WASH Cluster Kachin& North Shan, Myanmar

Minutes of WASH Cluster meeting - Myitkyina

**Date:** Monday, **30th March 15**

**Venue:** UNICEF

**Time:** 14:00 h – 16h15h; **Duration:** 2hour and 15 minutes

**No. of participants**– 14

Number of Agencies: 10

**Participants:**

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| **Organisation** | **Name** | **Position** | **Phone** | **Email address** |
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| HPA | Naw Lawn | Malaria Doctor |  | Nawlum2012@gmail.com |
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| Oxfam | Aye Win | WASH Coordinator |  | awin.hser@gmail.com |
| RRD | Kyaw Soe Win | Staff officer | 0936106446 | saipunkboy@gmail.com |
| KBC | La Roi | Program Coordinator | 0949582451 | brangnetnmok@gmail.com |
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| WASH Cluster | Kyaw Zin | WASH Cluster Consultant | 0936464672 | kzin@unicef.org |
| WASH cluster | Didier Boissavi | Kachin and NSS WASH cluster coordinator | 09861000 | dboissavi@unicef.org |
| WASH cluster | Sai Han Lynn Aung | WASH cluster officer | 425272778 | shlaung@unicef.org |

**Agenda:**

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| Schedule | Topics | Facilitator |
| 14h00- 14h15 | Welcome and introduction | WASH Cluster Team |
| 14h15-15h45 | Overview of desludging issues in Kachin and NSS | WASH Cluster Team |
| 15h45-16h00 | Progress of desludging pilot project in North Kachin | Oxfam |
| 16h00 -16h15 | Wrap up on desludging issues and AOB |  |

Minutes:

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| **Topic 1:** Overview of desludging issue in Kachin and NSS | |
| **Summary of discussions** | An overview of desludging issues in Kachin and NSS has been provided to the participants. The WCC reminded to the participant that desludging was a critical issue and could lead to serious community health concerns if not properly managed hence the necessity to coordinate closely with all stakeholders (RRD, DRD, Health, TDC, GAD) on this issue. Previously, due to their basic technical design, the emergency latrines in IDPs locations were not desludged but rather abandoned or decommissioned when full. These practices raise some space issues due to the low land availability and congested camps in Kachin. Besides, this continuous emergency latrines construction was raising logistical and cost issues. Then, the WASH cluster decided to move to semi-permanent latrine construction approach to address these issues.  The semi-permanent latrines are supposed to be designed with a 5 years life span but depending of the number of users, usage and technical design, they may require more frequent desludging.  Most of the desludging activities are today undertaken in coordination with the Township Development Committee and its private operator but the limited existing capacity for these activities require from the WASH humanitarian agencies to develop alternatives desludging solutions in close coordination with local WASH related authorities. Besides, the absence of proper excreta site raises some health concerns.  A TWG focusing on desludging issues has been formed in 2014 by OXFAM and participants carried out notably an assessment for desludging in Myitkyina and Waingmaw area. This assessment led to the formulation of a pilot project for desludging activities in Myitkyina area requiring approval from local authorities. |
| **Actions points** | The WASH cluster share a note on desludging issues in Kachin and NSS |

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| **Topic 2:** OXFAM Desludging Pilot project in Myitkyina | |
| **Summary of discussions** | OXFAM brief explained about their desludging pilot project in Myitkyina Area. OXFAM team already sent a letter to RRD authorities for the approval of their desludging project. RRD has suggested to undertake a field visit to better assess the road that will be used to transport the excreta and to see the land to be used for excreta disposal and its surroundings.  The excreta designed by OXFAM team enable to store about 100 latrines for one year. DRD asked to OXFAM why a bigger structure was not planned. OXFAM explained that the project size may change, depending on budget availability.  DoH stressed on the necessity to undertake Health Education such as precaution during desludging time in the camps and training to the manual workers.  RRD asked about the type of transportation trucks to be used, OXFAM explained that it is based on the assessment. Most of the camp are not accessible with a big truck. So, three wheels vehicle may be needed to ensure the excreta transportation with barrels  Following OXFAM presentation, KBC asked whether humanitarian agencies could carried out by themselves some desludging activities or only TDC was empowered to do it. RRD explained that if one organization has the appropriate technical background and funding, it can consider doing this activity under conditions that the project received approval from local authorities and follows the appropriate procedures with a no harm approach. |
| **Actions points** | * OXFAM to share the final desludging project with WASH cluster * Conduct field visit to the dispose site for sludge in Friday 3rd April 2015 7:00 Am. In this field visit, RRD, DRD, TDA, DoH, UNICEF and OXFAM will participate. * OXFAM to consolidate recommendations provided by the participants of this field assessment * RRD will coordinate with TDC to participate to this field visit |

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| AOB | |
| **Summary of discussions** | Unlike initial plan, SI team could not participate to this wash cluster meeting focusing on desludging issues due to Travel Authorization issue.  SI and KBC undertook a desludging g assessment in Bhamo that will be shared with the WASH cluster |
| **Actions points** | * The WASH cluster to share the SI desludging assessment report |