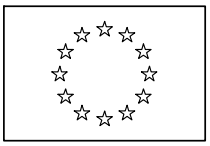

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on

HUMANITARIAN WASH POLICY

Meeting the challenge of rapidly increasing humanitarian needs in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

WASH stands for water, sanitation, hygiene, and is one of the three main sectors of humanitarian operations (the others being food and health). Climate change has a growing and significant impact on WASH among vulnerable people. Humanitarian aid alone will not be able to continue to address the rapidly growing needs. **The role of improving resilience and Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development (LRRD) is vital to helping meet these needs before they become humanitarian emergencies. In the face of rapidly growing WASH needs, coordination on WASH is crucial to ensure the most efficient use of the resources available**.

Over the past decade humanitarian **WASH funding has increased thirtyfold**. In recent years there have been a total of 1.7 million deaths annually due to inadequate WASH conditions and services. **Water** is also **the key medium** through which the impact of **climate change** will be manifested. Population growth and rapidly growing urban areas are increasing pressure on local water resources. Consequently, **needs are increasing even more rapidly than the available funding**. UNOCHA (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs) predicts that by 2025 the number of people without access to safe water will rise from just over 1 billion to 2 billion.

The **European Union is already the biggest donor to humanitarian WASH**, now allocating around **200 million €[1] each year from the EU budget**. The Commission has a number of comparative advantages in responding to the changing frequency, scale and nature of humanitarian WASH needs.

First, for the **essential life-saving first phase** following a disaster, the **Commission has invested heavily** in improving the speed of response with its partners, the surge capacity in the global WASH Cluster, and global logistics support. This facilitates better needs assessments, more timely and appropriate responses, better coordination, and overall it uses humanitarian budgets more efficiently and effectively to help those in need. In time of budgetary constraints, getting the best value for our money is even more important.

Second, the Commission, through its Humanitarian Aid department (DG ECHO), co-ordinates an **increasing number of deployments** through funding for **humanitarian partners,** and support and facilitation for the deployment and coordination of Member States **civil protection assistance** in response to major emergencies inside and outside the EU. The complementary roles of humanitarian and civil protection are strong in the WASH sector: the growing urban humanitarian WASH needs often require a technically sophisticated response beyond the capacity of many humanitarian agencies, which can be provided through civil protection actors.

Third, with **an extensive network of NGO, UN and Red Cross partners**, together with a network of **140 field experts**, the Commission reviews and **promotes quality and best practice** in the face of changing humanitarian WASH demands. Both through funding, and extensive partnerships, the Commission works to improve the enabling environment for humanitarian WASH responses. This includes work with the global WASH Cluster as the focus of the global humanitarian WASH community to deliver quality aid through an inclusive and effective preparation and coordination.

To complement humanitarian responses, the work of development actors in the area of early recovery is vital. For the 712 million € allocated to date through the European Commission's

[1] :source UN Financial Tracking Service

Development 'Water Facility' for African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, project selection is done jointly with the Commission's humanitarian experts. Last but not least, based on its expertise, the Commission has a substantial role to play in terms of advocacy for water issues in general and WASH in particular.

1. INTRODUCTION

Water is essential in terms of its quantity and quality to sustain life and promote health. Basic sanitation and adequate hygiene behaviour and management are essential conditions to create a safe environment which reduces the risk of people's immune system being undermined as a result of chronic exposure to WASH related diseases[2]. Water is often used to support basic food needs and livelihoods functions. Food assistance and nutrition policies require an adequate supply of water.

WASH is a humanitarian priority for 300 million people now affected by natural disasters and conflicts each year,[3] but the present global humanitarian WASH capacity can no longer meet the rapidly growing WASH needs. **More than 3,000 children die every day from diarrhoeal diseases**[4]. In recent years, there have been a total of 1.7 million deaths annually due to inadequate WASH conditions and services. Dry lands have the highest infant-mortality of all eco-systems.[5]

Water is also the key medium through which the **impact of climate change** is manifested. The number and scale of natural disasters is increasing. In addition, rapid population growth reinforces existing pressures on natural resources. Conflict and repression continue to undermine people's ability to pursue their day-to-day livelihoods, and are often the cause of large numbers of refugees and internally displaced persons.

The frequency and scale of floods and droughts is already creating major 'water insecurity' challenges for the humanitarian WASH community. The number of recorded natural disasters has doubled from approximately 200 to over 400 per year over the past two decades. The number of floods and cyclones is rising dramatically as a proportion of these disasters[6]. Such natural disasters often result in a sharp deterioration of environmental health conditions, particularly in terms of access to basic water and sanitation services. According to the World Bank, roughly 38% of the land area is exposed to some level of drought, thereby affecting 70 % of the world's population[7] .

The past decade has seen a thirty fold increase in funding for humanitarian WASH needs.[8] Future trends show how needs will greatly increase. Despite recent progress made on improving

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[2] : All Water borne diseases, Sanitation & Hygiene-related diseases (including those associated to inadequate waste disposal), and/or Vector or Insect-borne diseases

[3] : According to CRED, University of Louvain, compiled by IFRC in the World Disasters Report of 2011 : 260 million people per year are affected by hydro-meteorological disasters, earthquakes and epidemics. According to UNHCR World Trends (2010), 43 million people world wide were forcibly displaced in 2010.

[4] : UNICEF http://www.unicef.org/eapro/media_18369.html

[5] : World Bank, UNDP, UNEP (2005) Ecosystems and Human Well-Being, Synthesis Report, Washington.

[6] : UNEP 2010 Trends in natural disasters, http://maps.grida.no/go/graphic/trends-in-natural-disasters

[7] : World Bank cited in Lezlie, C. Moriniere, E. et al (2009) Climate Change and its Humanitarian Impacts (Feinstein International Centre, King's College London).

[8] : based on UN Financial Tracking Service, as reported in.http://washinternational.wordpress.com/2010/09/01/

access to water in many parts of the world, the number of people without access to safe water is expected to rise from just over 1 billion to 2 billion by 2025[9]. The FAO (Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations) estimates that by 2025, 1.8 billion people will be living in countries or regions with 'absolute water scarcity'[10] (22.5 % of the projected global population), and some 65 % of the world's population could be living under 'water stress' conditions. The lack of access to basic sanitation is also increasing. Only 63% of the world now has improved sanitation access, a figure projected to increase to only 67% by 2015. Currently 2.5 billion people still lack improved sanitation.

The situation is being exacerbated as rapidly growing urban areas place pressure on local water resources.[11] Millions more people will be in need of humanitarian WASH assistance in the years to come[12].

The rapidly growing range, frequency and scale of humanitarian WASH needs represent a major challenge for the capacity and resources of the global humanitarian system. This paper sets out how the Commission is helping to meet these challenges.

The EU is the biggest donor to the global humanitarian WASH response[13]. Globally, an average of 290 million € was allocated annually to humanitarian WASH in 2010, and again in 2011, of which the Commission allocated an average of over 108 million €[14] annually for dedicated humanitarian WASH projects. In addition many other Commission humanitarian projects include WASH components. Taking this additional WASH funding into account the overall contribution to WASH from the EU budget was nearly 200 million € in 2010, and the same in 2011.

Humanitarian aid alone is not able to continue to address the rapidly growing and changing needs. The role of improving resilience and LRRD is vital to helping meet these needs before they become humanitarian emergencies. In the face of rapidly growing WASH needs, coordination on WASH is crucial to ensure the most efficient use of the resources available.

With its own specific comparative advantages, and working through its many partnerships, the Commission is meeting the challenge of helping those in need by setting standards, reinforcing new global structures and pursuing advocacy beyond the humanitarian sphere.

[9]: Water Scarcity and Humanitarian Action: Key Emerging Trends and Challenges (UNOCHA brief #4, Sept. 2010)

[10]: Defined as when a country goes below 500 cubic meters fresh water availability per capita.

[11] : Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) WATER 2010 : Natural Resources and Environment department, Rome ; FAO 2007, Coping with water scarcity : challenge of the twenty first century, World Water Day 2007; UNOCHA ibid.

[12] : Progress on Drinking Water and Sanitation (WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for WASH, 2012)

[13] : According to the UN Financial Tracking Service, DG ECHO contributes between 32 and 46% of global humanitarian WASH funding.

[14] :source UN Financial Tracking Service

2. EUROPEAN COMMISSION HUMANITARIAN WASH ASSISTANCE

This document sets out how Commission humanitarian WASH assistance is addressing the growing global challenges of humanitarian WASH needs.[15]

The way in which the Commission programmes, implements and coordinates its humanitarian WASH delivery to achieve these aims involves the full range of measures at its disposal, as set out in this document. In particular these build upon the Commission's *comparative advantages* as a humanitarian actor. At the global level, the Commission is actively and constructively engaged with the 'Transformative Agenda' to strengthen the global humanitarian response system, including the functioning of the Global WASH Cluster. Within this global *enabling environment*, the Commission is ensuring the application of *best practice* to improve the *quality* of humanitarian WASH assistance, and the *resilience* of the vulnerable populations assisted. Commission humanitarian WASH assistance applies in anticipation of, during, and in the aftermath of humanitarian crises. This is achieved through the principal objective :

To save and preserve life and alleviate the suffering of populations facing severe environmental health risks and/or water insecurity in the context of anticipated, on-going and recent humanitarian crises.

With the following specific objectives:

(1) To **ensure timely and dignified access to sufficient and safe WASH services** for populations threatened by on-going, imminent or future humanitarian crises, **and to increase their resilience** to withstand water stress and shocks.

(2) To implement measures **to prevent the spread of WASH related diseases** in populations threatened by on-going, imminent or future humanitarian crises.

(3) To **enhance the impact, relevance, efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of WASH assistance** by strengthening the capacities of the humanitarian aid system, including its coordination mechanism.

[15] : In accordance with the orientation of the Humanitarian Aid Consensus, such as the needs based approach; in accordance with the Commission's humanitarian mandate defined by the humanitarian legal framework; to improve policy coherence, coordination and complementarity in the provision of humanitarian WASH assistance; to inform Member States and other fellow donors, partners and other stakeholders of the European Commission's objectives, priorities and standards in the delivery of humanitarian WASH assistance.

3. BASIC PRINCIPLES

3.1. Entry & exit criteria

In acute crisis, the main entry point for humanitarian WASH operations is:

A sudden (partial or total) loss of access to existing WASH services (regardless of its pre-disaster quality and coverage) and/or;

A high risk of rapidly contracting life-threatening or severely disabling WASH related diseases;

The exit criterion is the establishment, or re-establishment, of basic WASH services at a level that successfully reduces vulnerabilities brought upon by acute water insecurity and/or environmental health risks(s) conditions. The application of this exit criterion is advised by the timing required for a gradual transfer of WASH services to local beneficiaries, structures and/or other entities.

In non-acute crisis, WASH interventions are mainly conceived in support of other sector interventions (such as health, nutrition, food assistance or protection) or as part of an integrated package of several sector interventions, and thus subject to a common entry criteria. For example, where appropriate, the restoration of WASH services may act as a 'pull' factor encouraging returnees to settle back into their home villages. Similarly, where WASH interventions are triggered as part of a preparedness and/or DRR (Disaster Risk Reduction) initiative, the entry criteria would be that of the initiative. However, in case a WASH action is initiated in support of other sector(s), the exit strategy of that action should be WASH specific to ensure that minimum standards of WASH services are provided before exiting.

Overall, exit criteria for post-acute, chronic and protracted crisis are applied with consideration to the comparative advantage and cost-effectiveness of a sustained humanitarian intervention against that of local authorities/agencies, or other donors and/or partners able to intervene.

3.2. Needs Assessment and Prioritisation

Humanitarian WASH interventions are preceded by a detailed needs assessment with causal analysis. Such assessments are timely, and on an appropriate scale. Joint/common methodologies are applied, using pre-agreed assessment formats where feasible, to maximise coordination and the speed of data collection, analysis and sharing. WASH needs related to other sectors (including transversal) are included in the frame of the assessments.

Needs assessments are considered as an iterative **process that is constantly updated** accordingly to the evolution of the assisted population's WASH needs. They prioritise basic survival needs but also include socio-economic-related needs whenever these are likely to affect the response to basic needs.

Access to sufficient and safe water for household consumption is the utmost priority for survival, and must be prioritised over all other water usage needs. Such prioritisation is fully informed by other demands on water supply, and seeks where possible to extend to address the most vital needs to sustain basic resilience and livelihood – for example, sustaining minimal numbers of livestock for pastoralists.

Given limited resources and a broad potential scope of work, the Commission prioritises emergency WASH activities and responses first and foremost to achieve immediate life-saving during emergencies and their aftermaths. The main criteria for prioritisation are (i) the greatest needs and the highest level of vulnerability, (ii) the severity of the crisis and the scale of the unmet needs (iii) the immediacy of the crisis.

EU funding is prioritised on the basis of the impact foreseen, speed and quality, considering the beneficiaries needs and priorities as well as the comparative cost-effectiveness of the chosen response compared to other response options.

3.3. Integrated Programming and Partnerships

Actions defined to prevent the development and transmission of WASH related diseases integrate the three mutually supporting components which are *hygiene, sanitation and water supply*, whether completed under the same WASH response or not. In order to maximise the effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of actions, *'stand-alone' WASH operations should be integrated as a coherent part of a broader, transversal and cross-sectoral response to humanitarian needs*. Equally, basic WASH services (*'minimal WASH package'*) are always provided as part of other 'stand-alone' sector service deliveries, such as nutrition, health and shelter. **EU funded WASH operations are coordinated with other existing initiatives being implemented in the area of intervention, avoiding overlapping and promoting complementarities and synergies**. This includes respect for on-going development processes and where possible, transition to such broader programmes. In this context, coordination with Disaster Risk Reduction or Climate Change Adaptation strategies is of particular relevance.

In humanitarian WASH, the Commission's traditional partners are Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and International Organisations (the United Nations humanitarian agencies, the Red Cross/Crescent movement). Civil Protection Agencies of States participating in the EU Civil Protection Mechanism can deploy personnel and equipment through the Mechanism, thus complementing the humanitarian response if the assistance provided complies with the humanitarian WASH priorities and standards, and does not compromise humanitarian principles.

Given the scale of WASH needs to be addressed, the Commission also seeks partnerships and networks beyond its traditional partners. While the existing Humanitarian Regulation does not permit direct financial engagement with state or local actors, academic institutions, national civil society organisations or private institutions, such entities can be supported indirectly on the basis of sub-contracted arrangements on the condition that they have credible and viable capacities, that quality control is envisaged and that humanitarian principles are not compromised.

3.4. Standards, Information & Knowledge Management

The application of *best practice* to ensure the *quality* of humanitarian WASH assistance is fundamental if beneficiary communities are to understand and respect humanitarian principles. Equally the application of these principles is a fundamental part of achieving best practice in the delivery of humanitarian WASH services. Building on its field presence, and in particular its network of WASH experts, the **Commission actively promotes best practice through coordination forums such as the WASH Cluster, and through its network of partnerships**.

Through the allocation of funding, together with its WASH expertise, **the Commission supports, contributes to, and promotes the setting and use of international standards**, such as the Sphere project, one of the internationally recognised sets of common principles and universal minimum standards in life-saving areas of humanitarian response. Such standards facilitate emergency preparedness, and the speed and coherence of response. The Commission recognises that in certain contexts a more flexible application of international standards may be justified. The Commission

actively participates in coordination forums such as the WASH Cluster to ensure the timely design of appropriate and context specific applications of standards.

The Commission requires that **all WASH actions supported are designed around targets and outcome indicators that are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound (SMART).** The Commission also supports the establishment and promotion of common indicator sets, and standards for compatible data, that facilitate information sharing and coordination; and quality control through the monitoring and evaluation of the actions that it funds.

The Commission supports initiatives focused on improving knowledge management in order to ensure that the lessons of evidence based good practices are learned and applied, documented and disseminated to feed the design, programming and implementation of future operations.

4. TYPES OF CRISES

Emergency WASH operations can be conducted in preparation or as a response to a crisis. The Commission has two complementary ways of working to support emergency humanitarian WASH operations: traditional humanitarian aid, with financial grants to international NGOs, Red Cross Movement and United Nations humanitarian agencies; and through the EU civil-protection mechanism.

The type of humanitarian crisis faced at any given time conditions the way emergency humanitarian WASH interventions are designed and implemented. These divide broadly into four, often overlapping, crisis response phases referred to as: *Acute, Post-acute, Protracted crisis and/or Chronic*. These phases are further affected by the nature and cause of the crisis, the scale of displacement, and the context.

4.1. Emergency WASH preparedness

The aim of WASH emergency preparedness is to build resilience, to reach a reasonable level of preparation and to reinforce the coping capacity of local WASH actors (agencies and/or communities) in order to reduce vulnerability and ensure a timely and appropriate response to a disaster event in order to avoid preventable loss of life and decrease suffering.

Emergency preparedness within the scope of WASH programming reduces or removes the negative impact of sudden shocks or stresses on access to adequate WASH services. This in turn reduces the likelihood of an increased incidence of WASH related diseases and/or under-nutrition, both during and following the disaster itself. Where the vulnerability of local communities is extremely high, and where environmental health risks are clearly life-threatening to local communities, it may be justified to integrate WASH activities in Disaster Risk Reduction programming.

Emergency preparedness activities may also be directed at (inter-agency) WASH contingency planning, such as response simulation exercises and WASH capacity mapping; training of emergency WASH personnel and/or the pre-positioning of WASH emergency stocks (such as hygiene kits, water reservoirs, and latrine slabs). Emergency preparedness in WASH has been recognised as often being a more cost effective way of working, particularly in situations where there are frequent natural disaster events.

Case study 1: DRR/Emergency preparedness in WASH programming in drought stricken and water scarce areas.

In 2007, a series of elements raised awareness on the risk of drought faced by the population hosted in the Internally Displaced Person (IDP) camps in Darfur.

Data collected on Darfur rainfall patterns showed a continuous decrease in the rainfall over the last 50 years. At the same time, the population living in IDP camps kept on increasing, with 50% living in an urban context while 81% of the population lived in rural areas prior to the conflict.

This has been putting an exacerbated stress on local natural resources, including local aquifers. Tearfund released a report (Darfur – water supply in a vulnerable environment) identifying 21 IDP camps as vulnerable to groundwater depletion. One IDP camp in Northern Darfur (Abou Shouk) ran dry of groundwater. Data collection related to water in the camps was mainly oriented towards a supply perspective (litres per day).

The IDP camps were located in arid areas, with no alternative to groundwater for water supply and little understanding on the link between rainfall and local aquifers. In order to have the elements to be prepared to react in case of drought, a proper risk analysis of drought had to be carried out - including the possible impact on the water availability for the population living in the IDP camps, dependant on groundwater for its water supply.

- Rainfall data collection and analysis
- Monitoring of groundwater fluctuation (*linking the rainfall and groundwater levels*)
- Monitoring of the water usage in the camps
- Mapping of the groundwater resource available for drilling

In parallel, mitigation measures were established:

- To increase water availability with the construction of sub-surface dams to increase the water recharge in the aquifers, and the construction of rainwater run-off catchment system (water pans or 'hafirs')
- To reduce the risk of over pumping and exhausting the water resource; by putting restrictions on new water points in the camps; by carrying systematic pumping tests for the selection of appropriate pumping capacity; by raising the awareness of communities and traditional leaders on groundwater fluctuation and need to act upon it.
- To reduce the need for water : with the promotion of alternatives to high water demand livelihood activities; support for cash for work activities to create labour opportunities for IDPs; the design of building and sanitation facilities to avoid using mud bricks.
- To be better prepared to react with the stock piling of emergency equipment and consumables.

4.2. Emergency WASH response in acute crisis

In such circumstances the main priority is to (re)establish WASH services for 'life-saving' purposes. Temporary WASH services are usually required until more permanent solutions can be found.

Timeliness of the intervention is the Commission's primary concern; hence the focus is on the speed of the response.

Sector specificities:

In accordance with international standards and local conditions:

- *Water* supply interventions focus on providing reasonably clean and safe water supply, in sufficient quantities in the fastest possible time. The priority is to provide equitable access to an adequate quantity of water even if it is of intermediate quality[16].
- *Sanitation* interventions focus on immediate and safe excreta disposal. Priority should be given to protecting drinking water sources from possible contamination, particularly human and animal excreta.
- In coordination with the community, *Hygiene Promotion* focus on immediate actions which hold the greatest potential to reduce the spread and the risk of environmental health related outbreaks (such as hand washing and safe excreta disposal).

[16] As indicated by locally accepted or SPHERE standards

Case study 2: Role of MIC & Civil Protection in complementing Commission humanitarian WASH operations

Civil-Protection Water Purification Team in Haiti, 2010

During the acute phase of the response, the MIC may encourage Participating States (PS) to deploy WASH personnel and equipment based on the results of a needs-based joint assessments conducted in close coordination with Commission humanitarian field personnel, and in some cases support from the EU delegation in the affected country. If in-kind assistance provided by EU Civil Protection (CP) follows internationally accepted standards and local priorities, it has the potential to greatly complement the financial support allocated by the Commission to its humanitarian implementing partners, hence adding value to the overall WASH response.

Commission humanitarian implementing partners can play a fundamental role in the reception and appropriate use of the assets deployed by Civil Protection (such as water treatment, water pumping, storage, transport and purification equipment). Commission funded humanitarian projects can integrate appropriate in-kind contributions so that they reduce their material costs and gain in effectiveness and efficiency. In some cases, the staff of the Commission's humanitarian partners can be trained by Civil Protection specialized personnel in the installation, maintenance and operation of such equipment, so that it can be used during a longer period of time or for future emergencies in the affected country.

Commission humanitarian implementing partners should also be open to, in specific cases, become the consignees for in-kind assistance coming from Civil Protection. In certain cases it is preferable that the assistance is not channelled directly to the government of the affected country and in these cases alternative consignees for the assistance need to be found.

4.3. Emergency WASH response in post-acute crisis

The emphasis is on early recovery and the rehabilitation of WASH services with a gradual return to normality and self-sufficiency. The WASH strategy seeks to reinforce beneficiary participation and dignity. The proposed solutions are durable and may include both mitigation measures and disaster preparedness activities. Linkages with the long term actors are initiated and transitional strategies (LRRD) are gradually mainstreamed.

Sector specificities:

- Focus on rehabilitation and repair of existing WASH systems/facilities before constructing new ones; and re-establish institutional, social, and organisational structures to manage these WASH services. If the above measures cannot be implemented or remain insufficient, then the introduction of new structures/services are sometimes warranted.

- Improving *hygiene* is usually best achieved through a participative approach with the beneficiaries and by addressing long-term behaviour change. This requires more permanent and durable interventions which lay the groundwork for developmental-type interventions and levels of service.

4.4. Emergency WASH response in protracted crisis

The emphasis is on cost-effectiveness, quality, resilience and durability of the service and/or the replacement of temporary services where still in operation. Adequate Operation & Maintenance (O&M) is crucial to avoid the deterioration of the existing WASH services. Focus will also be on increasing the self-sufficiency of beneficiaries and on articulation with development efforts. Priority is given to comprehensive assessments of WASH needs and the introduction of appropriate and affordable technologies, which have lower and simpler O&M requirements. Improved targeting of beneficiaries is also required. Whenever feasible, the various instruments for addressing humanitarian and development WASH assistance needs in protracted crises and/or post crisis situations should be managed in a coherent and coordinated manner.

Sector specificities:

- *Water supply* services and infrastructure is more perennial than in acute scenarios, requiring that both the design and implementation of the proposed solutions are owned by the beneficiaries. Consideration should be given to accommodating competing demands for domestic water supply, especially from livestock, agricultural or industrial uses (such as brick making). Attention will also be paid to the sustainable management of available water resources and possible linked measures such as protection of catchment areas.

- *Sanitation* facilities are sustainable and encompass local considerations and customs. Sanitation solutions are designed to have an impact beyond the immediate crisis, and prevent further emergencies from occurring.

- *Hygiene promotion* strategies look beyond the basic messages provided in the acute phase aiming at achieving long-term behaviour change, which are designed on the basis of a thorough understanding of hygiene knowledge, attitude and practice (KAP) of beneficiaries and implemented with respect to broad participation and awareness of gender issues.

4.5. Emergency WASH response in chronic crises

In chronic crises, WASH interventions are generally linked to other sector initiatives such as health, nutrition or protection rather than stand-alone projects, while ensuring that the exit strategy for the WASH component remains WASH-specific. Only in exceptional cases is WASH a justification, or entry point, for Commission humanitarian interventions in chronic crises.

The main objective is to respond to acute needs, prevent the impact of the crisis from worsening, assist those most affected through re-establishing a certain level of self-sufficiency, and ultimately lay the ground work for development efforts to come in (while avoiding getting trapped indefinitely because of a continued absence of development actors).

Sector specificities:

- Priority interventions in chronic situations for *water supply* are properly planned and designed to be more perennial, requiring that both design and implementation of the proposed solutions are owned by the beneficiaries.

- *Sanitation* favours systems that are more durable, possibly based on household level services, and appropriate to the local social and cultural preferences. Sanitation solutions are designed to have an impact beyond the immediate crisis, and prevent further emergencies from occurring.

- *Hygiene* promotion messages in chronic scenarios focus on the objective of achieving long-term behaviour change in key areas known to reduce the risk of disease transmission. Efforts are made to increase long-term capacity for sustained behaviour change at all levels; i.e. through community mobilisation and social marketing methods and institutional support such as the training of extension staff.

The Commission recognises that its humanitarian WASH assistance does not have a comparative advantage in addressing chronic water insecurity. In principle, it does not use humanitarian WASH assistance to address this issue, except: where no-intervention poses immediate or imminent humanitarian risk of significant scale and severity; where other more appropriate actors, including its own development instruments, are either unable or unwilling to act, and cannot be persuaded to act; and where, in spite of its comparative disadvantages, positive impact can be expected within the time limitations of its intervention. In such cases, the Commission only engages humanitarian WASH assistance on the basis of dialogue, coordination and advocacy with potential development partners, where they exist, and with a clear and realistic exit-strategy defined, ensuring coordinated transition and thus avoiding uncoordinated overlap.

In all three of the above described emergency WASH response phases, attention is paid to reducing chronic exposure to diarrhoeal diseases and its detrimental impact on under-nutrition, particularly amongst children under five and other vulnerable groups (such as pregnant women, elderly people, and HIV patients).

5. KEY DETERMINANTS FOR INTERVENTIONS

The Commission supports two strategic areas of WASH programming, *Emergency WASH operations* and Humanitarian *WASH Capacity Building*. Interventions in both are informed by the following main strategic considerations for humanitarian WASH.

Emergency WASH operations

As set out in section 4, this is **the delivery of WASH services** and/or improvement of WASH conditions for the direct benefit of disaster exposed and/or affected populations. **This constitutes by far the largest area of humanitarian WASH funding. Its primary aim is to contribute to the establishment of basic on-site WASH conditions for beneficiaries to live in health, dignity and security**. Emergency WASH operations may be implemented either in response or in preparedness of humanitarian emergencies; nevertheless, the bulk of the funding is allocated in response to such events.

Humanitarian WASH Capacity Building

Humanitarian WASH Capacity Building **relates to the individual and/or collective strengthening of the institutional capacities of the Commission's implementing partners to design, deliver and coordinate more timely, effective and appropriate forms of WASH assistance**. This area constitutes a limited but crucial area of humanitarian WASH funding. WASH capacity building may be directed at implementing partners and/or at the integration of the humanitarian WASH system.

Priority areas for *Humanitarian WASH* Capacity Building include **adequate surge mechanisms** (resources mobilisation and deployment), **improved needs assessment**, **improved response-analysis**, **enhanced impact and accountability** measurement, improved technological assets, strengthened logistics (stockpiling, transportation of WASH equipment/materials), improved availability of skills and competencies/expertise, and enhanced (cross) sectorial (co)leadership and coordination (including national actors and authorities where appropriate).

Strategic Considerations for WASH programming

The choice of the most appropriate type of WASH intervention is a context specific choice which is reviewed over time. The relevance and comparative advantage of the proposed response option – and the combination of tools to be used – is demonstrated for the specific situation, based on needs assessments that are as accurate and up to date as possible given the urgency and complexity of the situation on the ground. Building on this, the following strategic considerations are addressed where they arise for humanitarian WASH interventions.

5.1. Beneficiaries

Targeting **of humanitarian WASH programming is based on priority humanitarian needs rather than on coverage of WASH services**. A vulnerability and coping capacity analysis is required to ensure WASH assistance is provided to those who need it most. This requires an understanding of the local context and how a particular crisis impacts on particular groups of people in different ways due to their pre-existing coping mechanisms and/or vulnerabilities in relation to local WASH resources, technologies and services. Support for beneficiaries' coping strategies, resilience and recovery capacity to re-establish access to basic WASH services is

essential. Targeting is refined as the crisis evolves and time allows for a more profound understanding of the local context.

Gender. An equitable and effective participation of men and women that results in planning, decision making and local management of appropriate emergency WASH services benefits the entire population. The specific strengths and vulnerabilities of women and children in the delivery and use of these services require special consideration. If gender issues are not taken into consideration, emergency interventions can put women at risk. For example, the use of communal WASH facilities in refugee or displaced camps, can increase women's and girl's vulnerability to sexual and other forms of gender-based violence.

Beneficiary participation & accountability. **WASH interventions are driven by people-centred approaches and should be accountable to beneficiaries.** This requires the earliest possible beneficiary and community participation and is then followed through to ensure the sustainability and resilience of the recovery after the acute phase. Accountability to the beneficiaries reinforces this process, and builds respect for humanitarian principles. For example, the early application of Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) surveys ensures clearly measurable progress through establishing a baseline for what WASH practices at the outset of a humanitarian intervention. Design and location of WASH facilities requires beneficiary participation if they are to be used, and sustained.

Livelihood. Water is also an economic means used for livelihood even in an emergency context (such as brick making, water for vegetables, water for livestock, and kitchen gardens). Increasing pressure on sometimes scarce resources can trigger water stress and provoke conflicts about access to water points. This is carefully considered before establishing drinking water supply services.

Frequently, labour intensive works in the scope of emergency WASH operations can be used for improving livelihood conditions through measures such as *cash for work or food for work*, which facilitates engaging the beneficiaries in the construction of their own WASH services while promoting empowerment and ownership, knowledge transfer, and operation and maintenance within beneficiary groups from the onset of the crisis.

Operation and Maintenance, and User Fees. **WASH interventions support locally appropriate technologies and designs**. A balance is ensured between technically reasonable solutions and what the beneficiary population in a given context can manage after the end of the project. Consideration is given to management issues regarding the access to any WASH service, its functionality with regard to its end users (for example, hand pumps should be easy for girls and women to operate) and its running costs over the longer term . Generally, the simpler the WASH system design is, the lower the running costs are and the easier it can be managed by users (frequently not technically skilled).

While cost recovery is not a priority in acute emergencies, **awareness of the protracted financial consequences of (re)establishing WASH services is essential from the outset**. **Humanitarian interventions should be open to early transition to fee based WASH services to create conditions for a sustainable operation and maintenance.** To achieve this requires:
- an enabling environment is in place or created (for example, linking the operation and maintenance (O&M) to an existing spare parts supply system)
- the user fee ensures that the needs of the most vulnerable are covered and that this part of the population will not be excluded from accessing WASH services.

Case study 4: Liberia O&M and user fee transition

During the Liberian civil war of the 1990s, the 'White Plains' water plant that supplied the capital city Monrovia was repeatedly damaged in the fighting. Most of the population in Monrovia (700,000 inhabitants) were highly vulnerable, including many internally displaced.

Through humanitarian interventions the water plant was partially repaired, operated and maintained, to ensure a supply of clean water for the city. Also benefitting from this humanitarian-funded water supply were a number of commercial enterprises producing beverages.

Throughout the early transition, funded by the EU, commercial and other users of the water supply who could pay, did pay. This ensured a reliable supply for those who paid, while the revenues subsidised free water for the most vulnerable. Humanitarian funds were thus liberated to address the many other humanitarian needs.

White Plains Water Treatment Station, Monrovia, Liberia

5.2. Environment, Context, and WASH Related Epidemics

WASH related epidemics. Man-made or natural disasters such as complex emergencies and floods resulting in population movements, as well as overcrowded camps for refugee/internally displaced are conducive to outbreaks of water, sanitation and/or vector-borne related diseases with high morbidity and mortality rates.

Urban settings. In addition to land issues and overcrowding constraints, the main challenges are usually the availability of spare equipment and materials to repair WASH infrastructure (including power generation and transmission) and the associated technical expertise to normalise the delivery of WASH services (such as the establishment of temporary urban sanitation facilities like elevated latrines, and raising awareness about unsafe environmental health conditions and hygiene behaviours). Key strategic considerations for intervening in urban settings include:

i) Assessing damages and/or shortcomings of the existing WASH services and designing properly targeted[17] WASH responses (usually in support of the local water agency).

ii) Implementing a twin approach aimed at simultaneously establishing temporary WASH service delivery points , while implementing emergency rehabilitation work on permanent WASH systems (usually achievable through the local WASH agencies with support from development agencies, financing institutions and the private sector) This requires close coordination between the deployment of humanitarian aid and civil protection.

Environmental impact and water scarcity. Basic environmental impact considerations inform humanitarian WASH programming. This is achieved by raising awareness around potential contamination and other negative effects of poorly planned WASH activities such as over exploitation of natural resources (land degradation, and deforestation, for example), breeding of infectious disease vectors (such as in pit latrines, and in drainage ditches) or

[17] often in the scope of heterogeneous urban contexts composed of both affected and non affected populations

bacteriological/chemical contamination (such as from emptying latrine pits, poor disposal of water treatment plant sludge, inappropriate handling and disposal of medical waste, and mass distribution of non-biodegradable materials) and by implementing corresponding mitigation measures.

Equally, WASH interventions in water scarce areas, should seek to integrate adequate Disaster Risk Reduction strategies such as monitoring of groundwater depletion, increasing surface water collection potential, improving water distribution targeting, reducing water use wastage, etc. Addressing water scarcity requires an integrated approach that goes well beyond the scope of humanitarian aid. However, given the ever increasing impact of water scarcity on the delivery of WASH services in humanitarian action in many contexts, the Commission sometimes consider supporting initiatives aimed at:

- Highlighting and documenting the implications of water scarcity on vulnerability and humanitarian need to enable the humanitarian system to be proactive in pre-empting water scarcity-driven humanitarian needs.

- Developing humanitarian partner's capacities, and strengthening information and monitoring systems aimed at measuring and/or forecasting water availability in chronically water stressed areas, with recurrent humanitarian crises.

Case study 5: Environmental impacts in WASH operations, India.

WASH interventions in both, rural and urban settings, have an impact on the environment, which might put at risk the sustainability of the intervention in the short, medium or long term. These impacts must be considered prior to scheduling an operation beyond life-saving operations and immediate emergency operations. Coordination between donors and partners is essential to avoid an over exploitation of natural resources in a given environment, and to minimise the environmental impacts of humanitarian WASH projects such as pollution of ground water.

For example : During the Bihar floods in north-eastern India, existing wells were rehabilitated and hand pumps replaced, while simple family pit and Ventilated Improved Pit (VIP) latrines were newly introduced into the area to overcome the problems caused by the predominant open defecation in the villages.

The various projects implemented were not sufficiently coordinated. The required distances between the latrine pits and the wells, all settled on sandy soil and shallow aquifers, were not respected. This resulted in the pollution of the groundwater, with significantly elevated numbers of coliform bacteria in the aquifer verified by systematic water tests for many villages.

The solution applied was to increase the depth of the wells in the affected villages in order to tap bacteria-free deeper groundwater. The quality of the wells was prioritised over the quantity of wells.

5.3. Actions

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) & Resilience. The extent to which DRR considerations need to be addressed in WASH programming is influenced by the type of hazard faced and level of vulnerability of any given context. Physical infrastructure is particularly vulnerable to disasters. A rapid onset event such as a flood, earthquake or hurricane can destroy or severely damage WASH infrastructure, as well as limit the capacity of WASH service providers (community, government or private sector) to operate and maintain these systems.

Risk-informed WASH programming is paramount, meaning that where feasible and relevant, DRR measures are integrated in every stage of the response cycle of emergency WASH operations. For example, a slow onset or chronic event such as drought can increase water scarcity. Investment in making WASH systems more disaster-proof should always be based on an assessment of local hazards and vulnerabilities of the WASH services considering: the situation (nature and frequency of risks); the impact of previous events; and environmental & demographic pressure and DRR and Climate Change Adaptation Strategies & Capacities.

In response, the main focus is on building back infrastructure to be more disaster- proof. DRR may also be accompanied by emergency preparedness activities. DRR may also contribute to the exit strategy of WASH programming, ensuring greater *resilience* for vulnerable populations, for example through an integrated approach which promotes community based operation and maintenance and a sustainable user fees system. DRR and emergency preparedness in WASH programming may also contribute to improved integrated watershed management.

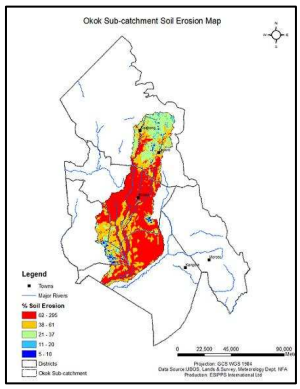
Case study 6: 'Watershed' approach to drought preparedness in Uganda.

Droughts represent the second most recurrent disaster in Africa, but the main one in terms of population affected. Arid lands are a very fragile ecosystem, easily negatively affected by issues such as permanent settlements, and over-use of natural resources. An adequate natural resource management perspective needs to be integrated into the approach for interventions in arid lands. Watershed limits correspond to natural boundaries regarding water, but this dimension is too often absent from programming at local, country, regional levels.

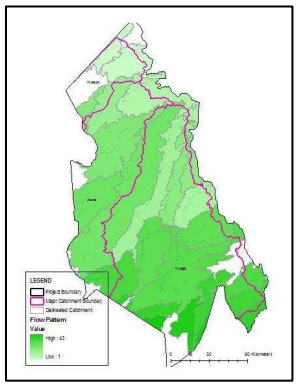
With EU support, an ACF & IUCN pilot project in Uganda is building resilience against drought through improved water resource management, consisting in the following results and activities:

1. Socio-economic and hydro-geological information to enable water management decisions
   - Desk study on existing data and literature available for the targeted area regarding hydro-geological condition
   - Socio-economic assessment and hydrological as well hydro-geological surveys
   - Hydro-geological and surface water mapping
2. The drafting of a water management plan for the Okok watershed
   - Identification of customary rights around water resources
   - Awareness on water resource rights as well as roles and responsibilities of the different stakeholders.
   - An inventory of water use and demand
   - The training on integrated water resource management and ground water monitoring
   - The dissemination of the findings

The project supported is valid for an approach aiming at linking relief, rehabilitation and development and contributing to an evidence-based advocacy strategy. It may not be replicable as such for short term emergency response, but a natural resource management approach should be integrated into emergency response as a normal best practice in WASH programming.



Map showing Sub-catchment Soil Erosion



Map showing runoff pattern zone delineation

Emerging and New Ways of Working. Beyond direct project implementation, different modalities for the provision of WASH services may be considered under specific circumstances. These include in-kind contributions, private sector partnerships, water vouchers and cash transfer.

In certain contexts**, in-kind contributions** of specialised WASH equipment may be provided through the **EU Civil Protection Mechanism**, while in others 'standby arrangements' between the Commission implementing partners and private foundations (such as international water utilities) may be used to mobilize specialised WASH expertise and equipment to disaster areas. Where pre-conditions are met, the **Commission may temporarily support the use of vouchers for water supply** as an improvement over short term emergency response such as water trucking.

The most appropriate and effective of these modalities are adopted for any given context ensuring a coordinated and complementary response meeting internationally recognised standards and strictly respecting humanitarian principles.

6. COORDINATION

With humanitarian WASH needs growing, the global humanitarian WASH community has to work together better. Coordination, coherence and complementarity are being promoted to prevent gaps in assistance, to prevent duplication, to ensure continuity and sustainability, and to maximise the overall impact of the resources available. Close coordination is being promoted with all actors in line with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness.[18]

Rehabilitation of Wad Abu Shubban Spring in Lasafa Village, oPt.

6.1. Crisis specific

Wash sector

The European Union supports the establishment and use of WASH coordination platforms, such as Clusters or equivalent, in order to have a comprehensive response approach. To this end, partners are required to participate in such coordination mechanisms. Engagement at local level, to work with local know-how is an essential part of this coordination.

When relevant and if in line with expected results, the Commission may provide direct support to the WASH leadership mechanism and/or coordination structure. The Commission also strongly supports the participation of beneficiary representatives and/or WASH governmental institutions in such coordination mechanisms. Where activated, the Commission fully supports the WASH Cluster, with an emphasis on ensuring a clear improvement in aid delivery. The Commission will participate and promote other donors participation in WASH coordination mechanisms to favor complementarity and accountability.

Case study 7: WASH Cluster in oPt

The oPt WASH cluster creates an enabling environment for humanitarian WASH interventions in a notoriously difficult context. It brings together the many partner organisations in order to develop coherence towards both a strategic and operational approach. **The creation of a unified set of standards, parameters and quantifiable indicators allows for improved tracking, monitoring and therefore reporting by the cluster of specific and general trends and the needs that arise from this**.

This coordinated, rationalized and strategic approach has improved the prioritization and timely release of funding. **Several working groups (water scarcity, water quality, demolitions response and sanitation) have been created under this framework and encompass both mitigation measures and response actions**. **The established coordination and monitoring mechanism provides DG ECHO with a comprehensive annual analysis and status of the humanitarian needs and projected trends within the WASH sector**. In addition it identifies, and thereby advocates for, areas highly vulnerable to critical emerging or existing risks. By establishing a framework that sets out a multi-faceted approach of mitigation, preparedness and response, this provides more sustainable measures that can also be extended into early recovery, linking to and complementing longer term development strategies.

[18] : see http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/11/41/34428351.pdf

Coordination of humanitarian aid and civil protection is usually in acute crisis. Humanitarian aid and civil protection maintain regular coordination in order to have a unified/coordinated position in terms of WASH needs, priorities and lines of action towards the WASH coordination mechanisms (including Clusters) and local institutions of the affected country. Often Commission humanitarian field staff will already have developed a relationship with local authorities before the emergency. In this case, EU CP can use the existing communication channels. Given the Commission's presence in the WASH Cluster and its regular contacts with humanitarian WASH implementing partners in the field, it has a role in facilitating coordination among the different WASH EU CP agencies, and in facilitating the contacts between them and other WASH implementing partners. As a result, participating States of the CP Mechanism can provide assistance with the highest added-value. As in all sectors, provision of CP assistance follow basic humanitarian WASH priorities and standards (usually defined by the UNOCHA Emergency Relief Coordinator/Humanitarian Country Team and WASH Cluster/coordination platform) and do not compromise humanitarian principles.

Cross-sector articulation

WASH interventions may be integrated with other sectors, or mainstreamed through other sectors. In this respect, the Commission supports cross sector coordination mechanisms and/or tools & methodologies that increase the integration of WASH assistance within the other sectors.

6.2. Global Level Coordination

Overall, maximising the impact of Commission humanitarian WASH interventions requires an *enabling environment.*

Coordination and cooperation between Commission services, EU institutions, EU Member States and other major humanitarian donors is being maximised to ensure that Commission WASH programming decisions are made on the basis of need, factoring in all funding and assistance strategies expected from other donors and actors.

The Global WASH Cluster has a key role to play in this. It is the forum through which WASH humanitarian agencies, major donors and other actors can agree, task and resource global humanitarian WASH priorities in direct support of field operations.

The Commission's network of humanitarian WASH experts works to strengthen the functioning of the WASH Cluster, and ensures the articulation between local level project performance, and coordination with regional and global strategies, priorities and standards. It also encourages an equitable participation between the Cluster Lead agency and other WASH implementing partners, in order to promote inclusiveness, co-responsibility and mutual accountability. The Commission recognises the importance of fully exploiting synergies available through closer coordination with other Global Clusters, often also supported through Commission humanitarian funding. For example, the regional storage of WASH items in the UN Humanitarian Response Depots and IFRC Regional Logistics Units and transport facilities provided through the global Logistics Cluster.

6.3. Transition/LRRD (Link between Relief, Rehabilitation and Development)

In accordance with the orientation of the Commission's position on linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development[19], the Commission's humanitarian WASH interventions maximise the opportunities for linkage.

This applies in the technical design of the intervention; through awareness of the nature of pre-intervention WASH services; and through active planning and articulation with local authorities and appropriate international donors and agencies to ensure the sustainability and resilience of humanitarian WASH interventions. During this transitional phase, greater alignment of WASH standards and strategies between humanitarian and development programming is sometimes required.

As part of this approach, the inclusion of integrated water resource management (IWRM) is an integral part of relief response rather than an add-on consideration. Such strategies involve a comprehensive evaluation of water resources; an assessment of current and future demand; the definition of the roles and functions of local and national authorities, and the creation of water management bodies (with representatives of all water users); and the drawing up and enforcement of water-use rules and/or master plans for water, or waste water, systems in urban settings.

This also applies proactively through engagement with other actors involved in contexts of high vulnerability and/or humanitarian crisis. Such engagement is within the Commission, for example with the 'Water Facility', and with other donors and agencies, in particular where these have specific budget lines or comparative advantages not available to EU WASH funding. Such reinforced coordination is both at country/crisis level, for example with EU Delegations, and at global level, for example through initiatives and processes such as 'Sanitation and Water for All'.

The Commission recognises that humanitarian WASH assistance is limited in space and time to the immediate prevention of, response to and recovery after a crisis. In some particular cases, however, the timeframe of the humanitarian assistance is sometimes extended to ensure the transition towards development funding while articulating with other actors better suited to address such needs.

[19] : European Commission (2001) Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development – An Assessment, COM (2001) 153 final of 23.04.2001

Case study 8: LRRD good practice: inter-departmental cooperation in allocating the Devco 'Water Facility' funding.

The EU/ACP Water Facility is a concrete way of facilitating the *Link between Relief, Rehabilitation and Development* in post-conflict and post-emergency scenarios.
In the framework of the 2nd and 3rd Calls for Proposal, DG ECHO humanitarian experts worked with DG DEVCO and the EU Delegations to specific African countries where DG ECHO is or was active, in order to provide assistance with the evaluation of concept notes/ full applications.

Two complementary criteria were set up to the participation of ECHO WASH sectoral experts in the evaluation process. The EU Delegations have been invited to request technical support for:

- Projects to be implemented by actors that are also DG ECHO's implementing partners or potential partners;
- Projects that are linked to DG ECHO's mandate and range of activities

Four components of LRRD have been identified:
1. Operations continuing EU humanitarian funded projects;
2. Projects focussing on operation and maintenance, regulation; complementing EU humanitarian funded operations in creating an enabling environment for sustainable outputs;
3. Recovery and rehabilitation projects in areas where DG ECHO has been / is still involved;
4. Operations targeting areas suffering from extreme underdevelopment.

Waterhole construction in Kolemara Sara, Chad

7. ADVOCACY

The Commission plays an active role in framing and advocating a global agenda for access to basic humanitarian WASH services in humanitarian crises, in collaboration with other EU services and international partners**.**

Reaching out beyond the humanitarian sphere includes engagement with global actors able to assist in identifying the potential for humanitarian WASH needs, and to act to prevent those needs arising; for example, through active advocacy on the need to build resilience throughout all sectors of humanitarian operations.

European Commissioner Georgieva speaking at the World Water Forum, 2012

Key messages for advocacy are:

- Climate change has a growing and significant impact on water, sanitation and hygiene among vulnerable people. Humanitarian aid alone will not be able to continue to address the rapidly growing needs. The role of improving resilience and LRRD is vital to helping meet these needs before they become humanitarian emergencies.

- In the face of rapidly growing WASH needs, coordination on WASH is crucial to ensure the most efficient use of the resources available. Internationally, the global WASH Cluster should be a key mechanism for such coordination. Internally, and given the increasing proportion of urban WASH needs, we need to improve synergies between civil protection and humanitarian aid.

Other advocacy priorities include:

- Recalling the responsibility of governments and developmental actors, to improve basic WASH services for the most vulnerable populations, particularly in the context of chronic humanitarian crisis and transitional situations – and advocate for adequate flexible funding.

- Strengthening the global humanitarian WASH assistance capacity; promoting the crucial role of WASH in humanitarian action; and to highlight and formulate solution to humanitarian gaps and bottlenecks in the WASH sector

- Better integration of WASH assistance in other sectorial responses – such as WASH in health, in nutrition, in food assistance, in adaptation to climate change, and in livelihoods - and vice versa.

- The crucial role of women and children in WASH related tasks, including in hygiene promotion transfer, and the need to alleviate the disproportionate burden of water collection duties on women and children.

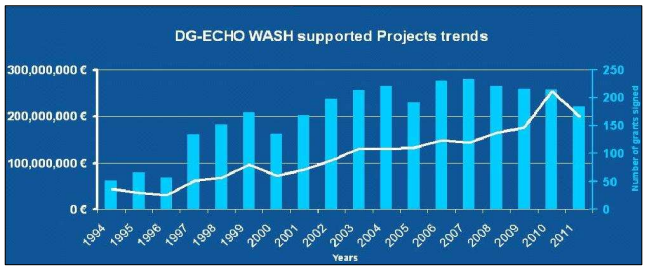
- Improving the synergies between humanitarian assistance and civil protection, especially in addressing urban WASH needs.

Finally in reaching out beyond the humanitarian sphere, while Commission humanitarian assistance is needs-based in its humanitarian approach, it's advocacy contributes to the fulfillment of the human right[20] to water and sanitation within the possibilities and scope of its humanitarian mandate. The human right to water and sanitation requires that water and sanitation are available, safe, acceptable, accessible and affordable for all without discrimination. Such coordination with the rights based approach informs the evidence base, and helps advocate for pre-emptive action to stop WASH stress becoming humanitarian WASH needs. Advocating for the rights to water and sanitation within WASH can also help to make progress more inclusive and sustainable, while promoting equity, accountability and policy coherence.

Comparative advantages in meeting the challenge of increasing and changing humanitarian WASH needs.

Natural disasters and conflicts cause humanitarian crises; climate change, population growth and urbanisation increase both the number and complexity of emergencies. The Commission, working with its partner humanitarian actors, is improving responses through increasing the coverage of programmes, making them more efficient, better coordinated, and adapted to new contexts. In doing so, it combines major comparative advantages.

- Scale as a donor. With up to Euros 200 million now allocated to WASH each year the Commission is now the biggest donor in humanitarian WASH, identifying and promoting best practice. This WASH funding is part of over Euros 1 billion allocated to humanitarian aid each year, a strong cross-sector involvement to promote integrated programming and coordination.
- Coordination of Civil-Protection, composed of 32 European States, provides in-kind assistance and expertise to crisis response complementing humanitarian agencies capacities.
- Dedicated humanitarian field expert network. Working closely with all partners, 140 international experts ensure the quality of humanitarian responses.
- Speed of response. Through both its rapid deployment of field expertise, matched by rapid funding for identified needs, the Commission is present at the very outset of a disaster. This is being supported and improved through global capacity building, especially in the logistics sector.
- Coverage of Forgotten Crises. This remains a strategic priority, in addition to the Commission's proven speed of response to new crises, to ensure a comprehensive response to all types of humanitarian WASH needs.



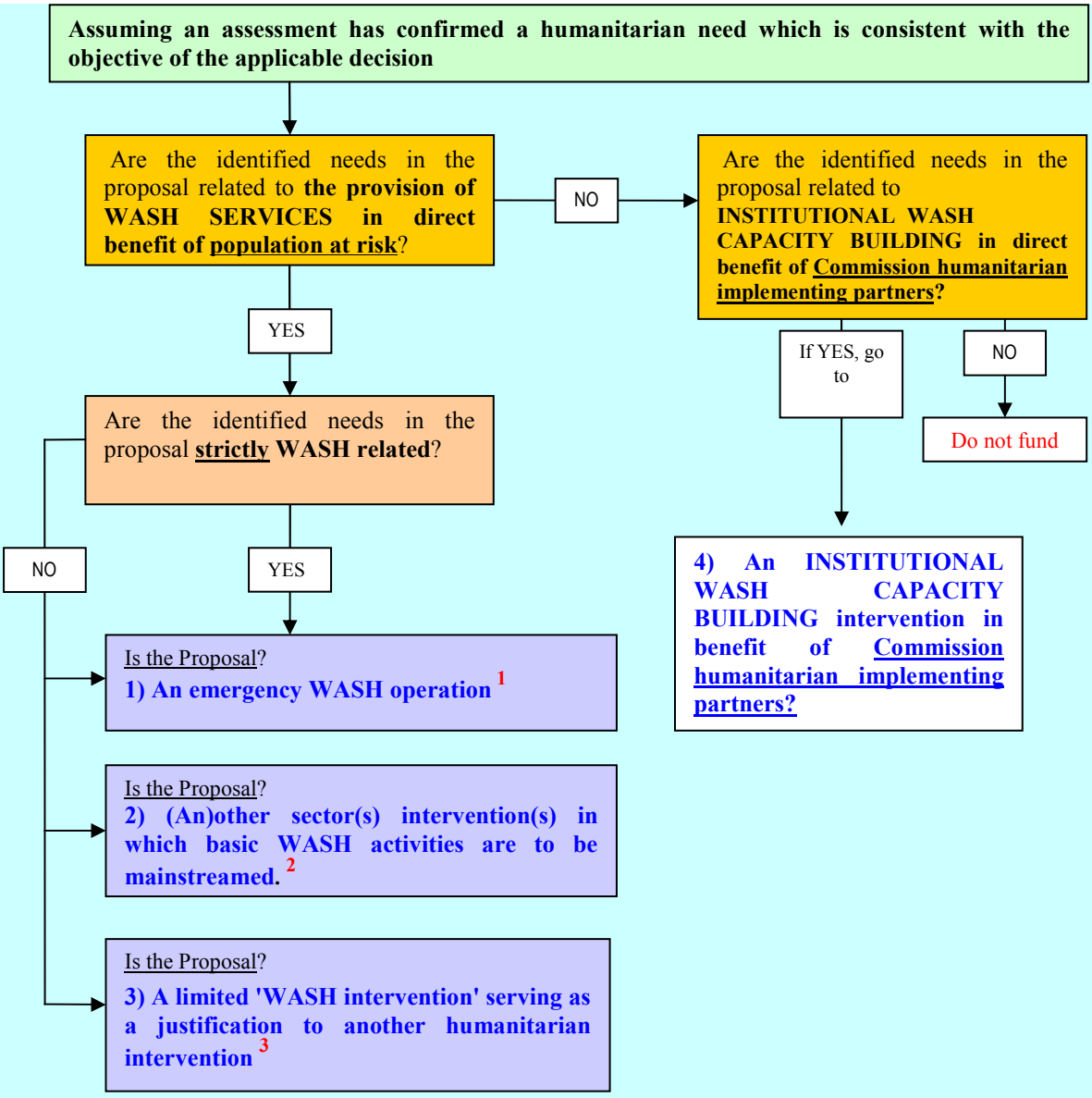
Commission funded global Humanitarian Response helicopter responding to floods in Ethiopia, 2012

[20] : see for example UN July 2010 universal declaration on the right to 'water and sanitation'

ANNEXES

Annex A: Decision Tree
Annex B: Typology of Problem Statement-Response (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene)
Annex C: Acronyms
Annex D: Glossary
Annex E: References

Annex A: Decision Tree

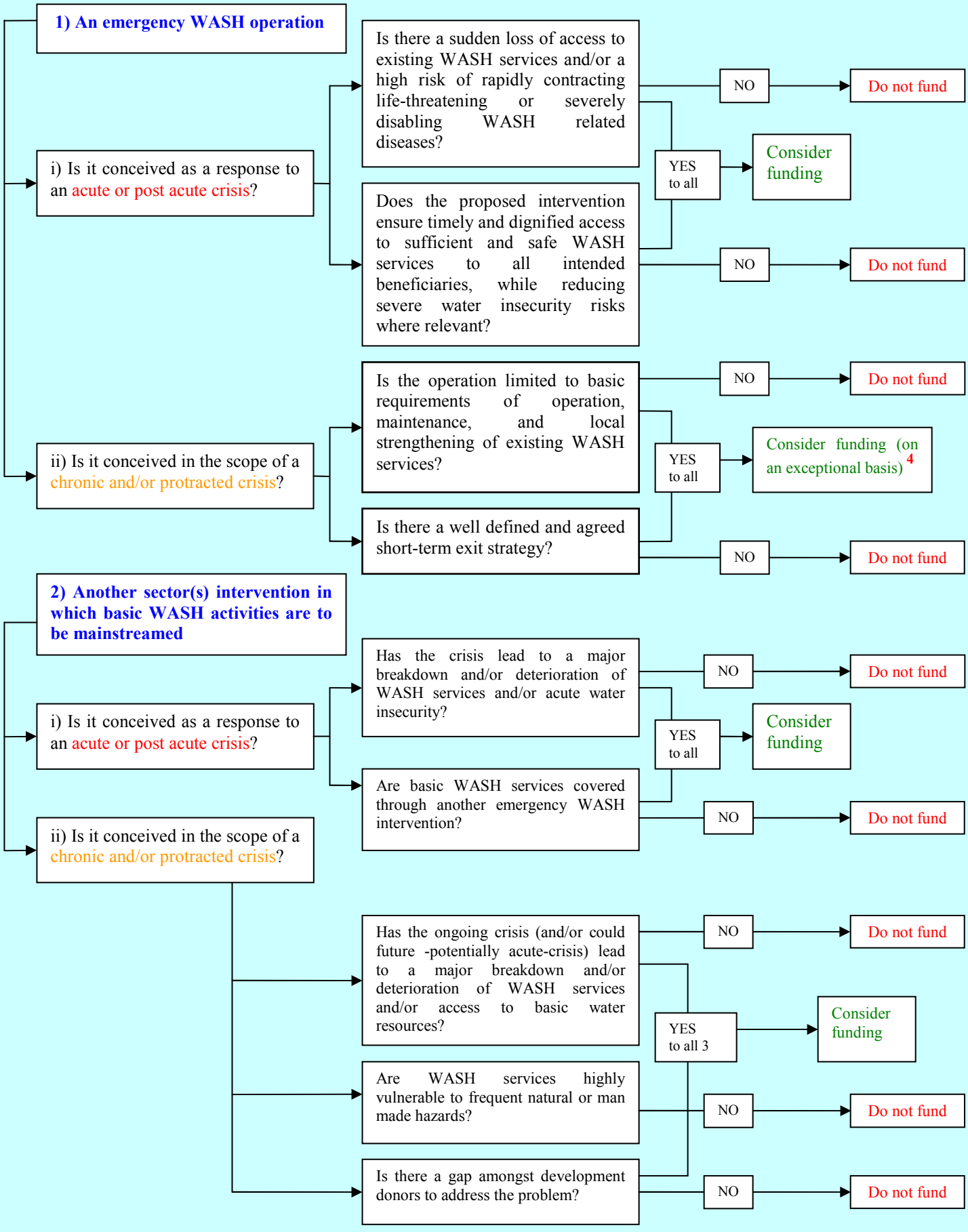


NOTES:

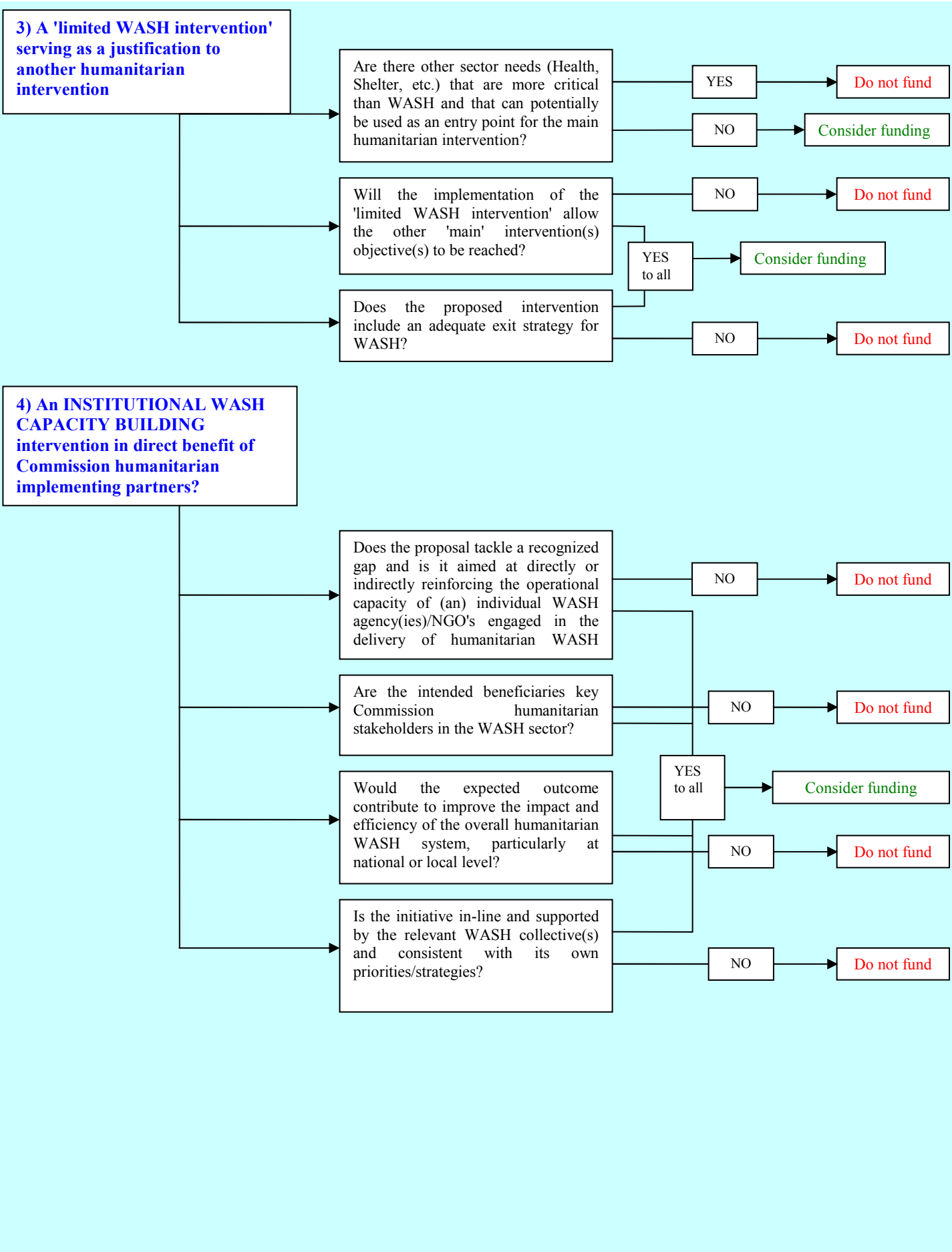
[1] As defined under WASH policy (page 8) either: a) as a ' stand alone' WASH intervention proposal; or b) in parallel to other sector interventions (Food, Health, Shelter, etc.) in the same proposal.

[2] As WASH activities (Minimum WASH Package) to be integrated in (an)other sector(s) intervention (such as Health, Shelter, Nutrition, etc.)

[3] Under strict conditions (and exit criteria), a limited 'WASH intervention' (in scope) may be justified as an 'entry point for another humanitarian intervention, particularly where the nature of the main (or intended) intervention is considered highly sensitive (Protection, Cholera surveillance) and where the capacity and mandate of the implementing partner is clearly compatible with the main intervention (ICRC/Protection, etc).



[4] Where DG ECHO's comparative advantages as a donor are clear, LRRD conditions are in place and short-term exit criteria well accepted and defined (for example a well planned resettlement project displaced returning to their homeland).


3) A 'limited WASH intervention' serving as a justification to another humanitarian intervention
Are there other sector needs (Health, Shelter, etc.) that are more critical than WASH and that can potentially be used as an entry point for the main humanitarian intervention?
YES
Do not fund
NO
Consider funding
Will the implementation of the 'limited WASH intervention' allow the other 'main' intervention(s) objective(s) to be reached?
NO
Do not fund
YES to all
Consider funding
Does the proposed intervention include an adequate exit strategy for WASH?
NO
Do not fund
4) An INSTITUTIONAL WASH CAPACITY BUILDING intervention in direct benefit of Commission humanitarian implementing partners?
Does the proposal tackle a recognized gap and is it aimed at directly or indirectly reinforcing the operational capacity of (an) individual WASH agency(ies)/NGO's engaged in the delivery of humanitarian WASH
NO
Do not fund
Are the intended beneficiaries key Commission humanitarian stakeholders in the WASH sector?
NO
Do not fund
YES to all
Consider funding
Would the expected outcome contribute to improve the impact and efficiency of the overall humanitarian WASH system, particularly at national or local level?
NO
Do not fund
Is the initiative in-line and supported by the relevant WASH collective(s) and consistent with its own priorities/strategies?
NO
Do not fund

Annex B: Typology of Emergency WASH Operations activities in relation to sub-sector and support mechanisms

SUB-SECTOR	SPECIFIC AREAS	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES
SANITATION	**Excreta disposal**	Provision of sanitation materials/kits/NFI; construction/management of emergency excreta disposal systems; short term rehabilitation/ reconstruction of existing excreta disposal systems; conditional and limited development/extension of new and sustainable excreta disposal systems; limited provision of basic supplies for the operation and maintenance of excreta disposal systems; basic support (training, provision of tools, etc) to local excreta disposal systems management entities.
	Solid & medical waste	Emergency collection, removal and disposal of domestic and public refuse; collection and disposal of medical waste and corpses.
	Wastewater and drainage	Construction and/or rehabilitation of simple waste water systems (soak ways pits, infiltration trenches, etc.); diversion of rain water to existing natural or manufactured drainage (storm water drains, bucket basins, evaporation pans, evapotranspiration beds) or for small-scale household-based irrigation use; limited rehabilitation and maintenance of existing drainage networks, construction of communal wash points (for laundry)
	Vector control	Integrated and targeted measures, including environmental control, individual and family protection and/or chemical control (purchase of basic equipment, consumables and training of staff) of diseases vectors.
WATER	Deployment and operation of emergency water supply systems/kits (water purification/storage/distribution); Provision of water kits/NFI; Short-term emergency water tankering; Emergency distribution of bottled water; Implementation of Home Water Treatment and Storage (HWTS) activities; Water access by vouchers; Short term rehabilitation and reconstruction work of existing water systems/points; Conditional and limited development of new water systems (after exhausting all other options, or in the scope of emergency preparedness/DRR actions); Limited provision of spare parts and basic supplies for the operation and maintenance of the above water systems; Basic training of local entities (committees and/or utilities) in charge of water systems; targeted monitoring of water quality/quantity/access/cost, etc.	
HYGIENE PROMOTION	Provision of hygiene kits/NFI; targeted hygiene promotion training and campaigns; provision of incentive for local hygiene promoters; basic monitoring of food and water safety.	
SUPPORT MECHANISMS	**DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES**	
Articulation and resource mobilization	Support to collective operational mechanisms related to the coordination of the WASH sector, including clusters at regional/national/local level and processes promoting the consultation/participation of local stakeholders (authorities, beneficiaries, etc.).	
Information Management	Collection, analysis and dissemination of WASH information in anticipation (emergency preparedness), response (needs assessments and response analysis including design and targeting) and follow up (monitoring and evaluation) of a disaster	
Logistics and supply	Operational support to WASH equipment/material supply chain, including stockpiling where appropriate	
Advocacy	Awareness raising of broad range of WASH stakeholders to shore up the above referred sub-sectors and support activities	

Annex C: List of Acronyms

AIDCO	EuropeAid Co-operation Office
ACF	Action Contre la Faim
ACP	African, Caribbean, Pacific
CB	Capacity Building
CP	Civil Protection
CRED	Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters
CTC	Cholera treatment centres
DEVCO	Development and Cooperation Directorate–General (EuropeAid)
DG ECHO	European Commission Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
ERC	Enhanced Response Capacity
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
HA	Humanitarian Aid
HRD	Humanitarian Response Depots (5 strategic regional warehouses with preparedness stocks of essential humanitarian items)
IDP	Internally Displaced People
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IWRM	Integrated Water Resource Management
KAP	Knowledge, Attitude and Practice
LRRD	Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development
MIC	Monitoring and Information Centre
NGO	Non Governmental Organisation
oPt	Occupied Palestinian Territories
ORS	Oral Rehydration Salt
O&M	Operation and Maintenance
RECA	Regional WASH Cluster Advisors
RLU	Regional Logistics Unit
RRT	Rapid Response Team
Sphere	Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response
SMART	Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound
UN	United Nations
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNOCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
VIP latrines	Ventilated Improved Pit latrines
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Annex D: Glossary

Best Practice	Procedures or actions that represent a sector –wide consensus of a particular WASH humanitarian response based on proven practice.
Comparative Advantage	For the context of this paper, this refers to the relative ability of one actor to efficiently and effectively meet a defined set of needs, on the basis of their mandate and operational parameters, compared to another actor.
Do no harm	A response that does not create undue dependency on the relief system, expose beneficiaries to unjustified risk or cause excessively detrimental impact on the environment.
Early Recovery	Actions taken at the earliest opportunity to strengthen local capacity, work with local resources and restore services
Enabling Environment	Where the response is evidence based and decisions made by accurate and timely needs assessment
Humanitarian Crisis	A humanitarian crisis is an event or series of events which represents a critical threat to the health, safety, security or well-being of a community or other large group of people, usually over a wide area. A humanitarian crisis can have natural or manmade causes, can have a rapid or slow onset and can be of short or protracted duration.
In-Kind	Items or equipment given as a gift by a Government, private company or individual.
Relief-development continuum	A situation where there is a linear consecutive transition from emergency needs to recovery needs to development needs.
Relief-development contiguum	A situation where emergency, recovery and development needs co-exist simultaneously.
Resilience	The ability of a system, community or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate to and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner, including through the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures and functions.
SPHERE	The Humanitarian Charter and Minimum standards in Humanitarian relief reflect the determination of agencies to improve both the effectiveness of their assistance and their accountability to their stake holders.
Sustainability	The ability of water sources and water resources to continue functioning and yielding water into the long term future.
Targeting	Consists of defining which geographical areas, communities and population groups will benefit from WASH operations.

Urban settings	Are usually characterised by a high population density supported by complex WASH systems, whose level of functioning is often beyond the scope of competence of many of the Commission's humanitarian partners. These services are often not available on the outskirts of urban settlements, such as slum areas, where the most vulnerable populations live.
Vulnerability	Vulnerability comprises the characteristics of population groups that make them more or less susceptible to experiencing, stress, harm or damage when exposed to particular hazards. Therefore those who are vulnerable to *food insecurity* may currently be able to maintain an acceptable food intake, but are at risk of becoming food insecure in the future if exposed to a shock.
WASH	All works related to water, sanitation and hygiene, including the provision of safe and affordable access to a clean water supply and methods of disposing of waste. This involves the provision of services and training on how manage them.
WASH Cluster	The Global means of coordinating a WASH response in a large scale or complex emergency. The WASH Cluster will operate when the UN Humanitarian Relief Coordinator declares the crisis a cluster approach. The WASH Cluster is managed globally by UNICEF who is the cluster lead agency.
Water Resource	The wider body of water from which a water source draws its supply, including aquifers, rivers and reservoirs.
Water Scarcity	Two different types of water scarcity can be identified: physical and economic. Physical scarcity occurs when available water resources are insufficient to meet the demand from all sectors, including the environment: this is often due to the over development of resources and over commitment to various users. Economic scarcity is a social construct and occurs when there is a lack of investment in water or a lack of human capacity to keep up with growing water demand.
Water Security	The continued availability of and access to safe water for all required uses. A house hold or nation may be considered water secure when the majority of the inhabitants are not threatened by insufficient or unreliable availability of and access to water or by too much water that may lead to flooding.
Water Source	A specific point or place where water can be accessed and used, such as a well, borehole or hand-pump.
Water Stress	Water stress occurs when there is water scarcity. Water stress may manifest itself as conflict over water, over-abstraction, poor health and disease.

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