

UNDP (Early Recovery Cluster Lead)/NGO Meeting, Jerusalem, 29 January 2009

Participants: Mercy Corps, PNGO Network, UNDP/PAPP, UNDP/BCPR, International Relief and Development, Sharek Youth Forum

Participants met to share information and exchange ideas on how to harmonize their early recovery efforts in response to the recent conflict in Gaza.

UNDP colleagues provided updates on:

The Early Recovery Cluster

The Early Recovery Cluster was set up at the instruction of the HC/RC on 9 January, following the usual process as set out by the IASC within the framework of the humanitarian reform process. UNDP/PAPP acts as ER cluster lead. Given the multi-dimensional nature of early recovery, the Early Recovery Cluster also acts as a network, bringing in focal points from all of the other clusters/working groups. NGO participation in the ER Cluster is welcome and we should find ways to increase NGO engagement throughout the exercise.

The Gaza Early Recovery Rapid Needs Assessment

The Early Recovery Rapid Needs Assessment is currently ongoing in Gaza. Data is primarily being gathered and analyzed through the different clusters. NGO assessments will help to build a full and more accurate picture of the impact of the crisis. NGOs are encouraged to share data and analysis that they have carried out through the relevant cluster leads (please see attached).

The Early Recovery Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment Report and Planning & Response Framework for Gaza

The 'Early Recovery Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment Report and Planning & Response Framework for Gaza' is a document that will be owned by the Palestinian National Authorities (PNA), developed with technical support from the UN. It will set out the impact of the crisis in terms of damages and needs, as well as identify priority areas of support for an early recovery response covering a two year period. It should be used as a reference document and will not provide detailed information on specific programmatic interventions required. It will be important for the UN and partners to organize themselves in response to the Palestinian Planning and Response Framework. Early discussions are ongoing as to how to manage this process.

Participants raised issues related to links between the PNA and the PDRP; and the difficulties of reconciling the political and technical dimensions of early recovery planning and programming.

NGO colleagues provided updates on their work in Gaza:

The Palestinian Non-governmental Organizations' Network (PNGO) Network

The PNGO Network has set up five committees in Gaza to help coordinate the work of national NGOs: 1) Health; 2) Economic/Social issues; 3) Psychosocial issues; 4) Environment; and 5) Human Rights and legal issues. PNGO is also opening two centres in Gaza in the coming days to collect data on disability. It will be important to find ways of improving collaboration between UNDP Gaza (as ER Cluster Lead) and the PNGO Network.

The Association of International Development Agencies (AIDA)

AIDA operates as a network, with Mercy Corps currently acting as Treasurer and World Vision acting as Chair. They currently have three sub-clusters for information sharing purposes, focused on: 1) Advocacy; 2) Gaza; and 3) Health. Mercy Corps will consult AIDA’s Executive Board regarding the possibility of ER Cluster participation in the next meeting of AIDA’s Executive Board – to brief members on early recovery processes in Gaza and to advocate for AIDA engagement in the work of the various clusters. The meeting will take place on Wednesday, 4th February.

International Relief and Development (IRD)

IRD is relatively new to Palestine, having been here for only one year. They will be seeking membership of AIDA at the next opportunity. They are currently conducting a needs assessment and will share the data as soon as it becomes available.

A final point was made that documentation related to the PA Assessment and Framework be shared in draft format with the NGO community. It was stressed that while the UN(DP) can make this request, the final decision lies with the PA as this is their document.

It was agreed to continue to meet as a group regularly, extending participation as needed, to share information and collaborate closely during this period of early recovery assessment and planning. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 5 February and will be hosted by either UNDP in Ramallah, or Sharek Youth Forum, Ramallah (exact timing and venue to be confirmed).

Next steps:

Action	By Whom
Circulate a note of this meeting, along with Cluster Focal Points	UNDP
Provide details of a web-platform and other information sharing tools for early recovery (eg. Who does What Where – WWW)	UNDP
Communicate with colleagues in Gaza to regularize communication between UNDP/PAPP and PNGO and AIDA	UNDP, PNGO and AIDA
On invitation, UNDP to brief AIDA members at the next meeting of AIDA’s Executive Board (scheduled for 4 February)	UNDP (on invitation from AIDA)
Continue to meet on a regular basis as needed to share information on early recovery processes	UNDP, PNGO, AIDA