

# Faecal Sludge Management Working Group

## Terms of Reference

### **Background**

As described in the Global WASH Cluster (GWC) Strategic Plan 2016-2020, the GWC's vision is that increased coordination and response quality and capacity of national WASH coordination platforms will result in the improved relevance, quality, coverage and effectiveness of WASH assistance provided to people affected by emergencies.

This was translated into four Strategic Objectives, which were reaffirmed in the Revised GWC Strategic Plan for 2018-2020:

SO 1: Provide timely operational support to national and sub-national humanitarian WASH coordination platforms to meet the TA 6+1 core functions and improve Humanitarian WASH service delivery;

SO 2: Ensure that key WASH stakeholders (sub-national, national and global) have the capacity to coordinate and deliver an appropriate and timely response in emergency;

SO 3: Influence and advocate for an effective humanitarian WASH coordination response and funding;

SO 4: Provide to the Humanitarian WASH actors a timely access to appropriate and accurate knowledge on coordination and response.

The creation of the TWiG is in line with these Strategic Objectives, and with the GWC commitment to enhance coordination.

### **Key considerations**

Following recent discussions with WASH partners, several gaps and needs were identified in the FSM response to crisis. The GWC identified a need for a 5-year plan to improve faecal sludge management, for a better knowledge management and knowledge sharing, and for a stronger technical support for on-going and new emergencies. Several pillars have to be developed to achieve these goals: knowledge management, capacity building, technical expertise and research & innovation.

The FSM TWiG will aim at strengthening the WASH sector and WASH cluster members' on faecal sludge management to better respond to FSM needs in on-going and future crisis. It will deal with the whole sanitation chain and include containment, desludging, transport, treatment and disposal of sludge.

## **Objectives**

The main objectives of the TWiG are:

- Objective 1: Build knowledge on FSM from past and on-going crisis (through field visits, online trainings, trainings in institutes, etc.);
- Objective 2: Develop standards on FSM for humanitarian responses (through field testing, health and environmental impacts studies, etc.);
- Objective 3: Coordinate the WASH Cluster partners' projects related to FSM (by sharing updates on implementation, lessons learnt, etc. through newsletters or webinars);
- Objective 4: Assist the GWC in sharing tools and good practices, by developing its website as a knowledge hub on FSM (through the OCTOPUS platform, the e-compendium website, etc.)

In addition, the TWiG will also work towards a long-term strategy for FSM, towards better involving the private sector, developing a roster of FSM humanitarian practitioners, promoting preparedness and contingency planning for future crises, creating knowledge through research (on reuse of sludge outputs, emergency sludge treatment kits, etc.) and promoting the involvement and handover to governments.

## **Membership**

As one of its Strategic Principles, the GWC wish to work in partnership with all WASH actors - government, local NGOs, INGOs, development NGOs, academia, private sector - to find solutions to issues arising in a response.

However the TWiG members will come from the various organizations who are already GWC member and involved in larger scale decentralized faecal sludge treatment, such as SI, Oxfam, IFRC, the German WASH Network, Borda, UNHCR, Gates Foundation, SDC, Eawag, Tufts, IOM, ICRC, MSF and Waste ; other members such as private sector operators can be later added as seen relevant. It will be co-lead by SI and Oxfam.

The final composition of the TWiG will be reviewed and agreed by the Strategic Advisory Group (SAG).

## **Duration**

The TWiG members commit to participation on a yearly basis.

The detailed objectives and corresponding work plan are to be designed for a yearly period, after which the plan should be revised and updated as needed.

After one year, the SAG will review the TWiG for progress against the work plan, to measure achievements and review the need for continuation.

## **Work Modalities**

TWiG meetings will ideally occur on a monthly basis or ad hoc in case of specific issues.

The first meeting will be held in Stockholm during the World Water Week (last week of August – exact date to be confirmed), with a representative of each member organization present. The agenda will include the definition of the detailed objectives and work plan for the first year of the TWiG and the review of the OCTOPUS platform and its objectives.

The following meetings will be held virtually and minuted by members on a rotating basis. Meetings should be done in-person at least twice a year.

Members commit to meet the TWiG responsibilities and outputs and to provide feedback on documents and emails exchanges as and when required, to actively and consistently participate in meetings/teleconferences and to provide timely contributions to TWiG work plan/ outputs, and to demonstrate a commitment to the TWiG by contributing to activities.