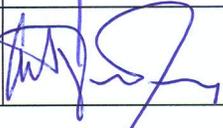


MINUTES OF THE COWASH IV FEDERAL STEERING COMMITTEE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING

Time: April 26, 2021 from 12:00 to 13:15

Venue: Addis Abeba

Present in the meeting:

Name	Position	Organization	Signature
Members of the Federal WASH Steering Committee on COWASH			
Dr Negash Wagesho	State Minister and SC Chair	MoWIE	
Mr Arto Valjas	Head of Development Cooperation and SC Co-Chair	Embassy of Finland	
Other participants			
Ato Gezahegn Alemu Tadesse	Water & Agricultural Growth Advisor	Embassy of Finland	
Mr Arto Suominen	Chief Technical Advisor	COWASH Federal team	

1. Opening of the meeting and approval of the agenda	<p>This meeting is an extraordinary meeting to decide the urgent emergency support to Metekel Zone.</p> <p>The meeting was conducted through telephone conversations and exchange of e-mails.</p>	
2. Proposal for Metekel Zone support	<p>The extraordinary justification and proposal for Metekel zone WASH support was prepared by the COWASH IV CTA. The proposal was submitted to the Ministry of Water Irrigation and Energy and the Embassy of Finland. The proposal is attached as annex 1 to this minute of meeting.</p>	
3. Conclusion/ Decision	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> After fair discussion of the issue through telephone and exchange of e-mails, the proposal was approved as submitted by the CTA of COWASH IV. The email approvals are attached to this minute as annex 2. This minute of meeting will be attached to the Programme Document for future reference as it implies a budget change on "Innovation, research and piloting". 	<p>The annexed proposal was approved. EUR 17,000 is allocated for emergency WASH support for Metekel Zone from the Federal TA budget line "Innovation, research and piloting"</p>

Proposal for the COWASH IV Steering Committee (SC) on COWASH emergency support to Metekel Zone

At the end of COWASH Phase III, the Federal Technical Assistance Team had some savings from reimbursable expenses and contingency budget was still available. To utilise this money, the Federal team proposed use of 40,000 Euros for the Metekel emergency response and 155,400 Euros for the Tigray conflict.

Based on these proposals the Federal Steering Committee approved and the projects have been implemented.

Update of the Metekel Response

As per the approval of the Steering Committee, COWASH procured 10,000 litres of 14 tankers to three Woredas of the Metekel Zone and distributed to Dibatie, Dangure and Bulen Woredas. Following the distribution, COWASH provided finance for fitting materials and dispatched support team from the Federal staff to provide field support at the ground and ensure the right coordination is in place. The team met all the concerned officials from the Woreda level to the zone and to the extent of the Benishangul Gumuz Region Vice President and clearly communicated the objective and goals of the short span project. After the required arrangements were made, water trucking started with three cars.

Consequently, the project provided with access to clean water for more than 28,800 IDPs in the three Woredas through water trucking and water tanks.

During the mission, there has been some technical difficulties where by two of the trucks were not fully functional and complete the 30 days water-trucking contract for each Woreda. However, COWASH worked closely with the company and resumed services and contract is due to be ending by April 30, 2021.

However, the conflict in the Zone is not yet fully solved. Furthermore, new Woredas, which were not in the previous plan have appeared to host IDPs. Metekel Zone Administrator, Command Post and Vice President of Benishangul Gumuz Region have asked COWASH to purchase four additional water tanks to new Pawe woreda IDP centre serving 17,000 IDPs and continue water trucking by two water trucks. In the meantime, COWASH has requested other partners in Metekel to take over the COWASH water trucking. The parties have received the request with positive initial indication, but there is no solid response to that request yet and their response will probably delay for some time.

Proposal

Therefore, considering the new Woreda falling into COWASH's implementation Woreda in the new Phase IV and being cognizant of the imminent need of the communities in the zone, COWASH request the approval to immediate use of 17,000 Euros for the emergency support in Metekel Zone from the COWASH IV Federal Technical Assistance Budget.



Financial Proposal

The detailed additional budget proposed for Metekel Zone emergency:

Item description	Service definition	Unit	Unit Birr	Total Birr
Water trucking	30 days	2 trucks	285,000	570,000
Water tanks	10,000 litres	4 tanks	35,000	140,000
Transport of tanks	One time	2 trucks	30,000	60,000
Installation of tanks	10,000 litres	4 tanks	5,000	20,000
Operational costs of the water office	Lump sum	1 sum	50,000	50,000
TOTAL				840,000

Using the current exchange rate, this total Birr amount corresponds to 17,000 EUR.

The amount for this emergency service is provided from the Phase IV budget line of "Innovation, Research and Piloting". The total Phase IV budget of this budget line is EUR 400,000.

In order to exit the COWASH emergency support after one month it is required that:

- a) The other partners in Metekel will take over the water trucking if it is required after one month
- b) If none will take over the water trucking the Metekel Command Post shall ensure the safe return of the water trucks from Metekel.
- c) In case of exit, the Steering Committee should facilitate exit of the water trucks safety and smoothly

April 26, 2021

Arto Suominen

CTA, COWASH IV



Email from Negash Wagesho, nwagesho@gmail.com,

April 26, 2021 at 3:12 PM

to: arto.suominen@cmpethiopia.org,

cc: arto.valjas@formin.fi, jutta.marjanen@formin.fi, Gezahegn.Tadesse@formin.fi,
Mikaela.Kruskopf@niras.fi, yohannes.melaku@cmpethiopia.org, Melaku Tekola,
melaku2@gmail.com,

Dear Mr. Arto,

As the WASH situation at Metekel is one of top priorities and extending the water trucking for the next few months is very vital. Thus, as per the attached proposal, the Ministry of Water, Irrigation & Energy approves the re-direction(re-programming) of some of the resources to this life saving action.

As this plan is only limited ^{for} one month support, we need to mobilize other WASH sector actors to join this initiative.

Thanks,

Negash Wagesho Amencho (PhD)

State Minister, Water Supply and Sanitation Sector

Ministry of Water, Irrigation & Electricity

Addis Ababa

E-mail from Arto.Valjas@formin.fi

April 26, 2021 at 3:48 PM

TO: nwagesho@gmail.com, arto.suominen@cmpethiopia.org, cc: jutta.marjanen@formin.fi,
Gezahegn.Tadesse@formin.fi, Mikaela.Kruskopf@niras.fi, yohannes.melaku@cmpethiopia.org,
melaku2@gmail.com

Dear State Minister Dr. Negash,

Dear Mr Arto Suominen,

On behalf of the Embassy of Finland in Ethiopia, and as a member of the CoWASH IV Steering Committee, I can confirm our approval of the use of 17,000 € from the CoWASH IV Federal Technical Assistance Team budget line "Innovation, research and piloting" for the urgent Metekel Zone emergency support, as described in the proposal which was presented to the members of the Steering Committee.

Best regards,

Arto Valjas

Head of Cooperation

Embassy of Finland