

## WASH Theme Group ToR

### Background

Water and Sanitation Thematic Group (WTG) was established in Myanmar in late nineties with a purpose to share experience, develop common understanding and coordinate among various UN agencies. In the year 2001 INGOs and bilateral agencies were also included in the group. Since its existence WTG and sub-groups were working quite well. However it was realized that the existence/functioning of the group had never been documented, i.e. no written document existed regarding the goals, objectives, membership, ways of working, etc. In this context ACF proposed to organize a **Special Watsan Group Meeting** to launch this documentation exercise. It was also proposed to get the service of a short term consultant to help facilitate a meeting to achieve proper documentation of the WTG goal and objectives. The WTG meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> September decided to have Special Watsan Group Meeting to work out a TOR for the consultant and the responsibility to facilitate the meeting was given to the Integrated Community Development Project (ICDP) of UNDP. Integrated Community Development Project (ICDP) organized a Special Meeting of WTG on 21<sup>st</sup> October back to back with WTG monthly meeting identified goals, objectives, outputs and scope of work and organizational structure of the WTG and established a basis to prepare a working document. Following Cyclone Nargis, the WASH Cluster concept was introduced and activated in Union of Myanmar to coordinate the response in the Delta and Yangon Division. More WASH players became involved in the WASH sector operations. At the end of the Cyclone Nargis relief operations, it was agreed in joint WatSan Theme Group and WASH Cluster meeting for the two to merge under WASH Theme Group (WTG). The WASH Theme Group ToRs in this document therefore represent the merger.

### Management of the WTG

The members of the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Theme Group are WASH sector players representing Government and UN agencies, LNGOs, INGOs, Donors, bilateral agencies, Private Sector, individuals and any interested parties. In a meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2009 the WTG meeting selected and agreed for UNICEF to be the WTG Secretariat. On 7<sup>th</sup> July 2009 meeting the WTG elected UNICEF; Save the Children; MRCS; World Vision; Merlin; WHO; and SVS to be members of WTG Steering Committee with broad responsibilities to plan, organize, facilitate and keep record of WTG meetings and to facilitate the development and implementation of the WTG work plans as agreed by the WTG members.

### Overall Goal

To improve the quality of life of the Myanmar people by enabling country-wide water, sanitation and hygiene sector players to participate in a common forum, among others, to advocate for sector policy and best practices, share experiences, develop common understanding and strong coordination for sustainable WASH outputs including ensuring a predictable, effective, timely and coherent humanitarian response to slow or sudden disaster.

### Objectives

1. To advocate for, encourage and promote widening participation of WASH sector partners including government and build and promote stronger cross-sector/program linkages
2. To promote effective and efficient coordination and cooperation among all WASH sector stakeholders for sustainable WASH outputs; identification of priority areas, mapping of partner programme areas and activities in order to identify and address gaps.

3. To exchange experiences, and information among Government, UN agencies, LNGOs, INGOs, Donors, bilateral agencies and Private Sector
4. To play a vital role in advising and advocating for policy and promoting best practices among stakeholders
5. To strengthen the WASH sector by building the capacity of partners for effective short term and long term strategic planning and implementation as well as to serve as a coordination body during emergency.
6. To establish Technical Working Groups for the development of assessment, monitoring tools, guidelines and standards, IEC materials, and promote their application sector-wide including humanitarian disaster response
7. To establish a research and information centre and establish and produce and disseminate periodic sector Newsletter
8. To jointly advocate and participate in promotional events such as World Water Day, Hand Washing day, Global Warming, etc.
9. To improve transparency and accountability among stakeholders
10. To share evaluation and research results
11. Reduce the effect of water and hygiene related diseases
12. To review, update and improve WTG Directory.