



**12/09/2005**  
**15:00 PM**

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<b>Meeting called by:</b>	CWS	<b>Type of meeting:</b>	Watsan meeting
<b>Facilitator:</b>	Joann Fairley - CWS	<b>Note taker:</b>	CWS staff

**Attendees:** See the Delegate self-introduction below

**----- Agenda Topics -----**

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|--|----------------|
| - Delegate self-introduction   | All            |
| - Presentation by Oxfam on “Watsan and Disaster Management in Vietnam” | Provash Mondal |
| - Questions and Answers regarding the presentation                     | All            |
| - Updates on Watsan Reference Document                                 | Alex           |
| - Announcements  | All            |
| - Others   | All            |

**Delegate self-introduction**

No	Name	Organization	Telephone	Email
1	Provash Mondal	Oxfam	0912 520 770	<a href="mailto:pmondal@oxfam.org.uk">pmondal@oxfam.org.uk</a>
2	Robert Catherman	Medrix		<a href="mailto:Robert@medrix.org">Robert@medrix.org</a>
3	Pham Huyen Trang	Borda	0904 238 206	<a href="mailto:trangpham@borda.org.vn">trangpham@borda.org.vn</a>
4	Ngo Quoc Dung	CWS	0912 390 604	<a href="mailto:nqdung@cws.org.vn">nqdung@cws.org.vn</a>
5	Nguyen Van Quang	IDE	0914 002 244	<a href="mailto:quang@idevn.org">quang@idevn.org</a>
6	Ted Loudon	Medrix/		<a href="mailto:loudon@msu.edu">loudon@msu.edu</a>
7	Gareth O’Hara	CWS		<a href="mailto:Gar97@gmail.com">Gar97@gmail.com</a>
8	Pham Thi Thu Ha	Medrix	0904 479 835	<a href="mailto:vnmedrixoffice@fpt.vn">vnmedrixoffice@fpt.vn</a>
9	Tran Thu Huong	Helvetas	04 843 1750	<a href="mailto:Tran.huong@helvetas.org">Tran.huong@helvetas.org</a>
10	Nicole Motteax	US - AEP	04 936 2016	<a href="mailto:nmotteax@usaep.th.com">nmotteax@usaep.th.com</a>
11	Nguyen Thi Thanh Thuy	AFAP	04 856 2421	<a href="mailto:thuyr@afapvn.org">thuyr@afapvn.org</a>
12	Felix tes Heegdc	SNV – Biogas Program	0912 103 500	<a href="mailto:felix@biogas.org.vn">felix@biogas.org.vn</a>
13	Bastiaan Teune	SNV		<a href="mailto:bTeune@snvworld.org">bTeune@snvworld.org</a>
14	Alex Zvinakis	Water Reference Document	0904 357 465	<a href="mailto:Alexz1@gmail.com">Alexz1@gmail.com</a>
15	Daniela Pietra	CESVI	0904 674 341	<a href="mailto:danielapietra@virgilis.it">danielapietra@virgilis.it</a>
16	Tran Thi Xuan	CESVI	098 906 5974	<a href="mailto:cupidnt@yahoo.com">cupidnt@yahoo.com</a>
17	Joanne Fairley	CWS	04 832 8569	<a href="mailto:Joanne@cws.org.vn">Joanne@cws.org.vn</a>
18	Chu Tuyet Mai	CWS	04 832 8569	<a href="mailto:mai@cws.org.cn">mai@cws.org.cn</a>

## **Presentation by Oxfam on “Watsan and Disaster Management in Vietnam”**

- Provash Mondal, Humanitarian Coordinator of Oxfam gave a presentation on “Watsan and Disaster Management in Vietnam”, which highlighted flood impacts on water and sanitation and risks that flood poses against human life and environment. Adverse impacts of flood in terms of clean water supply and hygiene toward human life and environment can be easily observed in rural and urban areas where water sources are seriously contaminated by flood water and leaking sewage system, especially pollutants from industrial drainage system.
- Picture of clean water supply and hygiene in urban centers for displaced people is even worse. In disaster circumstances, a big number of displaced people share public buildings where latrine system was not designed to accommodate such a big number of users. The existing system, as a consequence, is quickly filled up and overflowed, causing an unhygienic living environment. This is not to mention unpleasant condition caused by corpses and carcasses decomposing. This poses serious risks of health, morbidity and environmental hazards against human.
- The later part of the presentation drew audience’s attention to some proposed preparedness and mitigation, which includes improving the water supply and sanitation system, identifying flood-affected areas, public awareness raising, capacity building for government cadres and integrating watsan component into development program. The proposed response plan specified different stages from situation assessment to provision of needed equipment for disinfecting the water sources and cleaning the environment. The presentation also proposed different solutions to water and sanitation problems in urban and displaced centers and in villages.

*(Refer to the attached power point presentation for more details)*

### **Questions and Answers:**

*Is there a good link between the disaster forecast and response?*

Let take the typhoon no. 7 as an example, there was a good link between the Government (CCFSC) and response activities. When the storm struck, evacuation was undertaken quickly for thousands of people. Loss of lives was minimized and only 24 died. The number of death should have been hundreds of people unless the evacuation had been so effective. There is a good coordination link between the Central Committee for Flood and Storm Control and communal Committee during the storm.

*In disaster response, what government agency do you work with to obtain permission to distribute watsan supplies such as water tanks?*

In general, we need to obtain permission from the Government to do so. However, there is no knowledge of which institution is in charge of this. There is a need to discuss with the Government in this regard especially when big disaster occurs. Many different humanitarian organizations will wish to come and help with recovery. Possibility of overlapping and chaos therefore will be high.

*What about getting permission for constructing latrines?*

Oxfam often obtains permission from local Construction Department for this activity. However, we are not sure how things are with other organizations.

*Is CCFEC effective?*

CCFSC stands for Central Committee for Flood and Storm Control. It consists of representatives from many different state ministries and institutions that are related to disaster response. When a disaster strikes, these members will sit together discussing and giving instructions, which then are communicated to local Flood and Storm Committees in form of a “Directives Note”.

Even though they have demonstrated great efforts in disaster response and their certain effectiveness in doing so, they need capacity building to do it better. A vertical management structure of Committee for Flood and Storm from central to local is there but the coordination between different membership agencies of the Committee needs further improvement. Many organizations have worked with them and things have been improved now and then but slowly.

*What are public evacuation places in the storm no.7?*

The public evacuation places are often road sites, schools and public buildings.

*How is transport managed in evacuation?*

In evacuation, boat is frequently used, especially in the Mekong region. Big boat is mobilized by CCFSC. In Ha Tinh province, Oxfam witnessed evacuation is done with boat of the local residents. Through its program, Oxfam has supported the locals to buy their own boat and maintained it regularly. In evacuation situation, boat is mobilized locally. While in other places, preparation is not that good.

*What is your judge on the effectiveness of the water filter system? From practical experience, ceramic filter system provided for household often gets stuck after some time of usage.*

Oxfam has no experience with ceramic household water filter. Oxfam often provides plastic filter in its project. There is also sophisticated steel filter in market and Oxfam has provided this type for its project in Ninh Thuan.

### **Updates on Watsan Reference Document**

The Watsan working group will draft Version 2 of the Watsan Reference Document – which will have detailed information of all agencies working in watsan in Vietnam. Alex (consultant hired to work on the document) has developed and circulated 4-5 page questionnaires about watsan to organizations working in the subject matter. The final watsan reference document is expected to be ready around January and distributed through NGO network. This activity should not be a one-time application but to be continued.

### **Announcements**

Disaster Management Working Group (DMWG) is to organize a training course on disaster and water management in mid February. The training will be delivered by international experts and is open to 20-25 participants. Participation from NGOs working in watsan is encouraged.

### **Next meeting**

February 10<sup>th</sup> (after Tet)