

## **Special CWGER Meeting on Gaza** **23 January 2009**

**Participating Agencies:** UNDP Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People (PAPP), Relief International, Joint Environment Unit OCHA/UNEP, IOM, Care International, UNESCO, OCHA, ILO, FAO, UNDP/BCPR (Chair), UNHCR, UNOSAT, WFP, UN-HABITAT, OHCHR, UN DOCO, ActionAid

Roberto Valent, Deputy Special Representative, UNDP Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People (PAPP), briefed CWGER members on the situation in Gaza and the work of the Early Recovery (ER) Cluster in Jerusalem and Gaza.

A UN and multi-partner ER Cluster/Network was established in Jerusalem on 9 January and met on 12 January 2009. With support from the global CWGER, the group has developed and agreed terms of reference for both the work of the Cluster, and more specifically, the Gaza Early Recovery Rapid Needs Assessment process. The ER Cluster includes UN Agencies, the World Bank, the EC, NGOs, and ER focal points from other clusters and working groups.

Recovery needs will be included in three documents:

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|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1) Special Humanitarian Appeal:                             | most urgent early recovery needs     |
| 2) Early Recovery Assessment Report and Response Framework: | early recovery                       |
| 3) Post-Conflict Needs assessment Report:                   | longer-term recovery/ reconstruction |

A Special Humanitarian Appeal (or Flash Appeal) is currently under preparation, with a launch date of 2 February in Geneva (by the UN Secretary General and the ERC). It has been agreed that the Appeal, covering a nine month period, will include the most urgent and time critical early recovery interventions. To the extent possible, early recovery will be mainstreamed in the other sectors throughout the Appeal. Clusters are currently working to finalize a field draft of the Appeal by 28 January.

The Gaza Early Recovery Rapid Needs Assessment is currently underway. The UN and the Palestinian National Authorities (PNA) are co-leading the assessment. Many agencies have deployed additional technical experts to support the process, including ILO, UNICEF, UN-HABITAT, UNV, UNDP, etc. Some areas are advancing quickly– e.g. livelihoods, health; while others are experiencing delays. Data gathering is expected to be completed by 29 January and consolidated by 31 January at the latest. Clusters will work closely with their counterpart Line Ministries within PNA to summarise the findings of the needs assessment and bring them in line with the sectoral architecture of the PNA. The Early Recovery Cluster will play a central role in bringing together the information in a consolidated needs assessment report and budgeted early recovery response framework. The final report is to be presented by the PNA at a donor conference in Cairo, hosted by the Egyptian Government, on 12 February.

Discussions are already underway with the PNA, UN, World Bank and EC regarding a Post-conflict Needs Assessment (PCNA) to be carried out once certain conditions are in place. 2010 is currently being suggested as a projected start date for the PCNA. DOCO's expert in the Office of the Resident Coordinator in Jerusalem is following-up on this. In order to ensure that early recovery is appropriately situated in the context of longer-term recovery, this expert will also join the team of principal writers for the Gaza Early Recovery Needs Assessment Report and Response Framework.

UNDP/BCPR is deploying experts to support the work of the Early Recovery Cluster in-country, including support from the global CWGER for early recovery coordination (Jahal de Meritens and Charlotte Lattimer), a Needs Assessment Expert (Yannick Guegan), an Information Management Officer (Nicole Rencoret), and a Principal Writer for the Early Recovery Needs Assessment Report (Savitri Bisnath). Olivier Van Damme, UNOSAT will also accompany the team to provide support for evidence based (satellite derived) damage analysis as part of the needs assessment process. Roberto Valent expressed appreciation for the strong support provided from the CWGER and UNDP/BCPR so far. In addition to support already provided, gaps/actions identified for follow-up include:

- Cultural heritage (damage to be assessed by UNESCO once they have access to Gaza);
- Synchronization of communication and key messages on early recovery;
- Increased NGO (particularly national NGO) participation in the work of the Early Recovery Cluster. Mercy Corps may help to support this by working closely with the Cluster to facilitate closer NGO engagement (UNDP/BCPR to follow-up with Mercy Corps);

- Setting up of a funding mechanism to channel early recovery financial support. Discussions on this are on-going in-country between UNRWA, the WB, the Office of the Resident Coordinator, and UNDP PAPP