EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HUMANITARIAN AID OFFICE (ECHO)

MISSION REPORT

Subject: Monitoring mission – BANGLADESH

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Participants:

- ECHO: René & Mokit, ECHO Bangladesh, & Luc
- Partners: IOM & Solidarités International

Places visited & Interlocutors:

Shamlapur and Leda with IOM and Forum, Teknaf upazilla with SI, Cox's Bazar district

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY / HIGHLIGHTS

IOM had showed a poor face in Leda in February, that is why this mission was organized quickly as a follow up. Impressively, within hardly a month, together with Forum, they corrected and rectified the situation, which is now normal and satisfactory.

SI completed their project satisfactorily with good local impact.

2. INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

Follow up mission after that of February that had showed poor performance by IOM in Leda – please kindly see previous report.

3. ISSUES DISCUSSED, COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

IOM

Shamlapur

First, meeting at **IP NGO Forum** office

Rohingyas have found refuge in Shamlapur since 1998 – 99. There are 5 cluster settlements with 100 to 200 households (HHs). **The target population decreased from 8200 to 7000 Rohingyas** + 4408 host, totaling 11408 individuals.

Water

51 new deep tube wells (DTW) were drilled, manually, rotary manual drilling, by a contractor – it took 4 to 6 days to complete each new DTW; they are equipped with Number 6 suction manual pumps: simple, adapted, cheap – affordable technology.

No real fine accurate knowledge of the previously existing water points, made of 20 feet deep shallow wells, which are numerous, most of all feacal contaminated; they are then to be used for other purposes than drinking.

Out of the new DTW, 9 are in institutions, mainly schools. They are in the range 420 feet total depth. The aquifer stands in the range 320 – 420 feet depth, where the casing is screened with a 5 feet sand trap and a plug at the bottom; above, the casing is plain. The casing is 3" diameter the first 60 feet and 1-1/2" below. Most DTW are artesian most of the time, the water level dropping by some 5 feet during the dry season. If the water level drops below 25 feet, the pump can be fitted with a cylinder to enable pumping during the drier times. The unit cost of DTW is 80 000 to 100 000 BDT, # 1000 EUR.

Thanks to savings on the project, 26 new DTW will be added, part of the NCE, out of which 4 will be in institutions.

As the target population decreased by 1200 individuals, as a DTW is normally meant to serve 300 beneficiaries, 4 DTW could have been shifted to other locations where coverage is less.

Deep water contains some iron, up to 2.5 mg/l – recommendation below 1 mg/l. People liked better sweet shallow water but they understand the interest of safe water. We were told that **diarrhea cases decreased since the DTW have been operational**.

Design was approved by the department of public health engineering (DPHE).

WASH cluster meets monthly in Cox's Bazar, lead by ACF, co-lead by DPHE.

Some water was witnessed stagnant around the new water points: **drainage has easily to be improved** as necessary, and then maintained.

Sanitation

3-cubicle communal latrines were put in place, serving 50 to 70 HHs. They are equipped with 2 chamber septic tanks of a capacity of 14 m3 and 2 soak away pits in chain. The current situation is below 50 l/cap that should enable desludging not necessary; the addition of additional latrines should enable to tend towards that ratio.

It takes 2 months and a week to build the latrine blocks. Their unit cost is 179 500 BDT.

The settlements looked clean. The population looked healthy. They said themselves satisfied with the WASH situation. They need soap and buckets – containers.

The next main needs mentioned are electricity – lighting and education.

A bridge was also mentioned for the rainy season: culvert; IOM will look into providing it with the funds available.

Leda makeshift settlement

The WASH situation improved drastically and impressively rapidly into a good normal situation compared to a month before. A main difference was the presence of knowledgeable staff of NGO Forum who have been working in the settlement for many years. Most recommendations got put in place, **the settlement was clean**. Some **works** are still logically ongoing but **are on the right track**. Some **PVC pipe in various locations needs to be protected from sunlight**: easily, that would get done quickly.

Water is distributed in 2 shifts per day, equal in quantity, but not equally divided in time; **share distribution more equally in time, starting earlier in the morning and later in the afternoon to enable a more similar treatment time – flocculation – sedimentation and disinfection - for both shifts**.

As agreed, **water meters are to be installed**. There is none at all currently, none was ever installed. They will enable **to actually measure and record in time quantities** of water and show any discrepancies like leaks, which then should be tackled as adequate.

After lengthy negotiations with the authorities, the host population and the landowner, **a new deep tube well is being drilled**; if successful, it will be equipped with 3" casing and will **reinforce the water supply system**.

The water reserves in 2 dams, one upstream and one downstream from the pumping station, together with the constructed pond, which will need some rehabilitation work, **are estimated for 2 months' supply, hopefully until the next first rains. In the worst case, a private pond could be negotiated** with the owner as was done a few years back.

The constructed pond is planned to be used hopefully exclusively during the rainy season, also fed with rainwater collected from neighbor roofs. That water also presents the advantage to be quite clean and little turbid whereas the canal water is highly turbid during the rainy season. That assumption is to be verified as it will be its first full rainy season.

All the 6 constructed earthen dams will have to be removed by the rainy season as they would be washed away by the significant water flowing in the Leda canal during the rainy season, result of a large catchment basin and 4.5 m rainfall.

New dams should be constructed again at the end of the rainy season, in slightly different strong locations, to store again water for the following rainy season – permanent dams do not seem possible to be allowed by authorities on forestry owned lands.

Attempt of segregating solid waste between organic – biodegradable and non-organic waste was introduced with newly constructed separated collection chambers: the new concept needs

to be better incorporated by the population and will enable better improved solid waste management, also with organic solid waste that will be able to be used as fertilizer in agriculture after some composting or degradation.

Message and communication boards should be made permanent with painting rather than only stickers

Take care of protection with GIS: all data cannot be made public.

Sanitation biogas / septic tank to compare: assessment ongoing to complete and provide results and recommendations.

Sludge treatment with lime rather than chlorine that kills bacteria, including those that actually do the treatment, digest, reducing pathogen content.

Logistics follow up needs to be improved with proper systematically recording all ins and outs with comprehensive information and controls and checks, showed with approval signatures. Information of what has become of the material donated by Muslim Aid has to be gathered and provided.

On the view of this visit, given Leda needs constant follow up and actual running and **their 2016 proposal**, the latter **is recommended from a technical point of view with IOM needing to put in place a stronger monitoring of the WASH activities of the partner(s), which implies a right dedicated WASH expert** – not necessarily the Nepali engineer we met who kept silent most of the time.

Solidarités International - SI

Seemingly **good job, good project, with a modest approach, simple achievements** with communities trained, committed, organized, contributing monthly water fees enabling the simple repairs and maintenance. **Beneficiaries are proud** of their new hygiene knowledge and feel owners of their latrines that they keep quite clean, having invested significantly for the construction of the superstructures, for example, a family eating 2 meals a day instead of 3 for 3 months to pay the 3000 BDT the superstructure construction cost them.

The few remarks shared a month ago were rightly taken into account, mainly PVC pipe got covered, protected from sunlight.

The communities are satisfied and happy with the SI WASH project. When asked what else they need, they show reasonable, not demanding, quite systematically requesting buckets. They tell their **health situation did improve**, a family citing they can save up to 5000 BDT in

a year. Other needs mentioned are loan and livelihood activities – goats, cows – that can be done from home.

SI intervened in communities composed of 40 to 50 % of refugees.

SI plan to increase in the future the hygiene promotion sessions from 6 to 8 to include nutrition and menstrual hygiene.

Car movements take time as projects are carried out on both sides of the hills in the middle of the peninsula that have to be driven around.

Water purifier – see low cost ways.

Water logging: very important for some communities with the newly constructed road, like in **Shill Khali** for example, that will block surface water to flow downstream towards the Ocean; **see how to lobby the right authorities so that passages are added to allow water to flow downstream** below the road.