

Minutes of meeting Working Group on WASH and Climate Change

Stockholm, Thursday 20 August 2009

Present: Oliver Cumming (WaterAid), Mari Williams (Tearfund), Apollos Nwafor (WaterAid), Tatiana Fedotova (WSSCC), Paul Edwards (UNICEF), Nelson Ekane, (SEI), Åse Johannessen (IWA), Emma Rose (IWA), Thuy Mai (IWA), Paulo Piza Teixeira (PAHO/WHO), Carlos Rosito (AIDIS – Inter-American Assoc. San. Env. Eng.), Charles Batchelor (IRC), Carolien van Der Voorden (WSSCC), Stef Smits (IRC & Working Group Secretary).

Absent: Paul van Koppen (NWP), Michael van der Valk (CPWC)

Main Points	Actions
<p>Agenda Item 1: Background to the working group and introduction to potentially-interested members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stef outlined the reasons for forming the working group, progress to date and the objectives of the working group (e.g. to act as a think tank and a platform for developing advocacy messages, sharing relevant knowledge on WASH and climate change etc). - Carolien mentioned that the working group may be temporary or it may evolve into a more enduring working group (e.g. a community of practice). WSSCC supports various groups and these all take their own dynamics. - It was agreed during previous meetings that focus of the working group would be on issues of common interest and that the scope would encompass all the components of WASH and both rural and urban WASH but with a particular emphasis on WASH service delivery for the poor and marginalized. - Finally, it was agreed that the focus of the working group is very much on climate change adaptation and not mitigation. 	
<p>Agenda Item 2: Presentation of the note on the functioning and establishment of the group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Over the last months, a concept note has been drafted, outlining both the scope as well as basics principles for the organization of the group. This was presented by Stef. He mentioned that it has been agreed that membership of the group is open to anyone (or any organisation) with an interest in WASH and adaptation, and subscribes to the specific focus and principles of the group. However, he also mentioned that it may be that there may be different types of members (e.g. core members and members who “dip in and out” of the group). For now, no conclusive decision was made on the issue. Rather, we leave it open in the concept note, and we can take it up as the group evolves. - Ase raised the issue of whether or not the group should have a logo. Carolien mentioned that some working groups have logos others don't. It was noted also that having a logo (and a brand) can be useful for advocacy purposes. For now, it was agreed to first focus on some of the activities, before developing a 	

<p>group image.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At this point in the meeting, Carlos apologised for having to leave. He stated that he will consult with his member but he anticipates that AIDIS will definitely have an interest in the working group. 	
<p>Agenda Item 3: Identification of activities for the coming year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The meeting then started to discuss the main activities for the coming year. In this, emphasis was placed on the one hand on the functions of “acting as platform for sharing information and knowledge” and the “advocacy”. - First, it was discussed who would be the target groups for both activities. Although boundaries are not always easy to draw, the first group of activities (knowledge sharing) is geared to WASH professionals and practitioners, whereas advocacy would be geared towards policy makers from the WASH sector, and the climate change for a as well (e.g. COP 15). - Paul made the point that group members already produce a lot of advocacy material and that climate change advocacy should be included in this material (i.e. a constituent part) rather than being completely separate. - Paul also suggested that it would be very helpful to have a clear statement on how climate change might affect WASH service delivery. This prompted a discussion on preparation of a “101” report on WASH and climate change adaptation. The objective of this document would be to provide practitioners with a primer, of first entry into climate change adaptation in the sector, with references to further resource material. - A discussion followed on what this 101 document might look like. The consensus was that it should not be too conceptual, “verbose” or dense. Instead it should be an easily-accessible primer or guide. Oliver mentioned that, in his experience, it is not easy to produce a guide on climate change that is easy to understand. It could take a similar form as the “Scaling Up Framework” document produced by a similar working group on this topic. A literature review may be needed as a first step towards producing such a document. - Paulo suggested that the working group could assemble a toolbox of good practices relevant to climate change adaptation. The role of the group being to select and peer review these practices. The argument being that there is a lot of “unsorted” information on the web – some of it of questionable quality. Ase and others supported this suggestion. - Discussion then turned towards the producing of advocacy material. Oliver suggested that there is need for a document that puts WASH firmly into the ongoing climate change discourse. The reason being that, at the moment, WASH seems to have a relatively low priority. Carolien suggested that the group needs some kind of manifesto that presents clear messages that can be picked up by advocacy groups. - In terms of doing the actual advocacy, Ase suggested that the group might need a professional lobbyist to influence the current discourse. Nelson mentioned 	

<p>that working with or through SUSANA (www.susana.org) is one way of ensuring effective advocacy at the COP, GPPN or UNFCCC level. Stef suggested that the, as far as advocacy is concerned the working group should not get directly involved in COP-level advocacy but stick to its “comfort zone” (e.g. working the Global Framework for Action rather than directly the COP process), and so to influence the influencers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Looking back at these activities, a consensus was reached that the group should prioritize the production of the manifesto (two pages in length, and nicely designed) and a 101 document that will be quite a bit longer (maybe 40 “not-too-dense” pages). The consensus was that a literature review was needed before either of these documents are drafted. - Discussions then focused on how these documents could be produced. Carolien mentioned that the WSSCC could make \$10-15k available to the group to support a range of relevant activities over a year. This could used to contract someone to take on this task. Rather than contract out these tasks, Stef suggested that it would better if group members do the work. Stef also mentioned that he, Charles and others at IRC are currently working on a Thematic Overview Paper (TOP) on “Practical adaptation to climate change as part of WASH services delivery”. Preparation of this TOP includes reviewing recent literature. In addition, Oliver mentioned that WaterAid is working on two climate change reports (on WASH and WRM). As part of this work (with ODI and the British Geological Survey) a bibliography is being put together. Based, on this work, they could have a first go at the 101 document. This can then be developed further at a next meeting. - For the manifesto, Mari agreed to circulate the submission made to the UNFCCC as the starting point for a manifesto. It was agreed that this could be produced in time for the Africa Water Week 	<p>Oliver, Charles and Stef to consolidate a literature and to produce the 101 report outline and share it with the group</p> <p>Mari to draft the manifesto</p>
<p>Agenda Item 4: Discussion on the coordinator’s function and roles and responsibilities of members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As time was running short, this item was discussed very quickly. Stef stated that he has been acting as the group secretary as interim. However, Marloes (from CPWC) expressed interest in taking over this role when she is back from maternity leave. Carolien proposed that this be discussed with Marloes because there could be merit in Stef continuing in this role for a bit longer. 	<p>Stef, Carolien and Marloes to discuss when it would be best for Stef to hand over his coordinator responsibilities.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 5: Discussion on the funding of the Group’s activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This item was not discussed separately but some discussion on funding took place under item 3. In view of the funds available from WSSCC and the types of activities planned, there may not be a need now to actively look for additional funds. 	
<p>Agenda Item 6: Next steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stef announced that planning of the meetings of the group are likely to be fairly <i>ad hoc</i> but the next meeting could take place during Africa Water Week. 	<p>Stef to propose options for a date for a next meeting.</p>

<p>Or, otherwise, it would be good to organize something once the 101 document and manifesto are further developed. The focus of such a meeting would be to get a common understanding on the elements of both documents. The secretary will take the lead in proposing a new date.</p>	
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