

Inter-Agency Working Level Meeting on Gaza
21 January 2009, 1000-1100 hrs
UN Headquarters

General Update

1. It was updated that following the Israeli and Hamas cease-fires, Israeli troops had withdrawn from Gaza. However, the provision of adequate humanitarian assistance was constrained by restrictions on the flow of goods and staff into Gaza.
2. It was noted that the Gaza Flash Appeal will be drafted based on the assessment process initiated by the Emergency Relief Coordinator and Special Coordinator on the Middle East Peace Process on 22 January. A draft of the Appeal will be ready by 28 January and it will be launched in Geneva on 2 February. The Appeal will be a combination of revised requirements for pre-existing projects as well as new projects based on the current situation in Gaza. Some agencies are sending additional capacity to the region to support the development of the Appeal, and it was highlighted that adequate attention must be given to support protection efforts in the Appeal. It was noted that briefings and meetings are being planned for Davos to convey messages on the situation in Gaza and on the launch of the Appeal.

Feedback from Agencies

3. UNRWA updated that 53 of their installations in Gaza had been affected by the fighting, including schools and health centers. Since the fighting has stopped operations have been resuming, and populations have increased access to basic services. However, it was noted that reconstruction is necessary to support the functioning of essential services.
4. The Early Recovery cluster is preparing to launch an assessment, to be completed within three weeks. The technical guidelines for the assessment have been finalized and are under discussion.
5. An inter-agency food security assessment is planned for the week of 26 January. It was underscored that improved access to Gaza is critical for adequate food supplies to reach those in need.
6. It was updated that an inter-agency security risk assessment will be conducted during the week and that risk mitigation efforts are currently being established. The current ceiling for international staff in Gaza is 30 people, though this may be revised after the assessment.
7. It was noted that the Education Cluster was activated on 21 January.

AOB

8. It was updated that OCHA Situation Reports will be released every two day, while the working level meetings will continue on a weekly basis.