**WASH Assessment Strategy 2018 – Cox’s Bazar (internal document)**

**Rich Assessment Ecosystem**

Six months down the crisis, the assessment ecosystem is flourishing in Cox’s Bazar. Number factors contribute to that, including a) many active actors, b) abundant financial resources, c) strong human capacities, both international and national, d) easy logistic and security access, e) small and circumscribed affected area (i.e. the camps and surrounding host communities).

The [assessment registry / SoS](https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/bangladesh/assessment/assessment-registry-survey-survey-2-december-2017) managed by ISCG – although not exhaustive, gives a good idea of how rich and multidimensional the data stream is. This includes:

* Comprehensive sectorial assessments both ad hoc and regular
* Comprehensive multi-sectorial assessments both ad hoc and regular
* Small-scale unilateral partners’ assessments

(If assessments proliferate, they are unfortunately poorly coordinated, due to the lack of a functioning assessment working group that should be established asap, both for regular activities and the extraordinary work that will be needed during the rainy season).

**Focusing on Key Initiatives**

If this data flow rate is certainly a welcomed news, the limited (though substantial: currently 1 fully dedicated 1 national IMO and 1 GWC IMO) capacity in terms of information management requires the WASH Sector to focus on a limited number of data streams. The advice is therefore to focus on the following series of regular existing data collection initiatives:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Agency** | **Type** | **Name** | **Meth** | **Coverage** | **Frequency** | **Sector** |
| ISCG | RNA | Rapid Joint Needs Assessment | KI | All camps | Ad hoc / one-off | Multi – with WASH |
| IOM | MSNA | Needs and Population Monitoring | KI | All camps | Monthly basis | Multi – with WASH |
| UNHCR | MSNA | Site Profiling | HH | Half camps | Bi-monthly basis | Multi – with WASH |
| UNICEF | SECT | WASH Baseline Assessment | HH | All camps | Two rounds (Apr/Jun) | WASH specific |
| UNICEF | INFR | Infrastructure Monitoring | Census | All camps | Two rounds | WASH heavy |
| Various | Various | EPI/SMART/Water testing | Various | All camps | Regular | WASH/Health/Nut |

The rainy/cyclone season – as well as the HNO process, are getting closer and there is the need for a phased-approach in regards to those assessment activities. Below is a suggestion how to approach them over time, which may help informing humanitarian planning over the next 6/8 months.

**1) Dry season: baseline and preparedness**

Focus on three main assessment initiatives: UNICEF WASH Baseline, Sector Infrastructure Monitoring and UNHCR Multi-Sector Needs Assessment that should be used as a dry season baseline – both for needs/vulnerabilities and infrastructure, while ad-hoc risk GIS outputs should be used to inform preparedness actions.

* **UNICEF/REACH WASH Sectorial Assessment – round one (April)**

*Typology*: Comprehensive, full-coverage, sectorial HH-level (95/10) WASH assessment funded by UNICEF and implemented by REACH. The assessment is based on UNICEF HH tool developed by the M&E section and includes most of the core indicators.

*Timeline***:** data collection by mid-April, data cleaning 3rd week of April, analysis from end of April

*Outputs* to disseminate: dataset, preliminary finding presentation, one factsheet per camp, final report.

*Risks***:** timeline is tight as rain starts mid-April - there have been noticeable delays in implementation but REACH is working on it and ready to start data collection by the end of March. In additional UNICEF seems to have little understanding about its role as CLA concerning assessment activities and have a strong development/academic approach that is not always appropriate for an emergency context. Worst case scenario: data collection is completed after the rain starts, but before heavy rains – and data can be used only as a pre-heavy rain baseline, instead of dry baseline.

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* **UNHCR/REACH Multi-Sector Needs Assessment**

*Typology*: Multi-sector HH-level (95/10) needs assessment funded by UNHCR and implemented by REACH. Coverage is substantial though partial: the exercise covers only UNHCR camps (50% of the total) every two month, 25% the first, 25% the second. The assessment has been fully harmonized with core indicators (9 out of 10 are in same questions/same reply options).

*Timeline*: data collection by the 15 of each month, data cleaning 3rd week of the month, analysis by the end of the month

*Outputs* to disseminate: dataset, one factsheet a camp

*Risks***:** UNHCR has been very conservative in terms of data sharing. The Sector has recently engaged with UNHCR that gave the greenlight for sharing of dataset and information products that can be then shared with partners, but the process needs to be formalized.

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* **UNICEF/REACH Infrastructure Monitoring**

*Typology*: WASH (and other) infrastructure monitoring based on a full-coverage census implemented monthly, focusing mostly on number and functionality of infrastructure. The assessment has been harmonized with core indicators (water sources, issues with latrines, etc.) and went through a comprehensive review process ([see here for more details](https://www.dropbox.com/s/pirx3181acuc20v/GWC_BGD_Advise_Workshop_20180320_Recommendations.pptx?dl=0)).

*Timeline*: data collection by the end of each month, data cleaning 1rd week of the month, analysis by the second week of the month

*Outputs* to disseminate: dataset, one factsheet and map a camp every month, Latrine to Water Point Vicinity – every three month. Additional (not for external dissemination) outputs: overview table (monthly), trend analysis (quarterly).

*Risks***:** the system has experienced disruptions in the past, but recently the process has been streamlined and delay zeroed – still it is an extremely heavy and delicate system.

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* **REACH Risk Mapping**

*Typology*: In order to support preparedness efforts REACH is producing the following sets of maps: a) Potential emergency shelters, b) Potential hazard impact on handpumps/tubewells, c) Potential hazard impact on latrines, that may support the Sector informing preparedness (prepositioning, decommissioning, etc.).

*Timeline*: REACH to produce preliminary maps on Kutupalong camps by 23 March and do an updated version by mid-April pending hazard data release by UNHCR.

*Outputs* to disseminate: three maps per camp (as mentioned above).

*Risks***:** UNHCR not releasing hazard data on time.

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**2) Rainy season: rapid needs assessment and needs monitoring**

**2A) Rainy season rapid assessments**

Instead of developing its own rapid assessment system the Sector should rely on existing/upbuilding multi-sectoral systems in order to avoid duplication, rationalize resources and reach a broader coverage. The two main initiatives are the ISCG Joint Needs Assessment (JNA) and IOM Needs and Population Monitoring (NPM).

* **ISCG Joint Needs Assessment**

*Typology*: Standard initial needs assessment. The system relies on remote KI interview with Site Management focal points and Camp in Charge. The unit of measurement will be the camp, but it will be possible to zoom-in in specific affected areas within camps. The WASH section has been aligned with the Sector’s core indicators.

*Timeline*: Within first 72 hours after a shock.

*Outputs:* not clear yet – but presumably dataset and standard OCHA-like first products.

*Risks***:** Serious risks both in terms of likelihood and impact. The system is still under construction and the design has different weaknesses: a) the JNA does not articulate links with a broader rapid assessment system (SDR, GIS/spatial modeling analysis, second stage assessments, etc.); b) lacks clear TOR/SOP, contingency plans (what happen if the telephone line is down, for instance). All those issues have been raised by Augusto to ISGC and hope some will be addressed. Plus, the question is whether the ISCG has enough capacity for data collection, analysis and output production to ensure a quick turnout.

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* **Needs and Population Monitoring (NPM)**

*Typology*: Standard NMP regular assessment with KI interviews at sub-camp level (Maji blocks) and direct observation. Given the wealth of HH data, the advice is not to use NPM for needs monitoring, rather as a sort of MIRA – as the JNA system currently does not include a Phase 2 more in-depth assessment after the first 72 hours. The WASH section has been further aligned with the Sector’s core indicators.

*Timeline*: hopefully two/three weeks after as shock / on a monthly basis.

*Outputs:* dataset, report and dashboard on a monthly basis.

*Risks***:** The system has been in place for a while now and should be well oiled, but NPM may not be able to respect the normal timeline if access is seriously hampered by floods/landslides/etc. Advocacy point to be brought up at the inter-sectoral level: push for a lighter version of NPM with a shorter tool and clusters of Maji blocks (instead of the blocks themselves) as unit of measure.

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**2B) Rainy season needs monitoring and early warning**

The sector should compare data collected by assessment initiatives before the rainy season with data collected by those same assessment initiatives during the rainy season, to track potential deterioration of the situation and do effective need monitoring. In addition, the Sector should regularly monitor the epi situation to anticipate/quickly react to potential epi outbreaks that are more likely during the rainy season. All this data should also be used to inform the HNO or its potential revision.

* **UNHCR/REACH Multi-Sector Needs Assessment**

*See above for typology, timeline, outputs and contacts*.

*Risks***:** Delays due to difficult access/movement in the camps by enumerators.

* **UNICEF/REACH WASH Sectorial Assessment – round two (June)**

*See above for typology, timeline, outputs and contacts*.

*Risks***:** Delays due to difficult access/movement in the camps by enumerators.

* **WHO Early Warning, Alert and Response System**

*Typology*: EWA based on the Morbidity and Mortality Daily Reporting Surveillance Form (plus nutrition) – reported daily to Health information and coordination hub set up jointly by WHO and the Ministry of Health. The Health sector has already committed to timely alert the WASH sector in case of an epi outbreak and share data to inform extraordinary WASH interventions.

*Timeline*: ongoing.

*Outputs:* ad-hoc alerts to the WASH sector plus standard monthly/bi-monthly Health Sector Bulletins.

*Risks***:** not identified.

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* **SMART Nutrition Assessment**

*Typology*: Standard SMART survey. The last assessment was done in October 2017 – so I expect a new round soon, unfortunately I have not managed to get information on that – the Sector should follow up on this point and make sure it receives updates from Nutrition.

*Timeline*: in the next six month (tbc)

*Outputs:* dataset and report.

*Risks***:** not identified.

*Contacts*: not identified.

* **UNICEF/WHO Water testing**

*Typology*: UNICEF and WHO have started water testing both at source and household level. WHO has already implemented four rounds and UNICEF has just started, but the harmonization of the two system is still pending.

*Timeline*: ongoing (tbc)

*Outputs:* dataset and presentation (tbc).

*Risks***:** not identified.

*Contacts*: not identified.

**3) Rainy season: end line**

Ideally, the sector should be able to rely on a comprehensive WASH specific end-line with full coverage, to properly close the rain season. It would allow identify both the geographic areas that require further assistance, as well as mid-term/structural activities that would help strengthening resilience in a season – the dry one, that is likely to be less busy, if there are no new displacement spikes.

It now too early to plan for such assessment activities, however this should be kept in mind.