Knowledge Management Survey
Technical WASH Issues

30 June, 2017
INTRODUCTION

The Global WASH Cluster (GWC) is currently developing a Knowledge Management (KM) System. Building on previous work done in identifying key WASH topics for knowledge management, the GWC designed a rapid survey to jointly identify priority topics to develop and pilot the initial KM System.

The survey was launched between May 17th – June 16th and circulated to all GWC partner agencies and national coordination cells; the results of the survey are summarised below.

RESPONDENTS

A total of 63 individuals responded to the survey, representing 20 countries across 6 regions. The majority work in UN or INGO organisations, at national level, and in a technical and / or programmatic WASH role.

WATER SUPPLY

With regards emergency water supply, technical priorities appear primarily related to four areas:

1. Water supply system management; including private sector, community and authorities.
2. Water treatment options;
3. Urban emergency water supply options
4. Design, installation and maintenance of water supply systems, including water resource assessments and environmental concerns
SANITATION

With regards emergency sanitation, top priorities include:

1. The management, treatment and disposal of faecal sludge
2. Sanitation solutions where pits are not possible (including urban contexts)

Secondary priorities relate to: social marketing, O&M and sustainability.

HYGIENE

The top hygiene-related priorities relate to:

1. Two themes:
   a. Handwashing
   b. Menstrual hygiene
2. Approaches to hygiene promotion in schools, community groups, health clubs, etc.
3. Contextualising hygiene promotion including socio-cultural understanding.
**SOLID WASTE**

The top priority related to emergency solid waste relates to:

1. Establishing sustainable solid waste management systems, including segregation, recycling, reduction, and final disposal.

Secondary priorities include: urban contexts; community-led management; and markets-based approaches.

**DRAINAGE**

The top priorities related to drainage include:

1. Drainage for vector control
2. Drainage in a camp / community, including general drainage from WASH facilities.

A series of tertiary priorities related to more specific technical priorities include: management; design; drainage in urban, impermeable, and flood-prone contexts.
**VECTOR CONTROL**

Knowledge management priorities related to vector control include:

1. The design and implementation of integrated vector control strategies
2. Innovations in vector control methods, strategies, and approaches

**CAPACITY BUILDING**

Top priorities for capacity-building areas include:

1. Monitoring, programme adjustments and learning
2. Effective project planning and capacity building
3. Functional needs assessments
CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

Top priorities for CCI themes include:
1. Cash & Markets
2. Accountability to affected populations

Secondary priorities include:
Protection-mainstreaming; ensuring quality of contractors' interventions; and aligning funding for CCI.

INTER-SECTOR

The top inter-sectoral priorities for knowledge management include:
1. WASH in public health crises – to which WASH in health facilities can be added.
2. WASH in Education
3. WASH in Nutrition

A series of tertiary priorities across other sectors and areas.
THEMES TO PILOT

Top priority themes to pilot include:
1. Cash and markets-based programming
2. Effective programme planning and targeting
3. Integrating CCIs/Protection in WASH programming
4. WASH programming in Urban contexts

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

Although knowledge management systems were reported by 73% of respondents to exist, 63% of those respondents noted challenges to usage and / or the effort required to maintain the resource. As such just 27% of overall respondents reported the existence of a KM system, and no major challenges in usage.

CONCLUSION

The survey represents the priorities of the 63 individuals who responded to the online survey between May 17 and June 16, 2017. The findings highlight a series of priorities by subsector, with greater or lesser agreement between priorities. While the findings suggest priority areas to pilot in a KMS, care will be needed to coordinate with other related initiatives.