

Lessons learned from Health/WASH cluster in Solomon Flood response

Cluster response

- Rather small number of non-Government agencies involved in Health/WASH response
- A meeting among non-government agencies held and agreed not to introduce "cluster" led by a cluster lead, but coordinate in "traditional" way through the government line ministries
- MOH well manages to directly coordinate with non-government agencies (both UN and non-UN) through their coordination structure-Daily MOH coordination meeting

Opportunities

- Good coordination within health sector (MOH)
 - Health coordination meeting with sub coordination group on Water and Sanitation, and hygiene and health promotion
- Well elaborated action plan-looking into various sub-sectoral issues (surveillance, HIV, EPI, nutrition, health promotion, malaria, RH, mental health, essential drugs etc)
- Sector specific assessment tool (MOH)-identification of vulnerable groups etc.
- “Numbers of actors involved are rather limited (easy for coordination)”
- Clear leading agency on the government side (MOH/RWSS)
- Good understandings on pre-disaster situation
- OXFAM offered coordination support for RWSS

Challenges/constraints

Assessment

- Lack of coordination on process and forms for assessment (Red Cross, MOH, Province)
- Need to differentiate rapid and in depth assessment
- Inclusiveness of assessment form

Coordination & Communication

- Information flow
- Coordination with other clusters (ex: Food/Nutrition)
- Information flow from the Province to the Central
- Coordination of hygiene items distribution

Resource Mobilization

- Immediate availability of equipment/items/funding (MOH)

Operational capacity

- Capacity to respond, prepositioned stocks, number of staff
- Delay in response (mainly weather and safety issue /MOH)

Recommendations

- Standardize assessment tools (disaggregated data) and trainings
- Baseline data
- Clear sectoral SOPs for Disaster Response
- Disaster Preparedness
- Coordination with other sectors (ex: WASH, Food/Nutrition)
- Improve province level coordination in Health/WASH sector