



د کليو د پياوړتيا وزارت
وزارت احيا واکشف د مات

د افغانستان اسلامي جمهوريت
جمهوری اسلامی افغانستان



Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation & Development

برنامه آبرسانی و آبیاری

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Line ministries, UN agencies
WSG members, WASH related
National and INGOs

22nd January 2012

Dear WSG members,

Sub: Final WSG Term of Reference(ToR); For Your Future Actions and Follow up

On behalf of MRRD I would like to thank you all for your contribution in the WASH sector and your regular participation in the Water Sanitation Group meetings (WSG). This close coordination has effectively contributed to better service delivery, by improving the livelihoods of the most poor and vulnerable people in the rural communities of Afghanistan.

I have pleasure in sharing with you the final version of WSG ToR which has been developed with the WSG members. I hope the ToR will further ensure better coordination, information sharing and policy implementation, as the key objectives of WSG forum.

I look forward to the successful implementation of WASH activities and related interventions to make life of rural communities better, healthier and will enhance their productivity and well being.

Once again I would like to thank you for your cooperation and collaboration with MRRD in the development of this ToR.

Sincerely yours,

Jarullah Mansoori
Minister of MRRD

WSG TERMS OF REFERENCE

INTRODUCTION

The Water and Sanitation Sector Group (WSG) was formed in Pakistan by a number of organizations like UNICEF, WHO, UNHCR and Internal NGOs in 2000 and UNICEF was the chair. UNICEF supported the group with many consultancies (a number of documents were produced and incorporated in the Implementation Manuals) and practical advice. The WSG was moved to Afghanistan once the situation was stable enough for all concerned to move to Kabul. In 2004 the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) RuWatSan (currently renamed as Rural Water Supply, Sanitation and Irrigation Programme RuWatSIP) became the chair and UNICEF became one of the participating members.

At present there is the need to make the groups more visible and having a clear identity, as there are many other institutions and groups formed. The donors and others have difficulty in understanding the set-up of the various water related meetings and this document will clarify to address all the existing concerns.

The WASH cluster was started in Afghanistan during 2008 and many organizations participating in the WSG meeting are also participating in the WASH cluster meeting. The WASH cluster is a set-up that is global and started by UN in response and preparedness to the emergency situation in WASH sector. UNICEF chairs the WASH cluster in this case and MRRD as the member, while MRRD chairs the WSG and deals with government level interventions in the normal situation.

RATIONALE

Many stakeholders are working in the rural areas and trying to reach out to the impoverished communities to help them have access to safe drinking water and improve sanitation practices through hygiene education promotion and education within those communities. The recently launched Rural WASH policy 2010 has all the elements to support the activities by the many organizations.

To ensure that the activities of the various actors do follow certain standards and approaches without undermining the activities of the others in the same field of work, coordination is required and exchange of experiences and the latest approaches that are documented to work well in Afghanistan.

The needs to have one type of pump so that the spares are easy available, standards are known and accessible require a method of dissemination. The Rural WASH Policy and the WSG Implementation Manual prepared with the support of all members in the WSG ensures that the standards are known and further changes can be discussed rationale and cross board.

OBJECTIVES

The main WSG Objectives are:

- To raise awareness for good hygiene practices,
- Coordinate water and sanitation initiatives,
- Propose national standards and norms for water and sanitation and hygiene
- Enhance Institutional capacity building at all levels
- ensure implementation of all activates in line with National WASH policy documents
- Help to develop all key sector documents including policies, manuals, and guidelines
- observe Integration of risk reduction and environmental and water resource protection into the water supply and sanitation projects
- Enhancement of merging of technical (technology, terrain characteristics, and existing water sources) and social (ownership, equity) factors into the projects.
- To assist the sector through capacitating local authorities and communities, move from central towards decentralization approach through mobilization, workshop and other training programmes.
- Observing WASH policy from planning down to implementation.
- Formulate and implement sound exit strategy to ensure sustainability through creating community-based operation and maintenance system

PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION

Members

Three Government Ministries: MRRD, MoPH and MoE

UN organisations like UNICEF, UNHCR and WHO.

INGOs and NGOs active in the rural water sector.

Meetings

The WSG meets monthly in Kabul. WSG meeting takes place every last Wednesday of the month in MRRD/ RuWatSID, normally held in the conference room of MRRD on Dar-ul-Aman road, Kabul.

The WSG consists of three sub technical working groups .The Technical working groups meet prior to the WSG meeting and report the main points in the WSG meeting. The aforementioned forum has the below sub technical working groups. The WASH cluster usually deals with emergency Preparedness and response, while the WSG technical working groups members are involved with the normal development activities. WASH NGOs as the members of WSG are the front line entities responsible to develop risk reduction infrastructures including retention walls and protection walls and other disaster resistant water supply infrastructures in the rural areas.

1. **The Water Technical Working Group (WTWG)** focusing on overall technical issues related to water for instance water quality issues, water points designs, technology options etc. The guidelines technical specifications, manuals are produced by the members of this group, which is later approved by WSG. The technical working group is also responsible to provide input and recommendation for policy direction related to programs and associated issues of drinking water in the country. The water supply technical working groups is a good platform for sharing technical issues related to water supply project implementation, learnt lesson from project execution and implementation with sharing experiences from the neighbouring countries and abroad. The group is also responsible to oversee overall implementation of water quality sub-sector, plan and coordinate activities on established mechanisms with partners and monitor achievement of related water sector indicators through out the country and take decisions regarding implementation of technical guidelines and standards. In addition to all above the group is also responsible to provide recommendation on all technical issues related to drinking water in the country to WSG members and WASH partners in the country. Further to this, the water technical working group members are also responsible to provide information related to their WASH projects and activities and all installed water points to be included in WSG data base run by MRRD.

DACAAR is chairing the water supply technical working, which take place once a month before each WSG meeting. Water Supply Technical Working Group report to WSG on the given tasks and action pointes to be followed by the active members of water supply group.

2. **The Hygiene Technical Working Group (HTWG)** are developing guidelines, strategies of hygiene, key messages and IEC materials for hygiene education in collaboration with Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) in the country. HTWG members are also responsible for planning and organization the hygiene campaigns through out the country at communities, schools and health care facilities. The sub committee provide technical support for effective scaling hygiene education at the national level in liaison with Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) and other agencies working for the hygiene and health promotion in the country. The Hygiene technical working is also responsible to monitor behavioural changes at the national level at house holds levels, schools and health care facilities and prepare, strategies, manuals and guidelines for better implementation of hygiene programmes with training and capacity building to human resources as the Community Health Supervisor (CHS) and community Health Works (CHW) and Community development Councils (CDCs) for better triggering behavioural change and hygiene practices at the community level. HTWG members are also involved in preparation of global hand washing campaign for triggering behavioural change at the national level. The group is also responsible to prepare practical implementation manual for Community Led Total Sanitation in order to maximize health benefits and reduce incidence of diarrhoeal disease through this approach to ensuring Open Defection Free environment in the country. MRRD chairs HTWG, which take place once a month before each WSG meeting. HTWG report to WSG about the progress and assigned tasks to WSG members.

3. **The Sanitation Technical Working Group (STWG)**, provide technical expertise in Sanitation sector, provide: technical consultation, specifications, designs for normal situations and emergency period. The STWG also Promote dialogue and collaborations on the different sanitation options considered for the rural settlement among different organizations and members. The group provide recommendations for endorsement of the technical guidelines and Key sanitation documents for enhancing sanitation coverage in the country and Identify emerging problems and recommend solutions to Sanitation stakeholders in the country. The group members are responsible to share new experiences and learnt lessons related to sanitation sector and discuss major constraints and key sanitation policy issues and report on all related issues to WSG members. The group is also the best forum for sharing global experience, learnt lessons and adopting new technological option according to the Afghanistan context. At last but not least STWG advocate CLTS approaches all over the country.

The members of the technical groups are line governmental ministries, UN agencies, national and International NGOs and donor communities. The members of the Sanitation Working Groups meet once a month to discuss all emerging issues in the sector and report to WSG members about their achievements and assigned tasks.