
BACKGROUND TO THE WASH CLUSTER RRT

The Global WASH Cluster Rapid Response Team (RRT) is an initiative of the IASC Global WASH cluster to enhance surge capacity for emergency response.

The RRT is made of a team of 9 WASH professionals from different agencies comprising 6 WASH Cluster Coordinators (WCCs) and 3 Information Management Officers (IMOs). They are deployed to support the establishment of the WASH cluster in the early stages of an emergency response or to support specific WASH cluster needs in on-going emergencies.

The RRT is deployed within the Standby Partner Framework: deployment of the RRT personnel — and all associated travel costs to the nearest port of entry — are free of charge. Once at the duty station, all assignment associated costs (travel, equipment, R&R) are the responsibility of the Country Office. Please refer to the *Guidelines on external staff in emergencies: Standby Arrangements* for details.

INTERACTION WITH OTHER WASH CLUSTER INITIATIVES:

Regional Emergency Cluster Advisors (RECA):

a regional network of NGO personnel, coordinated by CARE, to support cluster **preparedness activities and data collection**

Rapid Assessment Team (RAT): a rapidly deployable team of 3 WASH professionals from an NGO consortium coordinated by CARE, available for **initial rapid assessments**.

Rapid Response Team (RRT): a rapidly deployable team of WASH professionals to facilitate a **coordinated WASH response**.

The RRT can draw on the country-specific preparedness activities of the RECA, and coordinate with the RAT to avoid duplication in initial assessments.

RRT MEMBER ROLES

RRT members can be requested to fulfill any critical support gaps as identified by the WASH cluster, but are generally deployed in one of the following capacities:

WASH CLUSTER COORDINATOR (WCC)

- Facilitate / Support WASH coordination processes at national and sub-national levels
- Facilitate the development of a WASH sector emergency response strategy
- Engage key stakeholders from government, national or international NGOs, UN agencies, and donors
- Coordinate identification of needs, responses & gaps
- Coordinate WASH partners to ensure that gaps are being met, and overlaps are minimised
- Technical guidance / coordination for WASH cluster partners (i.e. hygiene, sanitation, water)

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT OFFICER (IMO)

- Management of information on WASH needs, responses and gaps
- Support timely and accurate reporting amongst cluster partners
- Production and dissemination of information products (e.g. needs and activity summaries, maps of interventions and gaps, cluster website and contact list)

PROCESS OF REQUEST AND DEVELOPMENT

UNICEF

RRT deployment is conducted through existing Standby Agreements managed by EMOPS in Geneva. A Request Form and Terms of Reference (ToRs) should be provided for every request - please refer to the *Guidelines on external staff in emergencies: Standby Arrangements* for details.

OTHER AGENCIES

The deployment of the RRT can be requested by other agencies where they have taken on a Cluster Coordination function. ToRs should be provided with the request.

DURATION OF DEPLOYMENTS

RRT members can be deployed within 48 hours (bearing visa constraints) in an emergency to support the WASH sector response in the very first days of any emergency response for which additional surge capacity is required. Emergency field deployments are normally for up to 8 weeks, with a possible extension to 12 weeks, after which time either country office personnel or longer-term standby arrangements are utilized.





RRT FAQ

Do we need to issue a contract?

No contract needs to be issued, although Terms of Reference (ToRs) must be provided with the initial request, and the RRT personnel must be fully accommodated within the Country Operation (Official ID card; assigned supervisor; included in the organizational chart and security arrangements; induction briefings; necessary equipment and transportation). Generic ToRs are available in order to facilitate the development of more specific ToRs.

Are they UNICEF staff?

RRT personnel are provided by host agencies (ACF /CARE / CRS / MSB / Solidarités International) through Standby Agreements, and managed by the global WASH Cluster Coordinator. Under these arrangements: RRT members can be deployed to UNICEF as the in-country Cluster Lead Agency; they are to be fully accommodated within the UNICEF Operation; RRT personnel are considered as Type II Gratis Personnel, and are given the status of 'Experts on Mission' to the UN.

What about support for the UNICEF's own emergency WASH response?

The RRT is not intended for agency specific interventions. Support for UNICEF's own WASH response can be sought from the Regional WASH Advisor, staff on mission from other UNICEF offices, other Standby Agreements, and external recruitment.



CONTACT INFORMATION

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A Global WASH cluster initiative to provide emergency operational support to country WASH clusters following an emergency

Introduction brochure and information for UNICEF country offices and partner agencies

RRT partner organisations:



Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency



With the financial support of:



Humanitarian Aid