**WASH Cluster Strategic Operational Framework (SOF) – Development Process**

In an inter-dependent humanitarian world, strategic approaches consolidated among agencies allow multiple agencies with diverse mandates to achieve goals collectively that could not be achieved by individual partners alone. Clusters are the expression of that collective realization and aim to provide the “enabling environment” that allows diversity to strengthen both the effectiveness and efficiency of aid delivery.

The WASH Strategic Operational Framework (SOF) is a compilation of WASH response strategy and implementation modalities. It is a document specific to the WASH sector, and not a formal OCHA requirement. It complements the WASH Operational Response Plan from the current Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), by providing details about operational ways of working, on how the WASH response should be planned, implemented, monitored and evaluated. The SOF remains a living document that should be updated regularly, at intervals determined by the partners and in light of changing contexts to the operating environment.

As a framework, the SOF is flexible enough to allow Cluster partners to develop their own approaches according to their own mandates, capabilities, capacities, and comparative advantages.

Ownership of the SOF by the Cluster partners is key if its recommendations and guidance are to be followed. It is important therefore that the Cluster partners and the Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) are involved in the development of the SOF to ensure the process is transparent and final document well accepted.

The below SOF Development Process Action Plan indicates the steps and actions to be taken, by whom and in what timeframes.

All partners will have the opportunity to input into the chapters/sections that make up the SOF, either suggesting new sections or highlighting sections that may not be relevant to the NW Syria context. A SOF Task Force will support in the development of the Chapters (the group will be split to focus on specific chapters that fit with their technical knowledge and areas of speciality). The WASH Cluster Team will compile and draft the SOF before submitting to the NW Syria WASH Cluster SAG for review and subsequent endorsement.

**SOF Development Process Action Plan**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Actions** | **Who** | **Start**  | **End** | **Status** |
| Introduce the SOF process | WASH Cluster Team | 29/09 | 30/10 |  Done |
| Establish a SOF Task Force of 12 organisations | WASH Cluster Team | 30/09 | 7/10 |   |
| Share and receive SAG feedback on SOF draft chapters and sections | WASH Cluster Team and SAG | 1/10 | 4/10 |   |
| Share and receive Partner feedback on SOF draft chapters and sections | WASH Cluster partners | 4/10 | 7/10 |   |
| Final SAG review of chapters and sections | WASH Cluster Team and SAG | 8/10 | 11/10 |  |
| Review existing SOF support materials (e.g. HRP, previous SOFs, Contingency Plans, agency documents | All SOF Task Force |  7/10 |  10/10 |   |
| Sub-Task force to provide supporting documentation and inputs to: |   |   |   |   |
| 1. WASH Cluster Principles of Operation
 | SOF Task Force sub group | 11/10 | 21/10 |   |
| 1. WASH Cluster Strategy
 | SOF Task Force sub group | 11/10 | 21/10 |   |
| 1. WASH Standards and Harmonised Approaches
 | SOF Task Force sub group | 11/10 | 21/10 |   |
| 1. Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning
 | SOF Task Force sub group | 11/10 | 21/10 |   |
| Draft SOF | WASH Cluster Team | 21/10 | 31/10 |   |
| SOF review and endorsement by SAG | SAG | 1/11 | 8/11 |   |
| Finalisation of SOF with presentation to Cluster | WASH Cluster Team | 9/11 | Nov Cluster Meeting |   |
| Disseminate SOF to stakeholders | WASH Cluster Team | After Cluster Meeting |   |