

WASH ROAD MAP

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

The high-level meeting with 15 Emergency Directors of organizations active in humanitarian WASH, during the twenty-fourth Global WASH Cluster meeting, held in June 2019, made several recommendations.

Recommendation #1: Reposition WASH as a core sector for survival and protection. *Get our fundamentals right!*

- The WASH response must be prioritized using a public health risk-based approach (considering epidemiological data).
- Consistently advocate internally and externally at the global and national levels for better linkage of the health, nutrition, shelter and other sectors with the WASH sector.

Recommendation #2: Quality WASH responses should be timely and efficient and reach the most inaccessible and difficult places. *Get our capacity right!*

- In agencies: Expand and strengthen core WASH technical, managerial and coordination capacity. Invest in establishing rapid deployment capacity, maintaining or expanding generic and flexible surge WASH teams; and expand WASH rosters (including with the private sector) to ensure a minimum level of predictable global WASH response.
- For the WASH sector: Launch capacity-building initiatives to reliably and predictably strengthen leadership and coordination, decision-making, strategic planning and WASH services, especially in challenging contexts; and further, develop the capacity of WASH coordination mechanisms to rapidly support operations in difficult environments.

Recommendation #3: WASH responses are predictable and effective when robust protocols are in place. *Give priority to preparedness and surge at all levels for WASH and keep it simple!*

- Systematically develop and test risk-based preparedness/contingency plans (wherever possible aligned with governmental plans) and surge capacity. • Foster strategic partnerships with local organizations and the private sector.
- Constantly advocate mobilizing funding for preparedness from governments and donors.

Recommendation #4: The predictability of the WASH response depends on the timeliness and flexibility of financial resources. *Bridging between development financing and humanitarian response!*

- Continue to advocate to get multi-year funding for the humanitarian (WASH) response and coordination as well as more flexible funding from donor agencies requesting them to stop distinguishing between emergency and development for fragile States, using financing on preparedness.
- Work on new financing models for the humanitarian WASH response, allowing development of a phasing approach to address sustainability and quality concerns.

- In partnership with financial development institutions and global development platforms, hold a global pledging conference on emergency WASH funding (linked to SDGs and fragile States funding mechanisms and to attract and recommit new and existing donors and partners towards WASH emergency response).

Recommendation #5: Build synergies between acute humanitarian situations, protracted contexts and development. *Initiate a paradigm shift in the way of working in the WASH sector!*

- Strengthen partnerships: Encourage dialogue between the WASH humanitarian and development global coordination platforms (e.g. SWA – GWC) and boost the development of humanitarian, development and private sector alliances.
- Ensure a sustainable impact from the beginning and ensure the risk of negative effects is reduced (environment, social and economic).