BRIEFING SHEET

USING QR Codes with WASH Cluster publications and tools

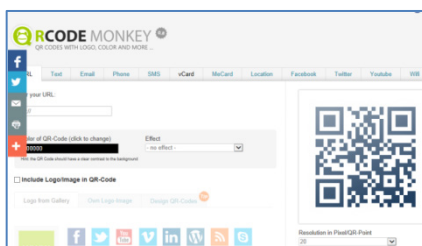A QR "Quick Response" code is a two-dimensional code.

The widespread use of QR codes became possible with the smartphone boom and the increasing spread of mobile internet. There is a potential to use QR codes more and more during emergencies.

- QR codes can be used to create links to business cards, web addresses, assessment templates, contacts, calendars, dashboards, bulletins, name badges, photographs, WIFI networks, phone numbers, SMS, emails etc.
- A page of QR codes (see Toolkit) can be shared to partners will instant links to WASH assessments, maps, contacts, tools and reports.

A QR code is free to generate and free for the end user to use (with smartphone). Even if there is no internet connectivity, a QR code can be scanned and de-coded at a later time.

Create a QR Code

A QR Code can be created on a computer or device (tablet, phone). There are many apps in the App Store (Apple devices), Google Play (Android) and Appworld (Blackberry) to create QR codes.

As an example we use QR Code Monkey[1]

[1] http://www.qrcode-monkey.com/

1. Open QR Code Monkey and link to the type of code you would like to create (URL, text, email, phone, SMS, vCard etc). Most QR Codes will be a link to something that exists already on the web – e.g. a link to Dropbox where WASH assessments are stored.
2. Add the URL and change the colour to represent the WASH logo colour (#009999).
3. To include the WASH Cluster logo, tick the box to include logo/image in the QR Code and upload from the logo folder in the WASH IM Toolkit.
4. Create the QR Code and download as a .png

Read a QR Code

1. Download an appropriate QR Code (e.g. QR Droid – http://bit.ly/1cT8KLu) reader for your smartphone (see QR Code tools in Toolkit)
2. Open the app and scan the QR Code. The Code will automatically take you to the link.

EXAMPLE - DOH Philippines WASH Assessment Tools

TIPS

If you want to link a QR Code directly to a map (so that the map automatically opens when the end-user scans the code), you need to upload the map to an operational website, retrieve the map link, create a QR Code with this new link, add code to original map and reload the map.