF conference room.