



2020 MID-YEAR REPORT

Global WASH Cluster

August 2020

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AAP	ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED POPULATIONS
ACF	ACTION CONTRE LA FAIM
CALP	CASH AND LEARNING PARTNERSHIP
CAST	CLUSTER ADVOCACY AND SUPPORT TEAM
CLA	CLUSTER LEAD AGENCY
CRS	CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES
DRC	DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO
DSS	DUTCH SURGE SUPPORT
ELHRA	ENHANCED LEARNING AND RESEARCH FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE
FST	FIELD SUPPORT TEAM
FSM	FAECAL SLUDGE MANAGEMENT
GTO	GERMAN TOILET ORGANIZATION
GWC	GLOBAL WASH CLUSTER
HPC	HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMME CYCLE
HRP	HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN
ICRC	INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS
IFRC	INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE RED CROSS
IM	INFORMATION MANAGEMENT
IMC	INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CORPS
IMO	INFORMATION MANAGEMENT OFFICER
IOM	INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF MIGRATION
JOF	JOINT OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK
MBP	MARKET-BASED PROGRAMMING
MSF	MÉDECINS SANS FRONTIÈRES
NCA	NORWEGIAN CHURCH AID
NHWCP	NATIONAL HUMANITARIAN WASH COORDINATION PLATFORM
NGO	NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS
QAAI	QUALITY ASSURANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY INITIATIVE
QAAS	QUALITY ASSURANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM
SAG	STRATEGIC ADVISORY GROUP
SBP	STANDBY PARTNER
SDC	SWISS AGENCY FOR DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION
SI	SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONALE
SO	STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE
SOP	STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE
SWA	SANITATION AND WATER FOR ALL
TWIG	TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP
UNICEF	UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND
UNHCR	UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES
WASH	WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE
WCC	WASH CLUSTER COORDINATOR
WHH	WELTHUNGERHILFE
WHO	WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WVI	WORLD VISION INTERNATIONAL

1. INTRODUCTION

This document summarizes the progress made by the Global WASH Cluster (GWC) from January to June 2020. Key challenges around the implementation of the GWC Strategic Plan and the new working environment, based on restrictions due to Covid-19, are outlined. In addition, a section also highlights major ongoing initiatives.

The report is divided into a number of main sections including:

- Update on the governance of the GWC;
- Impacts of Covid-19 on operations;
- Progress on the GWC Strategic Plan implementation, with a summary of the key achievements, main constraints in Q1 and Q2 of 2020 and priorities for Q3 and Q4 of 2020;
- Update on the progress and priorities of the GWC’s Technical Working Groups (TWiGs);
- Overview of ongoing key WASH initiatives; and
- A preliminary list of potential initiatives emerging from the Road Map 2020 - 2025 and its Implementation Plan.

2. GOVERNANCE AND PARTNERSHIP

The [GWC](#) currently has 75 [full and associated members](#). The GWC’s [Cluster Advocacy and Support Team \(CAST\)](#) was established to carry out the responsibilities of the Cluster Lead Agency (CLA), including leadership and operational support for the GWC. In addition, the [Strategic Advisory Group \(SAG\)](#) composed of nine members provides improved representation of WASH partners to the GWC. A new SAG will be elected in 2020.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Partners - The GWC increased the number of partners by four, with York University, German Jordan University, FHI 360 and HELVETAS joining in 2020. There are now 47 full and 28 associate members in the GWC. ● CAST - Recruitment of a new Global WASH Cluster Coordinator (confirmed in July 2020 with a start date in September 2020). ● Planning - GWC produced/was involved in the production of key documents e.g. Road Map (2020-2025) and Water Under Fire. ● GWC Strategy- The five year cycle of the GWC Strategic Plan is being aligned with the four year cycle of UNICEF’s Strategic Plan. Harmonizing both cycles will give the GWC’s CAST more opportunities to mobilize institutional resources within UNICEF (as CLA) and will help ensure coherence between initiatives led at GWC and UNICEF levels. It will also allow for more aligned fundraising efforts. The next GWC Strategic Plan will be developed for 2022-2025. Years 2020 and 2021 will be considered as two particular years concentrating on the kick-off of the Road Map 2020 - 2025 and the continuous adaptation to Covid-19.

MAIN CONSTRAINTS

- **CAST** - Exiting GWC Coordinator completed contract on 20th April 2020 and the GWC did not have a Coordinator for Q2.
- **Covid-19** - The emergence of Covid-19 has put a major strain on resources across the humanitarian sector, impacting travel, fundraising and general operations.
- **Meetings/Workshops** - Due to Covid-19 travel restrictions, the GWC annual meeting was postponed until April 2021 and the development of major initiatives (e.g. the Road Map 2020 -2025, Water Under Fire Volume 2, WASH Severity Classification) were implemented based on a series of remote consultations.

PRIORITIES FOR Q3/Q4 2020

- **SAG** - New members of the GWC SAG will be elected this year. This will involve a call for interest and a transparent election process.
- **CAST** – The new GWC Coordinator will be operational on 1st September 2020.
- **Road Map** - The Road Map 2020 – 2025 and its Implementation Plan will be finalized with the development of 17 implementing initiatives among partners. The next GWC’s Strategic Plan and the Road Map 2020 - 2025 will be fully aligned.
- **FST** - The GWC will play a crucial role in supporting the transition of the leadership of the consortium for the FST, which will shift from Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) to Action Contre La Faim (ACF) as of 1st October 2020.
- **GWC Donor Consultative Group** – GWC’s SAG and CAST will work with the GWC Donor Consultative Group to systematically advocate on the implementation of the Road Map 2020 - 2025 and to ensure more regular coordination on global initiatives in very high priority countries.

3. COVID-19 IMPACTS - OPERATIONS

Covid-19 has had a major influence on the operations of the Global WASH Cluster in Q1 and Q2 of 2020. The emergence of Covid-19 has resulted in barriers to the delivery of in-country support and assistance by the Field Support Team (FST), necessitating increased remote support. It has also resulted in the GWC's CAST adapting its work plan during this period, undertaking a series of initiatives to support the global response. The pandemic and global recession will have an ongoing major effect on operations for the Cluster.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP)** - GWC's CAST and FST contributed to the GHRP which covers the period April to December 2020, covering 63 countries, targeting 250 million people and has a funding requirement of US\$10 billion.
- **Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan (SPRP)** - GWC's CAST and FST contributed to the SPRP, the World Health Organization's Covid-19 response plan.
- **Website** - The GWC created a dedicated webpage for Covid-19 resources and information sharing on events and activities for agencies responding to Covid-19. The [GWC Covid-19 Web page](#) includes contributions from 38 organisations and includes 360 documents thematically organised across subjects and tags. The GWC website saw a four-fold increase in usage from February to April 2020.
- **Advocacy** - Sixteen GWC Covid-19 Newsletters ([late August edition](#) and [past issues](#)) were produced and shared with +1,200 members in the GWC mailing list. The GWC's CAST and FST contributed to the [Hand Hygiene for All Initiative](#), the [Covid-19 Hygiene Hub](#) and the [Water Under Fire](#) initiative.
- **Covid-19 Secondary Impacts** - The GWC's CAST and FST set-up monthly monitoring of the price of three key WASH commodities (water, soap and bleach) in countries. This monitoring exercise, complementary to the monitoring set up by UNICEF at global level, will be used as an early warning system to support countries adapting their WASH strategy where possible and communicating on the associated risks.
- **Guidance** - Development of specific Guidance on Covid-19 for National Humanitarian WASH Coordination Platforms:
 - [Covid-19 Coordination Response Guidance Note, 1 April 2020](#)
 - [Covid-19 Technical Response Guidance note, 15 April 2020](#)
 - [Health Care Facility Survey - French - 16 April 2020](#)
 - [Covid-19 Assessment Question Bank, 22 April 2020](#)
 - [Operational Support for HRP/non-HRP Countries in Covid-19, 4 June 2020](#)
 - [HNO Guidance adapted to Covid-19, 17 July 2020](#)

MAIN CONSTRAINTS

- **FST Remote Support/Operations** – With travel restrictions, on-the-ground operational support of the FST was curtailed.
- **Recruitment** - There were country office recruitment and movement freezes.
- **Capacity Building** - Capacity building initiatives were constrained by the fact that none could be held face-to-face.
- **Events** - Key workshops and meetings were cancelled or postponed (e.g. GWC annual meeting, National Cluster Coordinators workshop, FST face-to-face).
- **Planning** - The Implementation Plan of the Road Map 2020 - 2025 was developed remotely. The elaboration of the Implementation Plan would have been easier if the planned face-to-face workshops were held. Nevertheless, support from all partners has ensured that significant progress has been made.
- **Operations** - Multiple agencies are involved in leading various elements of the Covid-19 response with a variety of operational plans e.g. SPRP (WHO), GHRP (OCHA), UN Socio-Economic Plans and Governmental National Plans. The complexity of Covid-19 response planning is further compounded by the frequency of GHRPs and the fact they run in parallel with existing HRP plans as well as in non-HRP countries. For WASH, key challenge areas are engagement with the Infection Prevention Control (IPC) and Risk Communications and Community Engagement (RCCE) that are established according to country preferences. The clear lines of responsibility are more difficult to define with multiple plans in place.

PRIORITIES FOR Q3/Q4 2020

- **Remote Support**
 - Operationalize and improve a remote support framework for countries by the FST.
 - Strengthen remote-based operational support and capacity building through distance-learning and mentoring.
 - Reinforce the need for hygiene and handwashing as priority preventive measures for Covid-19.
- **Monitor Operation Impact** - Monitor the impact of Covid-19 on coordination structures, gather lessons learnt, develop recommendation and adaptive measures.
- **Strategies/Plans**
 - Provide continuous support to the HNO and HRP process 2021.
 - Ongoing quantifying affected populations and predicting country support requirements in order to define WASH priorities.

4. PROGRESS ON THE GLOBAL WASH CLUSTER STRATEGIC PLAN (2017-2020) IMPLEMENTATION

Following is information on the progress and challenges for the Strategic Objectives of the Global WASH Cluster Strategic Plan (2017-2020) for Q1 and Q2 of 2020 (January - June). A full monitoring framework will be included in the GWC 2020 Annual Report in early 2021.

4.1 Strategic Objective #1 - Support to national humanitarian WASH coordination platforms

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

In the first half of 2020, The FST has provided the following in-country, Global Cluster and remote support (see *Figure 1*):

- In-Country Deployment:** In-country support of 363 days has been provided in three countries for four coordination platforms. Burkina Faso received 16 days of support for training and mentoring of the national Information Management Officer. Zimbabwe received 167 days of support (total of 183 days concluded on 13th July 2020) for the operation of the Information Management system, addressing multiple emergencies including the drought. North-East Syria received 93 days of WASH Cluster Coordination leadership and North-West Syria received 42 days each of WASH Cluster Coordination leadership and Information Management support.
- Virtual Deployment¹:** Virtual deployment country support of 195 days was provided to three coordination platforms. The virtual deployment was agreed with Global Cluster Coordination Unit (GCCU) colleagues as a country-specific deployment, remotely implemented, but based on an official Standby Partner (SBP) request. North-East Syria received 77 days of support to extend the in-country deployment on WASH Cluster Coordination (138 concluding on 31st August 2020). North-West Syria received extensions of the WASH Cluster Coordination of 61 days (69 concluding on 8th July 2020) and 57 days of Information Management support.
- Remote Support²:** Remote support of 450 days was provided, 156 of which was to support 29 countries in six regions. The remaining 294 days were for direct cluster support. In total, country-level Information Management tasks accounted for 533 days of support, while Coordination accounted for 376 days.
- Assessment Support:** Ten countries have been supported remotely with assessment tools and/or guidance. Support included the development of a comprehensive WASH Assessment Strategy in Burkina Faso, support for the national assessment position in the

¹ Deployment or virtual deployment is when the FST is engaged on full functions for cluster coordination or IM tasks, e.g. using the generic ToR.

² Remote support is task based e.g. review of documents, development of tools etc.

Central African Republic, a tool for healthcare facility assessment in Democratic Republic of Congo and the Secondary Data Review mechanism for Yemen.

- **Global Support:** Guidance documents for NHCWP include the WASH Covid-19 technical support and two documents for coordination guidance to help navigate the multiple response plans from national HRP, GHRP and SPRP. The development of a Covid-19 resource library and newsletter and Covid-19 indicators bank.

MAIN CONSTRAINTS

- **Covid-19**
 - **Travel Restrictions** - Covid-19 travel restrictions imposed by countries and agencies made physical deployments unfeasible over much of the period. Three FSTs on deployment returned to their home base and continued to provide remote support on a “virtual deployment” basis for North-West Syria and North-East Syria. One FST was unable to return home and continued the deployment, in Zimbabwe, for an extended period.
 - **New SOPs** - The Covid-19 travel restrictions had multiple other impacts, the FST adjusted the principle means of working from deployment support to a remote support mechanism, drafting a new standard operating procedure in the process.
 - **Greater NHCWP Support Needs** - NHCWPs had a freeze on recruitment and staff turnover, resulting in the need for FST support and/or increased use of SBP mechanisms for deploying coordination personnel on a deployment basis, notably South Sudan, Somalia and Zimbabwe.
 - **Ongoing Work** - Covid-19 interrupted the assessment field deployment in the Sahel, the multi-country trip was cut short after one week. Support was continued remotely in Burkina Faso through remote training on KoBo and WASH in healthcare facilities. Field deployments to Mali and Niger had to be completely cancelled due to Covid-19. Remote support was provided but due to the competing priorities due to Covid-19, not all action points for the deployment could be provided.

- **Human Resources** - As for previous years, varied levels of human resources in countries to support partners in terms of technical and analytical capacities continues to be one of the main constraints to the implementation of support to the NHCWP on assessments. These challenges stem partly from a lack of IMO capacity in key countries as well as rigorous analytical skills that need to be developed among NHCWPs.

PRIORITIES FOR Q3/Q4 2020

- **Consortium Lead Agency/Coordination**
 - Transition of Consortium Lead Agency from NCA to ACF.
 - Transition of the planned National Cluster Coordinators workshop planned before March 2021, to a virtual workshop for national WASH clusters on strategic planning.
 - Improvement on inter-cluster coordination mechanisms particularly relating to Covid-19 and IPC and RCCE areas of support.

- **FST Support and Operations**

- Continue to provide remote support and deployment support (if possible or virtually) to GWC priority countries. The support will extend as far as possible to non-priority countries affected by Covid-19.
- Finalise the Remote Support Framework for FST including the tool development for the HPC calendar, the HR capacity mapping and contact tools.
- Initiate GWC specific Road Map 2020 - 2025 initiatives, particularly 1.1 WASH Hub and 3.1 WASH Coordination dashboards.

- **Evaluation**

- Conduct cluster performance evaluations including the Minimum Requirements evaluation against Core Functions of Coordination and Cluster Coordination Performance Monitoring.
- Conduct the FST Satisfaction Survey.

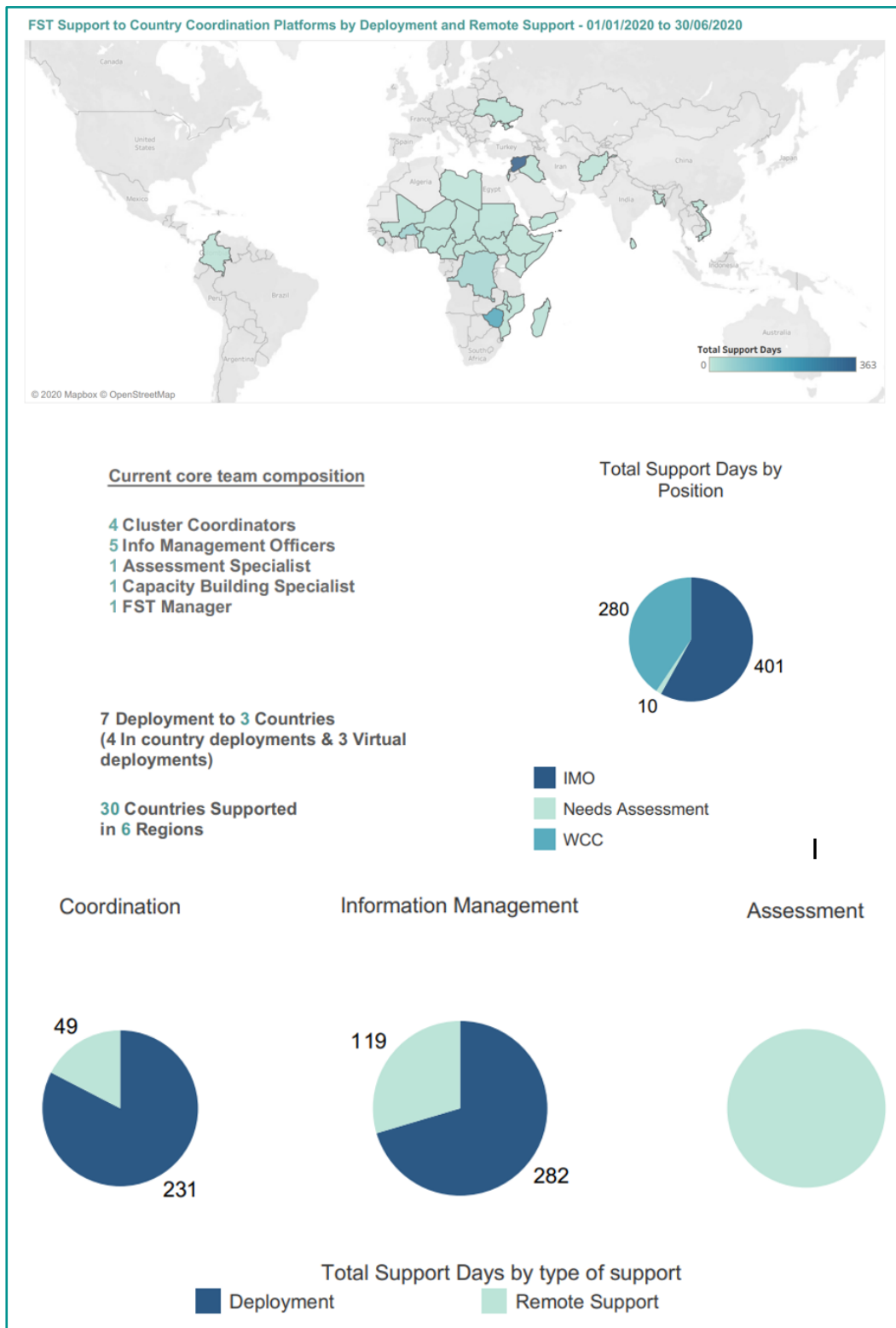


Figure 1. FTS Support to Country Coordination Platforms for Q1-Q2, 2020.

4.2 Strategic Objective #2 - Ensure that key WASH stakeholders have the capacity to coordinate and deliver emergency WASH response

Based on the [Learning and Training Strategy](#) developed in 2017, the GWC's CAST has continued to prioritize the development of strategic training packages and tools aimed at directly providing the most important training packages and mainstreaming core elements to partners.

The ongoing capacity building initiatives, coupled with the aligned Road Map initiatives, will ensure that there is an ongoing commitment to capacity building for the coming five years, focussing on the sector as a whole (see Section 6.1/Annex 1).

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Road Map Initiatives** - Four capacity building initiatives are being planned as part of the Road Map 2020 - 2025. These are
 - *2.1 Training Course Offerings - WASH Learning Portal*
Creation of a repository of training/courses (technical and coordination) to be accessed on the GWC website. This will help avoid duplication of development of training and identify potential for organisations to be able to offer training to the wider WASH sector.
 - *2.2 Competency framework*
Consolidation and agreement of a common competency framework for humanitarian WASH professionals. This should include core and functional competencies, focused on a wide range of expertise areas including coordination, technical, programme cycle management, humanitarian principles etc.
 - *2.3 Professionalizing the WASH Sector*
Development of an ISO or certification system to professionalize the WASH sector, that combines learning pathways, accreditation and work experience.
 - *2.4 Scaling up and localization for learning systems in Humanitarian WASH*
Based on a number of formal and informal initiatives within the WASH Sector and academic/training organizations, this initiative will form the basis for the roll-out of a series of local capacity building initiatives to address learning for a wide range of expertise areas.

The four initiatives are being developed into draft proposals by 18 organizations - ACF, GWC's CAST, GWN/GTO, ICRC, IFRC, IHE Delft, IMC, IOM, LSHTM, MSF, Oxfam, REACH, RedR, Save the Children, Solidarités International, UNHCR, UNICEF and World Vision.

- **IHE-Delft/UNICEF Cooperation Framework** - A new partnership agreement has been finalized between UNICEF/GWC and IHE Delft to mainstream and localize training on Humanitarian WASH. The Capacity Development Cooperation Framework between IHE-Delft and UNICEF aims to contribute to the overall capacity development of the WASH sector.

It forms part of the wider strategic objective of addressing technical, managerial and coordination gaps in the Humanitarian WASH sector – as stated in the Road Map 2020 - 2025 to “Deliver Humanitarian WASH Everywhere and Any Time”. This initiative is implemented in close coordination with UNICEF, CDC, Save the Children, Solidarites International, Oxfam, ICRC and MSF.

The scope of the cooperation framework is structured around four axes that support addressing critical gaps identified in the humanitarian WASH sector. These four axes are:

1. Educational programs on humanitarian WASH, which includes the development of an accredited (20 ECTS) Graduate Professional Development Programme (GPDP³) that will be integrated into IHE Delft's future MSc;
2. Strengthening research localization by developing new partnerships with learning institution counterparts in Southern countries affected by the humanitarian crisis;
3. Knowledge management;
4. Support from IHE Delft's experts to GWC TWiGs both at strategic and operational levels (currently involved in the GWC TWiG on Faecal Sludge Management).

As an integral part of this initiative, a feasibility study will be carried out to assess potential alliances, networks, and models that can be used to up-scale, localize and mainstream the existing four modules (and potentially other educational modules) to various partner academic and practitioner institutions in the global south.

- **Joint Competency framework** - The Competency Framework for Cluster Coordination is being developed. This outlines the competencies required for those working as Cluster Coordinators in the WASH Clusters at global, regional, national and sub-national levels. The competency frameworks were initially designed for the Global Nutrition Cluster and then, in order to ensure continuity and consistency between the UNICEF-led clusters, they were adapted to meet the needs of the WASH Cluster, Education Cluster, and the Child Protection Area of Responsibility.
- **Development of the WASH Assessment Training Package:** This training, targeting National WASH Coordination Platforms, has been developed and is currently undergoing review. As per the GWC Learning and Training Strategy, the WASH assessment training is embedded within the learning pathway for incoming, general and expert country coordinators and IMOs, targeting the latter two levels of expertise. As a further backbone to the training, a competency framework detailing skills, knowledge and abilities for each core function was also established. The objective of the training is to teach the skills, knowledge and abilities required to perform core coordination functions related to assessments.
- **Adaptation of Training to Covid-19 Situation:** the GWC made a significant effort during the first semester to transform GWC training from face-to-face to distance learning training helping to adapt to the Covid-19 situation. These adaptations include:
 - Five-day WASH Operational Coordination training providing operational tools and skills for WASH coordination. This face-to-face course was adapted into a two-month distant learning course because of travel restrictions due to Covid-19. The distance learning course uses a combination of self-directed sessions, webinars and a virtual group exercise. Around 200 selected participants have been trained through this modality between May and July 2020, in three

³ The GPDP consists of 4 accredited modules: Governance in Humanitarian Contexts, Public and Environmental Health in Emergencies, Building Resilient Systems, and Urban Water and Sanitation in Emergencies.

languages (French, English and Spanish) in West Africa and Latin America regions, in partnership with UNICEF regional offices.

- Market-Based Programming (MBP) for WASH in Emergencies (MBPWIE). The current face-to-face ‘GWC MBPWIE’ five-day course adaptation into a six-week distant learning program is ongoing. New partnerships agreements were signed between UNICEF, Save the Children and ACF to implement six online courses. The new online course was developed based on existing material. Four webinars were delivered in English, French, Spanish and Arabic on the ‘Introduction to Market Based Programming (MBP) for WASH in Emergency’ with support from Pro-WASH and the Cash Learning Partnership. Approximately 400 participants in total attended the webinars.

- **Training Delivered Jan-Jun 2020**

DATE	TRAINING TOPIC	LOCATIO N	DAYS	PARTICIPANTS	#
APRIL	Introduction to Market Based Programming for WASH (FST training part 1)	webinar	1.5h	FST team	10
APRIL	Market-Based Programing for WASH within the Humanitarian Program Cycle (FST training part 2)	webinar	1.5h	FST team	10
MAY	Webinar on Introduction to Market Based Programming in Emergency WASH	webinar	1.5h	Various	279
MAY	Webinar on Introduction to Market Based Programming in Emergency WASH (Spanish)	webinar	1.5h	Various	89
MAY	Webinar on Introduction to Market Based Programming in Emergency WASH (French)	webinar	1.5h	Various	131
JUNE	Webinar on Introduction to Market Based Programming in Emergency WASH (Arabic)	webinar	1.5h	Various	99
JUNE/ JULY	WASH Operational Coordination training (English)	Virtual class	8 weeks	NCC	13
JUNE /JULY	WASH Operational Coordination training (Spanish)	Virtual class	8 weeks	NCC	34
JUNE/ JULY	WASH Operational Coordination training (French)	Virtual class	8 weeks	NCC	30
JUNE /JULY	WASH Operational Coordination training (Spanish)	Virtual class	6 weeks	various	30

MAIN CONSTRAINTS

- **Method of Delivery** - In general, the adaptation of face-to-face training into distance learning courses, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, is complex and requires specific resources for E-learning development. Implementing distance learning courses also requires training facilitators for a much longer period (six to eight weeks) than face-to-face training. Nevertheless, the first experience shows an improved learning output for participants.
- **Strategy Development** - The development of the strategy to strengthen the capacity of national governments to better prepare, lead and coordinate the humanitarian WASH response, jointly implemented with UNICEF and SIWI using the WASH Bottleneck Analysis Tool, had to be postponed for 2021, due to the Covid-19 situation.

PRIORITIES FOR Q3/Q4 2020

- **Road Map Initiatives** - Implement capacity building initiatives in the Road Map 2020 - 2025 (see *Section 6.1/Annex 1*)
- **IHE-Delft/UNICEF Cooperation Framework** - IHE/UNICEF capacity building initiative - Submission and validation by Steering Committee of GDPD educational structure, and subsequent co-development (IHE and humanitarian partners) of educational material (foreseen by end of the year); inception report and the kick-off of a feasibility study for scaling-up and localization of educational material with southern partners. The initial start of the GDPD programme at IHE-Delft was envisioned for February to March 2021, however, remains tentative pending the Covid-19 situation.
- **GWC Information Management and Assessment Training**: As with other training, both training courses will have to be adapted to and piloted as distance learning training during the second semester. They will also be consolidated as an Inter-cluster Information Management and Inter-cluster Assessment Training that will be piloted early 2021.

4.3 Strategic Objective # 3 – Influence and advocate for an effective humanitarian WASH coordination response and funding

While the construction of the Road Map 2020-2025 continued with the development of the implementing sheets, the GWC’s CAST undertook a series of initiatives aiming to better position the Humanitarian WASH sector. These initiatives are also summarized in Section 6.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Road Map** (see Section 6.1)
- **Water Under Fire (WUF) Volume 2** (see Section 6.2)
- **WASH Severity Classification** (see Section 6.3)
- **Advocating for the instrumental role of the WASH sector for the Covid-19 response and estimation of caseload** - GWC’s CAST was actively advocating, in close coordination with UNICEF, on the potential secondary impact of Covid-19 in the WASH sector and the needs to strongly profile it. Contributions were made to estimate the total number of people at immediate risk of Covid-19 infection due to a lack of hand hygiene facilities (one billion people in total) with soap and water at home. This number was instrumental in the framework of the Hand Hygiene for All initiative (see below).
- **Hand Hygiene for All Initiative** - The GWC’s CAST and FST are continuously involved in the advocacy for the WHO/UNICEF co-led initiative which aims to move the world towards this goal: supporting the most vulnerable communities with the means to protect their health and environment. It brings together international partners, national governments, public and private sectors, and civil society to ensure affordable products and services are available, especially in disadvantaged areas, and to enable a culture of hygiene. The GWC’s CAST is particularly involved in promoting the initiative at country level, through the development of country road maps and in participating as an active member to the Monitoring WG of the initiative. The GWC’s CAST is also part of the Steering Committee for the [Covid-19 Hygiene Hub](#).
- **Humanitarian Development Nexus (HDN)**- In line with the Grand Bargain commitments on the humanitarian-development nexus, GWC’s CAST continued to work for better inclusion of the humanitarian agenda within the WASH Sector with the establishment of a TWiG on the HDN with Sanitation and Water for All (SWA). In addition, one key initiative that has emerged from the Implementation Plan of the Road Map 2020 - 2025 is Initiative 3.5 HDN Framework. This includes the development of a Joint Operational Framework (JOF) that outlines a harmonized way of working for the humanitarian-development WASH sectors. For more on this Initiative, see Section 6.1.

- **Joint Operational Framework for Effective Cholera Preparedness and Response in Humanitarian Contexts – A Global Health and WASH Cluster initiative** - An advance draft of the Joint Operational Framework to support improved preparedness and response in humanitarian contexts has been developed with a webinar to present to the Peer Review Group the Framework. Operational Covid-19 responses have delayed the finalisation of the document. The framework outlines the considerable integrated tasks that need to be undertaken in preparedness and response phases. If the tasks are not carried out in preparedness, this makes success in working efficiently and effectively in a response extremely challenging, particularly as resources are not made available in preparedness phases. A webinar is planned for the second semester. After finalization, dissemination is critical. Resources need to be sought to support dissemination and support to countries to pilot the implementation of the framework and provide remote support to others.

MAIN CONSTRAINTS

- **Pandemic and Human Resources** - In Q1 and Q2 of 2020 both the absence of a GWC Coordinator and the emergence and subsequent spread of Covid-19 put huge pressure on the GWC's CAST to carry out planned work. Thus, the Covid-19 situation has further limited general advocacy work carried out by the GWC's CAST, which was already constrained by staff shortages.

PRIORITIES FOR Q3/Q4 2020

- **Road Map 2020 - 2025** - Consolidation of the Implementation Plan, in agreement with the GWC's SAG and Emergency Directors for dissemination.
- **Water Under Fire V2** - Finalization and launch of the Water Under Fire Volume 2.
- **WASH Severity Classification** - Implementation of pilots in Niger and Afghanistan to develop the alpha version of the WSC.
- **Humanitarian Development Nexus** - Set up of the joint GWC – SWA working Group on HDN.
- **Inter-Cluster/Sector** - Inter-cluster/sector coordination continues through initiatives within the Road Map 2020 - 2025 directly targeting public health and inter-sectoral collaboration into the future (see *Section 6.1/Annex 1*).

4.4 Strategic Objective # 4 – Provide humanitarian WASH actors a timely access to appropriate and accurate knowledge on coordination and response

This Strategic Objective centres on two main expected outcomes:

- o Humanitarian WASH-related lessons learnt, evidence generation and innovative approaches corresponding to identified priority gaps are disseminated and used by GWC partners to improve coordination and response in subsequent emergencies; and
- o New knowledge on humanitarian WASH is disseminated and used by GWC partners to improve coordination and response in subsequent emergencies.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Knowledge Management (KM) and Evaluation of the impact of coordination on the WASH response** - Tufts University, with the GWC and cluster staff in Bangladesh, DRC, and Yemen have been working on a project entitled "UNICEF and Tufts Partnership on Knowledge Management and Evaluation Coordination" to expand upon the knowledge sharing goals of the Cluster and fill evidence gaps on the outcomes and impacts of coordination that will assist in quantifying the value-add of WASH coordination in humanitarian emergencies.
 - o Since January 2020, information has been collected on Cluster activities in three countries (Bangladesh, DRC, Yemen) monthly.
 - o 64 Key Informant Interviews have been conducted.
 - o 214 e-surveys in two of three rounds of planned data collection have been collected.
 - o The final report will be shared and available by December 31st, 2020.
- **GWC Knowledge Management and Covid-19** - An internal KM Covid-19 process has been developed by the GWC's CAST to ensure that new and existing knowledge would be shared from and with WASH practitioners, national WASH coordination platforms as well as other key partners, sectors and stakeholders in the Covid-19 response. A dedicated KM working group, which then blended into the GWC Hygiene TWiG, has been regularly meeting to exchange key knowledge and information as well as identifying gaps around WASH and Covid-19.

This process allowed the production of key GWC products:

- o **GWC Covid-19 Website** - Traffic statistics, including the [dedicated GWC Covid-19 website](#), indicate that the website has received 47,638 page views from January to June 2020, with a monthly average of four times more than previous months. The web page includes key global WASH and Covid-19 resources, country coordination platform Covid-19 resources and links to other key platforms for WASH practitioners (see *Figure 2*).

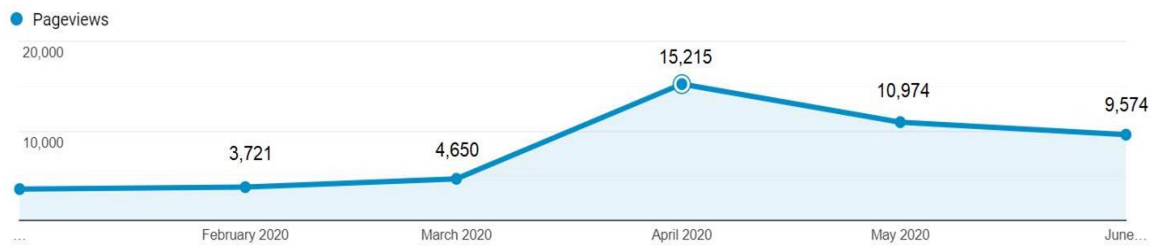


Figure 2. Visitors to the GWC website grew four-fold in April 2020

- **16 GWC Covid-19 Newsletters** ([late August edition](#) and [past issues](#)) were produced and shared with +1,200 members in the GWC mailing list.
 - **Stronger GWC social media engagement** and campaigns on Twitter (<https://twitter.com/WASHClusterGlob>). Since February 2020, systematic social media engagement has allowed the base of followers to grow by +25% (+1200 followers) and gain overall engagement in social media (3 time more profile visits since February 2020).
 - Further partnerships were developed with the [Covid-19 Hygiene Hub](#) to ensure access to a rapid expert technical forum on Covid-19 and WASH responses. Webinars were jointly developed; communication strategies were aligned and common messages developed to promote the helpdesk at country level.
- **Road Map Initiative 1.1 - WASH Hub** - GWC’s CAST is leading on the development of an ambitious initiative which aims at developing a WASH Hub - a one-stop-shop online platform centralizing global resources, links to key WASH resources and with a two-way exchange platform. The project draft which has been submitted to the Steering Committee will also look at the potential merge of various repositories (e.g. GWC Resource Centre, Covid-19 resources and other key partner platforms) to ensure timely and adequate access to key resources for WASH practitioners.
 - **Review of lessons learnt on Cash and Market-Based Programming in WASH:** A six-month consultancy has been launched through the GWC TWiG on Cash and Markets to implement a ‘Systematic review of MBP for WASH practices and evidence of the effect on WASH outcomes’.

MAIN CONSTRAINTS

- **Coordination Evaluation** - Knowledge Management and Evaluation of the impact of coordination on the WASH response - Planned fieldwork and travel was cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions. Funding will be reallocated to inform an update to the Minimum Requirements.
- **Information** - The initial months following the onset of Covid-19 have been challenging in terms of the sudden increase in the flow of information as well as knowledge being generated from WASH humanitarian and development partners. The “infodemic” dimensions of Covid-19, as well as the need to facilitate good practice in knowledge sharing for WASH practitioners, have been a heavy burden on the GWC’s CAST and remain a challenge.

- **Road Map Initiatives** - The consolidation of the Road Map 2020 - 2025 1.1 WASH Hub Project, the GWC's Resource Centre and other repositories, as well as UNICEF's WASH Knowledge Platform, would be a significant step towards optimization of the availability of knowledge on humanitarian WASH for WASH partners. To date, the dialogue with UNICEF on this has remained limited and should be an area of focus to be improved upon in 2020 and 2021. It would be mutually beneficial to agree upon a standard approach to disseminating humanitarian WASH knowledge.

PRIORITIES FOR Q3/Q4 2020

- **GWC KM and Comms Specialist** - The GWC's CAST has recently hired a GWC KM and Comms Specialist who will start in September 2020 to reinforce and manage this key pillar as well as ongoing initiatives mentioned above.
- **GWC KM and Comms Review** - Using analytics and key informant interviews, the aim will be to review GWC communication and KM processes overall, this will include a revision of the GWC website, social media, online communications as well as internal and external GWC's CAST and FST KM processes.
- **Evaluation of the impact of coordination on the WASH response** - This project will continue for Q3 and Q4 of 2020 with Tufts conducting the last round of data collection in September 2020, and then writing up and delivering a report by the end of the year. The report will also be turned into a peer-reviewed paper. The results from the project will be used to inform updates to the Minimum Requirements for national coordination platforms.
- **Market-Based Programming** - Knowledge Management on MBP remains a priority for the rest of the year.
- **TWiG** - The GWC TWiG for cash and markets study, 'Systematic review of MBP for WASH practices and evidence of the effect on WASH outcomes', will hold a results validation webinar workshop in July. Priority in Q3 and Q4 is to publish and disseminate the study and take forward the recommendations.
- **Road Map Initiatives** - Continued support to and lead/co-lead on key Road Map Initiatives (e.g. 1.1 WASH Hub, 2.1 Training Repository and 3.1 GWC Dashboard).

5. PROGRESSES OF TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS

There are a number of Technical Working Groups (TWiGs) which focus on key areas of operations.

5.1 Cash and Markets

The main objective of the GWC [Cash and Markets TWiG](#) is to strengthen GWC members' understanding of and engagement with market-based approaches, as well as to explore and build evidence on market-based approaches in WASH.

TWiG members: ACF (Spain/France), CaLP, CARE, CRS, CVA Consultant, GTO, GWC's CAST, ICRC, IFRC, Oxfam, NCA, NRC, Response International, SCUUK, SI, UK Red Cross, UNICEF, WVI.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Work Plan** - The TWiG work plan was updated and extended to the end of 2021, to take forward the findings and recommendations of the Systematic review on MBP in WASH. The plan was validated by TWiG members.
- **Consultancy** - A six-month consultancy has been launched through the GWC TWiG on cash and markets to implement a 'Systematic review of MBP for WASH practices and evidence of the effect on WASH outcomes'. Study results validation webinar workshop organized in July 2020 with the TWiG.

MAIN CONSTRAINTS

- **Covid-19** - Uncertainties related to funding and delays in the implementation of activities in the TWiG work plan.

PRIORITIES FOR Q3/Q4 2020

- **Review** - Finalize Systematic Review of MBP for WASH and publish reports.
- **Guidance Documentation** - Update Guidance on MBP in WASH, including guidance on cash and markets indicators for WASH, and the MBP / CVA monitoring framework.
- **Operational Support** - Conceptualize and implement a system to provide operational support on MBP in WASH to countries.
- **Capacity Building**
 - Development of a MBP module under the QAAI. This work is ongoing and will be piloted.
 - Face-to-face training is planned in Cologne in December 2020.

5.2 Quality of Response

The Global WASH [Cluster Quality Assurance and Accountability Initiative](#) (QAAI) is a key axis in the Road Map 2020 - 2025. Realising the goal of widespread uptake of QAAI in humanitarian WASH responses globally is ambitious and requires the engagement and buy-in of a broad range of WASH Cluster stakeholders.

TWiG members: IMC, NCA, Oxfam GB, Relief International, Selected WCC, SI, UNHCR, UNICEF and WVI.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Dissemination and Building Engagement**
 - A stocktaking workshop was held in Paris on 6th and 7th January 2020 attended by Oxfam, SI, GWC's CAST and UNICEF AAP. The objectives were to update stakeholders on the project progress, status of key outputs and to detail plans for Phase 2 implementation.
 - Key outputs were finalized and released publicly, including the desk review, guidance note for QAAS and Modular Analytical Framework.
 - Engagement with wider project stakeholders included remote presentations to the UNICEF WiE groups (30th January 2020), the GWC Field Support Team (10th June 2020) and the GWC Partners (15th June 2020) and partners in the LAC region (17th June 2020).
 - External engagement included an article published in Baromètre 2020 De L'eau de L'hygiène & De L'assainissement (March 2020).
 - The project team has engaged with the development of the Implementation Plan of the Road Map 2020-2025 and technical engagement from the SEEP Network started in Q1 of 2020 to support the development of the Market Based Programming module.
- **Support to Countries**
 - Country selection for Phase 2 pilots is ongoing with a shortlist including Yemen, Afghanistan, Burkina Faso and Venezuela.
- **Guidance, Tools and Training Package Production**
 - Finalization of QAAS Guidance Note Version 1 (May 2020).
 - Finalization of Modular Analytical Framework Version 1 (May 2020).

MAIN CONSTRAINTS

- **Impact of Covid-19** - The global pandemic has significantly impacted plans for dissemination through presentations at global meetings, workshops and in-person training, as well as limiting the ability to provide in-country support to national clusters. While the possibility of travel remains for Q3 and Q4 of 2020, the timing of these visits will depend on travel restrictions both in destination and 'home base' countries. Project progress will be maintained through remote support and online dissemination and engagement channels. The Covid-19 pandemic is also a global public health crisis that has required prioritization of focus and resources at both global and national levels to provide both preparedness and response. Combined with the travel restrictions, this has strained the capacity of national clusters and partners to undertake additional initiatives such as QAAS.

- **Capacity** - Turnover of staff in key national cluster positions and limited capacity means that uptake has been slow and will require additional remote and in-country support to generate and maintain momentum. It is imperative that QAAS approaches are mainstreamed into existing workflows at the national level and built into cluster Terms of Reference. However, changing the status quo will take sustained support and influence.
- **Engagement** - Although the launch of both guidance and modular analytical framework has provided the tangible foundations on which to build engagement with national clusters, more work is required to ensure that the initiative is based in practical field reality. Case studies and examples from existing countries will be put to wider use in the coming period to demonstrate to users the value of engaging in the initiative.

PRIORITIES FOR Q3/Q4 2020

- **Dissemination and Building Engagement**
 - Resumption of QAAI TWiG (July)
 - Meetings, communications materials, webinars:
 - Workshops with SAG and TWiG to disseminate progress, lessons learned and planning for phase 3 (September – October),
 - Articles about QAAI on Sphere blogpost (August), Oxfam blogposts (August 2020), SI website (July)
 - Webinar series with the SAG, TWiG, GWC Partners, WCC, FST on QAAI general principles (July – August and October)
- **Strategic Documents**
 - Governance strategy (July) and Quality TWiG Terms of Reference (July)
 - Updated communication & dissemination plan (July)
- **Support to Countries**
 - Remote support for promoting the uptake of QAAS approaches in national WASH Clusters
 - Up to four country visits (SI and/or Oxfam project managers) (September – October depending on travel restrictions)
- **Guidance, Tools and Training Package Production**
 - Review and revise guidance note and modular analytical framework based on experience and feedback from countries implementing QAAS (September – October)
 - Develop short ‘tip sheets’ for programme-oriented users (e.g. national cluster partners, field teams and third-party monitors) (August – September)
 - Develop training packages, including presentations, reading materials and facilitator notes for introductory training for national cluster staff (coordinator / IMO), GWC FST and programme staff.
- **Market-Based Programming module** - Development of a MBP module under the QAAI. This work is ongoing and will be piloted.

5.3 Operational Research

The aim of the [Operational Research](#) TWiG is to support and strengthen the sector with regards to addressing issues linked with the evidence base and WASH. The Research TWiG has not been operational in 2020.

TWiG members: CDC, ELHRA, IFRC, IMC, iMMAP, MSF-Belgium, NCA, Oxfam GB, SI, SDC, Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology and Swiss Federal Institute of Science and Technology (Eawag/Sandec), Tufts University, UNHCR and UNICEF.

5.4 Faecal Sludge Management

Global WASH Cluster partners have agreed to a five-year plan to improve sector approaches, tools and capacities to tackle [Faecal Sludge Management](#) (FSM) in emergency responses. The plan focuses on improving knowledge management and knowledge sharing to allow stronger technical support.

TWiG members: ACF, BORDA, Dutch Surge Support (DSS), Eawag, GTO, GWC, IFRC, IHE Delft, IOM, MSF-Netherlands, Netherlands Red Cross, Oxfam GB, SI, UNHABITAT, UNHCR, UNICEF and Waste Netherlands.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Action Plan**
 - Identified/recruited FSM Coordinator with the support of Netherlands Red Cross/DSS.
 - Updated the Action Plan. There are seven themes with clear outputs each with a lead agency and contributing agencies.
 - The FSM Coordinator has discussed with each lead how to achieve the outputs.
- **Octopus Platform** - The Platform in the process of being translated into Drupal 2 (CMS) to facilitate the incorporation of this faecal sludge management case study platform to the GWC website. The conversion is being undertaken by CAWST on behalf of Solidarités International.

MAIN CONSTRAINTS

- **Covid-19** - Covid-19 has meant all agencies have a little less capacity for FSM activities due to the extra workload.
- **Testing Capacity** - There have not been any new emergencies where the extra FSM capacity at the global level could be tried and tested.

PRIORITIES FOR Q3/Q4 2020

- **Outputs** - To start work on the outputs and have a clear plan of how to achieve them all before April 2021.

5.5 Hygiene Promotion

The Hygiene Promotion TWiG was reactivated in April 2020 to respond to increasing challenges related to Covid-19 response and to strengthen the coordination of Hygiene Promotion at the national level in WASH emergencies and capacity building for WASH cluster partners.

TWiG members: ACF, Save the Children, OXFAM, Eawag, GTO, GWC, IFRC, Oxfam GB, SI, UNICEF and LSHTM, CRS, IMC, WVI, IRC.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Terms of Reference** - ToRs which encompass short-term and longer-term objectives have been defined and approved by the HP TWiG members. The objectives of the TWiG are to enhance the coordination of WASH cluster partners' work on hygiene promotion in the context of the Covid-19 and longer-term, ensure that multiple initiatives are complementary and in line with existing humanitarian standards. This has led to the identification of immediate challenges that have been highlighted by Covid-19.
- **Action Plan/Work Plan** - Five main challenges have been identified focusing on monitoring and evaluation processes, coordination between WASH and health sectors, misperceptions related to Covid-19, hygiene staff safety and psychological well-being, and improving the design and effectiveness of hygiene behaviour change interventions. Action plan and work plan have been defined for each challenge and outputs will be presented as per the work plan timeline.
- **WASH Repository** - The HP TWiG has also contributed to enrich the repository of essential [Covid-19 resources available on the GWC website](#) with approximately 200 key Covid-19 resources for WASH practitioners.

MAIN CONSTRAINTS

- **Multiple Initiatives** - Efforts are being made to strengthen the link with other global initiatives to ensure the HP TWiG can either contribute to it or promote them. However, in relation to Covid-19 pandemic, a number of initiatives have emerged and it became challenging to ensure linkages with all of them.
- **Collaboration** - Some challenges highlighted by the HP TWiG mainly concerning better coordination with WASH in Health sectors will require long term engagement as well as developing a collaborative framework to improve hygiene promotion responses in public health emergencies. This will be linked to the Road Map 2020 - 2025 initiative on coordination and quality.

PRIORITIES FOR Q3/Q4 2020

- **Covid-19** - Implementation of the Covid-19 related challenges. GWC will focus on Challenge 2 relating to Hygiene Promotion in coordination and support the other challenges through surveying with NCCs and hygiene promotion technical leads at country clusters.

6. MAJOR ONGOING WASH INITIATIVES

6.1 WASH Sector Road Map

In 2019, meetings and consultations were held with a wide breadth of organizations and individuals across the WASH sector and beyond and these consultations formed the basis for the development of the [Road Map 2020 - 2025](#), which was published in February 2020.

The Road Map contains the vision that by 2025, the WASH Sector will have the capacity and resources to deliver in emergencies at scale, anywhere and at any time. It is based on three strategic axes and three prerequisite pillars and requires strengthened collective commitments and strategic engagement by all stakeholders in the WASH sector (see *Figure 3*).

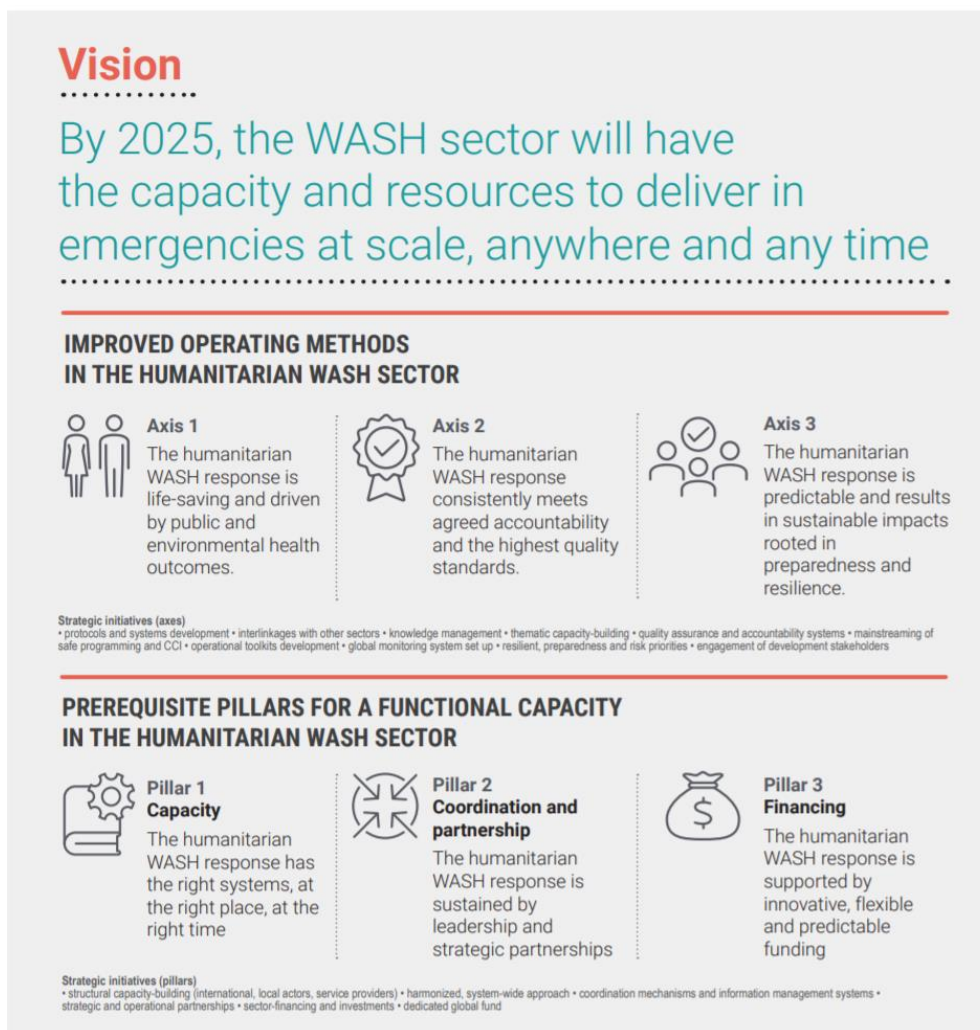


Figure 3. The three axes and pillars of the Road Map 2020 - 2025.

Through strengthened collective commitments and strategic engagement by all stakeholders active in the WASH sector, the implementation of the Road Map 2020 - 2025 will put into practice new and innovative approaches to save lives, reach public and environmental health outcomes and build synergies between acute and complex emergencies, humanitarian crises and long-term development.

In March 2020, two consultants were hired to work with CAST on the development of the Implementation Plan for the Road Map 2020 - 2025.

The organizations that were originally involved in the development of the Road Map 2020 - 2025 were involved in developing ideas for initiatives across the three axes and three pillars. These ideas were then consolidated and further categorized into one of four categories; 1. Information and Knowledge Management; 2. Capacity Development and Professionalization; 3. Coordination and Quality; and 4. Innovative Funding, Resource Mobilisation and Advocacy.

In total, 16 initiatives were further developed (with an additional initiative on advocacy proposed) in the final Implementation Plan, although this list is dynamic and may change.

Theme	Initiatives	Leading / Co Leading
1. Information and Knowledge Management	1.1 WASH Hub - Online Platform	GWC CAST
	1.2 Core Data Repository & Tools	REACH, GWC CAST
	1.3 WASH Severity Classification	REACH
	1.4 Quality Assurance and Accountability Initiative	Oxfam, Solidarités International
	1.5 Research and Innovation	LSHTM, Tufts
2. Capacity Development and Professionalization	2.1 Training Course Offerings WASH Learning Portal	IFRC, GWC CAST
	2.2 Competency framework	UNICEF
	2.3 Professionalizing the WASH Sector	UNICEF
	2.4 Scaling Up and Localization for Learning Systems in Humanitarian WASH	IHE Delft, GWC CAST
3 Coordination and quality	3.1 WASH Coordination/Response Dashboard	GWC CAST
	3.2 Specialized Expertise for the WASH Sector	ICRC, UNHCR
	3.3 Integration and Coordination of Public Health Emergencies	IMC, Save the Children
	3.4 Multi-sectoral Integration and Coordination of WASH	Save the Children, ACF
	3.5 Humanitarian Development Nexus Framework	GWC CAST, GWN, SWA Secretariat, UNICEF

4. Innovative Funding, Resource Mobilisation and Advocacy	4.1 Coordination and Country Support	GWC CAST
	4.2 Sector Development and Strengthening	UNHCR, UNICEF
	4.3 Advocacy (potential new initiative)	TBC

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Road Map** - Publication of the Road Map in February 2020.
- **Implementation Plan for Road Map**
 - Development of an Inception Report to implement the Road Map, consultation with over 50 individuals/organizations with initial development of 16 initiatives. The delivery of two webinars with, in total around 65 participants over the two sessions. The development of a number of ToRs for the Steering Committee, consortia and working groups. Summary sheet templates, monthly reporting template, quarterly reporting templates, Ways of Working operational procedures developed.
 - Draft Proposal Sheets - 16 draft proposal sheets that are now being completed by consortia leads/co-leads.

MAIN CONSTRAINTS

- **Development of the Implementation Plan** - With the travel restrictions in place, planned workshops were cancelled and the development of the initiatives was carried out remotely. This had an impact on the development of the Implementation Plan.

PRIORITIES FOR Q3/Q4 2020

- **Draft Proposal Sheets** - Currently 16 consortia are working on the initiatives and will have completed summary draft proposals by September 2020.
- **Steering Committee** - The Steering Committee will review the proposals and feedback to each of the groups.
- **Emergency Directors and Donors** - Presentations will be made by the Steering Committee to EDs and Donors on the initiatives and progress in relation to the Road Map in October 2020.
- **Financing** - Funding applications will be developed for some of the initiatives in the short term.

For more information on the Road Map Initiatives, see Annex 1.

6.2 Water Under Fire

UNICEF launched the Water Under Fire campaign on March 22nd, 2019, to draw global attention to three fundamental areas where change is urgently needed to secure access to safe and sustainable water supply and sanitation in fragile contexts. The first volume of the report series focuses on action across the humanitarian-development–peace nexus to strengthen WASH sector resilience in fragile and conflict-affected contexts. The second volume is dedicated to the WASH sector’s capacity to deliver a predictable, quality humanitarian WASH response and provides a change agenda and road map towards strengthening this capacity. The final volume in the series focuses on ending attacks on water and sanitation services in armed conflict.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Water Under Fire Volume 2** - GWC’s CAST has coordinated the writing up of the second volume that summarizes (and further develops) a capacity study commissioned by the Global WASH Cluster (GWC) partners and Inter-Agency WASH Group, with funding from UNICEF. This explores a broad range of issues that many WASH sector actors believe limit the humanitarian WASH response and contribute to a capacity gap.

PRIORITIES FOR Q3/Q4 2020

- **Dissemination** - Official launch and building up of the dissemination strategy with UNICEF.

6.3 WASH Severity Classification

The objective of this project is to support the GWC and UNICEF, as the CLA, to develop an “IPC-like” system for WASH. This system would help humanitarian coordination platforms plan the response in an evidence-driven manner

The overall aim is to improve WASH response through:

- a) better strategic targeting and prioritization within and across crisis to allocate resources in the most effective way; and
- b) stronger needs-monitoring and early warning systems, as the severity will be tracked on a regular basis (minimum twice a year) and will be also projected to inform preparedness.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Inception Phase** - In March 2020, the Inception Phase of the WASH Severity Classification (WSC) was completed following several months of research on the feasibility of the project and a review of the proposed approach to its development.
 - The Inception Report found that there was a strong appetite among actors in the global WASH community to pursue a robust, standardised, geographically and temporally comparable approach to WASH analysis that assesses the severity of WASH conditions in a holistic nature.

- **Phase 1** - Phase 1 of the WSC development commenced, with the recruitment of the WSC Development Team and formation of the Steering Committee (SC), who provided strategic guidance on the project and positioned it within the broader global WASH community.
- **Technical Advisory Group** - A global Technical Advisory Group (TAG) was also formed, with 12 members representing eight organisations, to provide technical input during the development process and review and validate the tools and approaches that are being developed.
- **Analytical Framework** - On the development side, a key success has been the completion of the first draft of the Analytical Framework (and accompanying guidance note) following endorsement by the TAG and SC. This is a cornerstone of the analytical process and will inform the development of the subsequent WSC components, such as the calculation model (method for combining indicators to generate a WASH severity score) and analysis protocols (step-by-step guide to how to conduct the WSC analysis).

MAIN CONSTRAINTS

- **Covid-19**
 - Development - The Covid-19 crisis has impacted the development of the WSC at the global level, insomuch as all meetings have needed to be virtual and this can sometimes create difficulties when pursuing a collaboration-centred approach. However, the impact has likely been limited due to the nature of the work conducted to date, and the Development Team has succeeded in making progress with the support of the TAG and the SC.
 - Covid-19/Pilots - The Covid-19-related issues will likely pose a more significant challenge during the WSC pilots when multiple actors will be required to work together to conduct the WSC analysis remotely (unless in-country workshops are possible). The global team is assessing the options to mitigate these issues.
- **Stakeholder Expectations** - A second challenge has been related to stakeholder expectations. It is important to acknowledge that this ambitious project is still very much in the early stages of its development, and it will be some time before a well-refined version is ready for widespread rollout. Ensuring all stakeholders are aware of this timeline and the bigger picture is proving to be important for maintaining buy-in.
- **Further Challenges** - Further challenges will be identified during the model testing and pilot exercises, which will be fully documented following a lessons learned workshop.

PRIORITIES FOR Q3/Q4 2020

- **Pilots** - The WSC confirmed the locations of its two pilots—Niger and Afghanistan—for which preparation work has begun with the WASH Cluster Coordinators and WASH community in-country. The pilots are scheduled to take place in early September and early October respectively, with findings and proposed alterations to the WSC released towards the end of the year before the commencement of Phase 2 in early 2021.

6.4 WASH Gap Analysis Project

In 2013, a Gap Analysis was commissioned by ELRHA to identify the major challenges that require innovative solutions in humanitarian WASH. The analysis provided a strategic steer for the humanitarian WASH sector on where to focus innovation efforts, and as a result, the Humanitarian Innovation Fund supported over 40 WASH innovations that address priority gaps.

To follow up on ELRHA's 2013 WASH Gap Analysis, GWC, ELRHA and Oxfam collaborated on a second exercise to identify gaps and influence WASH donor future funding decisions.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- **WASH Gap Analysis** - The [WASH Gap Analysis \(WaGA\) Project](#) Desk Review Report documented how the 2013 Gap Analysis had been used, and how innovation and research work may have been influenced as a result. Alongside the report, a mapping of WASH innovation and research work was carried out, indicating both alignment of research/innovation to the 2013 WASH Gap Analysis, but also a sense of increased research and innovation in the sector.
- **Key Informant Interviews** - Key Informant Interviews were held to gain insight and consensus on the value of a future WASH gap analysis and what could be strengthened in the overall design and analysis framework for the 2020 WASH Gap Analysis, to determine the ToRs for Academic and Accountability Partners.
- **Review Group** - A Review Group has been set up for the 2020 WaGA with over 20 members incorporating some of the largest operational agencies involved in WASH research and innovation and some of the most significant innovation funders. An online webinar presentation and discussion of the findings of the desk review also provided to the partner ToRs. The partnerships will strengthen the overall development of an independent, practical and robust humanitarian WASH gap study design and analysis - through an academic partner, as well as strengthening the consultation of People Affected by Crisis (PACs) on their perceptions of WASH Gaps through an Accountability Partner.
- **Project Design and Methodology** - Oxfam has worked with Cranfield University and Oxfam's team of accountability specialists to develop the detailed WaGA Project Design and Methodology Document, outlining the overall ethical and accountable approach to data collection and the analysis framework.

MAIN CONSTRAINTS

- **Accountability Partners** - Challenges in identifying Accountability Partners have stalled the development of detailed project design.
- **Covid-19** - Delays due to Covid-19 have also stalled the development of detailed project design.
- **Fieldwork** - Key to the data collection are the group discussions that will take place with People Affected by Crisis as well as with WASH Practitioners. Whilst Covid-19 may require

additional measures for consultations, feedback from the field suggests that these can still take place, although this may change in the future and is unlikely in all locations.

PRIORITIES FOR Q3/Q4 2020

- **Literature Review** - Gathering of humanitarian grey literature and secondary data on WASH gaps sourced from people affected by the crisis to complete the overall literature review of WASH gaps.
- **Facilitation** - Recruitment and selection of volunteer facilitators for the group discussions with People Affected by Crisis (PACs) and WASH Practitioners.
- **Partners** - Working with Mosaic associate SARAR to develop an effective participatory approach to consulting PACs on their perception of WASH gaps, and develop the methodology used for consulting WASH Practitioners in group discussions and the online survey.
- **Protocols and Platforms** - Development of the Data Collection Protocols and gaining IRB/ethical approval; facilitator briefing/training and implementation and setting up data collection platforms for inputting data for FGDs and online survey to enable the launch of data collection (i) FGD with PACs (ii) FGDs with WASH practitioners (iii) Online survey.

Annex 1 – Road Map – Preliminary List of Initiatives

Theme 1 - Information and Knowledge Management	
Name of Initiative	1.1 WASH Hub - Online Platform
Participating organizations	Leading/Co-Leading: GWC CAST Participating/Contributing: GTO, LSHTM, REACH/IMPACT, IOM, Solidarités International, ICRC, IMC and ACF
Short Description	Development of an online “WASH Hub” platform will be a virtual space resource for field-level WASH practitioners to access key technical resources, events and training through the Global WASH Cluster website.
Name of Initiative	1.2 Core Data Repository and Tools
Participating organizations	Leading/Co-Leading: REACH/GWC CAST Participating/Contributing: IOM, OCHA, UNICEF, ICRC, LSHTM, MSF, UNHCR
Short Description	Development of a core data repository which would be used in a variety of ways for better decision making and as the driver for the design and prioritization of a WASH response
Name of Initiative	1.3 WASH Severity Classification
Participating organizations	Leading/Co-Leading: IMPACT Participating/Contributing: ACF, GWC CAST, ICRC, IRC, LSHTM, Oxfam, Save the Children, Solidarites, Tufts University, UNHCR, UNICEF
Short Description	Development of an “IPC-like” system for WASH and will classify WASH needs and vulnerabilities into five phases. Such a classification aims at supporting decision-makers with a rigorous analysis of WASH conditions. It will consist of a set of analytical tools, and protocols to classify the severity of WASH needs and vulnerabilities against established standards.
Name of Initiative	1.4 Quality Assurance and Accountability Initiative
Participating organizations	Leading/Co-Leading: Oxfam, Solidarités International Participating/Contributing: ACF, GWC CAST, IMC, NRC, REACH, Tufts, UNHCR, UNICEF, World Vision, ICRC, LSHTM
Short Description	Development of a Quality Assurance and Accountability System (QAAS) - an approach to response coordination that supports results-oriented, evidence-based decision making with the aim of ensuring that standards for

	quality and accountability can be met and maintained. It provides a way to monitor a WASH response against jointly agreed, contextually relevant framework of quality and accountability standards that integrate with recognised national and international commitments.
Name of Initiative	1.5 Research and Innovation
Participating organizations	Leading/Co-Leading: LSHTM, Tufts Participating/Contributing: ACF, IFRC, IHE, Oxfam, REACH, Save, ICRC, IMC, MSF, SI, UNICEF
Short Description	Repositories of case studies, design protocols and operational research of WASH on public health and environmental outcomes

Theme 2 - Scaling up and localization for learning systems in Humanitarian WASH	
Name of Initiative	2.1 Training Course Offerings WASH Learning Portal
Participating organizations	Leading/Co-Leading: IFRC, GWC CAST Participating/Contributing: ACF, GWN, ICRC, IHE Delft, REACH, RedR, Save the Children, UNICEF, LSHTM, UNHCR, World Vision
Short Description	Create and maintain a repository of capacity development opportunities (technical and coordination) to be accessed on the GWC website.
Name of Initiative	2.2 Competency Framework
Participating organizations	Leading/Co-Leading: UNICEF Participating/Contributing: GWN, ICRC, IOM, REACH, RedR, GWC CAST, SI, UNHCR
Short Description	Consolidate and agree upon a common competency framework for humanitarian WASH professionals. This should include core and functional competencies, focused on a wide range of expertise areas including coordination, technical, programme cycle management, humanitarian principles etc.
Name of Initiative	2.3 Professionalising the WASH Sector
Participating organizations	Leading/Co-Leading: UNICEF Participating/Contributing: ACF, IFRC, RedR, GWC CAST, ICRC, LSHTM
Short Description	ISO or certification system to professionalise the WASH sector, that combines learning pathways, accreditation, work experience
Name of Initiative	2.4 Scaling Up and Localization for Learning Systems in Humanitarian WASH

Participating organizations	Leading/Co-Leading: IHE Delft, GWC CAST Participating/Contributing: ACF, GWN, ICRC, IFRC, MSF, Oxfam, REACH, RedR, Save the Children, SI, UNICEF, IMC, LSHTM, UNHCR
Short Description	Based on existing learning opportunities and on the regular identification of learning capacity gaps in humanitarian WASH learning activities, this initiative aims to develop models, mechanisms and partnerships between humanitarian organizations and academia/trainers to improve the delivery of humanitarian WASH learning opportunities.

Theme 3 - Coordination and Quality

Name of Initiative	3.1 WASH Coordination/Response Dashboard
Participating organizations	Leading/Co-Leading: GWC CAST Participating/Contributing: ACF, UNHCR, ICRC
Short Description	Development of a coordination/response report card composed of existing data, revised minimum requirements (6 +1) and indicators from the WASH Quality Assurance and Accountability System (QAAS) initiative. An online dashboard will offer a coordination/response and global compliance/tracking system hosted on the GWC website.
Name of Initiative	3.2 Specialized Expertise for the WASH Sector
Participating organizations	Leading/Co-Leading: UNHCR, ICRC Participating/Contributing: UNICEF, NRC, Oxfam, IFRC, RedR, IMC, SI, LSHTM
Short Description	Capitalization of the private sector, specialized rosters and resources for the WASH sector including the deployment of specialized expertise in specific technical areas.
Name of Initiative	3.3 Integration and Coordination of Public Health Emergencies
Participating organizations	Leading/Co-Leading: IMC, Save the Children Participating/Contributing: GWC CAST, ICRC, IOM, IRC, LSHTM, MSF, SI, UNICEF
Short Description	Systematic integration of WASH and Health in responding to public health emergencies and disease epidemics.
Name of Initiative	3.4 Multi-sectoral Integration and Coordination of WASH
Participating	Leading/Co-Leading: ACF, Save the Children

organizations	Participating/Contributing: GWC CAST, GWN, ICRC, IMC, LSHTM, NRC, UNHRC, UNICEF, WV
Short Description	Systematic integration of WASH across multi-sectors, such as Education, Protection and Nutrition
Name of Initiative	3.5 Humanitarian Development Nexus (HDN) Framework
Participating organizations	Leading/Co-Leading: GWC CAST, GWN, SWA Secretariat, UNICEF Participating/Contributing: ACF, ICRC, IFRC, IMC, ION, Save the Children, SI, UNHCR
Short Description	Development of a JOF that outlines a harmonized way of working for the humanitarian-development WASH sectors

Theme 4 - Innovative Funding, Resource Mobilisation and Advocacy

Name of Initiative	4.1 Coordination and Country Support
Participating organizations	Leading/Co-Leading: GWC CAST Participating/Contributing: ACF, IFRC, REACH, UNICEF
Short Description	Annual resource requirements for coordination and country support to implement the Road Map and fund additional business continuity for coordination and country support.
Name of Initiative	4.2 Sector Development and Strengthening
Participating organizations	Leading/Co-Leading: UNHCR, ICRC Participating/Contributing: UNICEF, NRC, Oxfam, IFRC, RedR, IMC, SI, LSHTM
Short Description	Establishment of a sustainable funding model that supports sector development for key initiatives (e.g. JOF, capacity building, system strengthening).
Name of Initiative	4.3 Advocacy for coordination, country support and sector strengthening (TBC)
Participating organizations	Leading/Co-Leading: TBC Participating/Contributing: TBC
Short Description	Establish a GWC advocacy system (identification, prioritization, voicing, follow up). This includes a mechanism to ensure regular coordination meetings of GWC with donors and key stakeholders, with a focus on very high priority countries

Table 1. Indication of participation level of various organizations in each initiative (not that this table is dynamic)
L = Leading, CL = Co Leading, P = Participating, C = Contributing

Org.	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.4	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.5	4.1	4.2	4.3 (TBC)
ACF	P		P	P	P	P		P	P	P			CL	P	P	P	
DG ECHO			C														
GWC CAST	L	P	P	P		CL	C	C	CL	L		P	C	CL	L	P	
GWN/GTO	P					P	P		P				P	CL		P	
ICRC	C	C	C	C	C	P	P	C	P	C	CL	C	C	P		P	
IFRC					P	CL		P	P		P			P	P	P	
IHE Delft					P	P			CL								
IMC	C			P	C				C		C	CL	P	C			
IOM	P	P					P					P		P			
IRC			C									C					
LSHTM	P	C	C	C	CL	C		C	C		C	C	C				
MSF		C			C				P			C					
NRC				P							P		P				
OCHA		P															
Oxfam			P	CL	P				P		P						
REACH	P	CL	L	P	C	C											
RedR						P	P	P	P		P						
SAVE			P		P	P			P			CL	CL	P			
SDC																P	
SI	C		C	CL	C		C		P		C	C		C			
SWA														CL		P	
Tufts			P	P	CL												
UNHCR		C	P	P		C	C		C	P	CL		P	P		CL	
UNICEF		P	P	P	C	P	L	L	P		P	P	P	CL	P	CL	
WHH													P	P			