



**Minutes
Early Recovery Cluster/Network Meeting
24 February 2009**

Participants List attached

1. Welcome and introduction

The Deputy Early Recovery (ER) Cluster Lead welcomed and informed participants that like other clusters, the leadership of the ER Cluster will be gradually shifting to Gaza. **The next ER Cluster meeting will therefore be chaired from UNDP Gaza on Tuesday 3 February**, with partners in Jerusalem participating via videolink at UNDP PAPP Jerusalem.

2. Update on Gaza Early Recovery and Reconstruction Plan (GERRP) based on a damage and needs assessment

The Principal Writer of the PA-led Gaza Early Recovery and Reconstruction Plan (GERRP), based on a damage and needs assessment provided a brief update on the drafting process. Sectoral chapters were shared by the Palestinian Ministry of Planning (MoP) with sector and sub-sector drafters who were provided the opportunity to submit feedback. The MoP is currently working on the final draft in preparation for the donor conference to be held on 2 March in Egypt.

In response to comments regarding the consultation process for the final draft of the GERRP, the Principal Writer highlighted the fact that the process is led by and decided upon by the MoP.

WFP expressed its concern that while it is clear the GERRP is a PA document, it remains unclear whether inputs are reflected in the matrix listing proposed ER interventions. Of particular concern is that if certain ER interventions are not highlighted as a priority in the GERRP, it may be more difficult for the UN and partners to introduce such interventions in their response.

The Deputy ER Cluster Lead explained that the intention of the GERRP is to highlight higher level interventions, and that the UN and partners will have the opportunity to address specific ER interventions in their response. He highlighted the need for the UN and partners to organize themselves and plan for their response following the launch of the GERRP. He also offered the ER Network as a platform for the UN and partners to discuss and design their response(s) – in whatever form it may take.

UNSCO noted that preliminary discussions are underway on how the UN and partners can plan their response, possibly to be conducted through existing mechanisms such as the Medium Term Response Plan (MTRP). UNSCO will report back and provide an update on the continuing discussions at the next ER Cluster meeting.

UNDP reminded ER partners of the importance of the platform provided by humanitarian reform and the cluster approach currently being implemented in oPt, noting that it is an existing structure that shall be used to coordinate the UN and partners' response.

3. Operationalization of the ER Cluster

The Deputy ER Cluster Lead noted that there is a need to operationalize ER coordination in response to the Gaza crisis through a two-pronged approach (as per the L-shape diagram appearing in the global Cluster Working Group on Early Recovery Guidance Note – attached): (a) through the ER Cluster, focusing on specific thematic areas; and (b) by maintaining ER focal points in other clusters through the ER Network.

It was agreed that the ER Cluster will divide into four sub-clusters focusing on the following thematic areas:

- Governance and civil society
- Non-agricultural livelihoods and the economy (including issues of cash availability)
- Utilities infrastructure (energy, transport, telecommunications)
- Natural resources and the environment (including rubble removal)

ER partners intending to play a role in any of the above-mentioned thematic areas are invited to participate in the next ER Cluster meeting. The meeting will be dedicated to the internal organization of the ER Cluster, including identification of roles and responsibilities as well as reporting requirements. Led from Gaza (with a videolink to Jerusalem), the meeting will also provide the opportunity for preliminary discussions on our current and planned interventions in the four thematic areas.

UNFPA enquired whether ER-related projects appearing in the 2009 CAP could also be included in the UN and partners response plan to the GERRP, to which the Deputy ER Cluster Lead replied that they could, provided they are still considered relevant.

UNRWA asked where ER advocacy fits in the proposed ER coordination structure, to which the Deputy ER Cluster Lead responded that this issue will be discussed under agenda item 4.

4. Operationalization of the ER Network

In order to strengthen cross-sectoral linkages as well as mainstream ER approaches in clusters/sectoral working groups, the Deputy ER Cluster Lead proposed the re-activation of previously identified ER focal points in each cluster.

Cluster/Sectoral Working Group Leads are invited to raise this issue at their next coordination meetings, identifying and confirming their respective ER focal points via email (laurent.marion@undp.org). It is advised that ER focal points are not necessarily nominated from UN agencies and programmes, but also from national and international NGOs.

While these ER focal points will initially represent the operationalization of the ER Network in the context of the Gaza crisis, it is anticipated that the need will arise for oPt-wide ER focal points in due course.

5. Update on early recovery coordination in Gaza

A range of information has been collected through Gaza-based colleagues for the Survey of Surveys (SoS), an inventory of surveys and assessments that facilitates the identification of information collected as well as the identification of gaps.

The ER Cluster will share the first draft of the SoS with Cluster/Sectoral Working Group Leads, who are requested to provide feedback and verify information relevant to their Cluster/Sectoral Working Group via email (yannick.guegan@gmail.com) by Monday 2 March.

6. ER information management

The ER Information Management Officer highlighted the ER Cluster/Network webpage on the OCHA oPt website (<http://earlyrecovery.ochaopt.org>), encouraging ER partners to use it as a platform for information sharing and exchange.

The OCHA Information Management Officer announced the launch of the “Gaza Response Activity Database”, a new coordination tool developed by OCHA (comparable to the more widely known Who does What Where). The database – currently being tested and to be accessible via the OCHA oPt website – will be searchable and exportable to Excel, with reports and maps additional possible outputs.

The database is an opportunity for ER partners to update information on activities (completed/ongoing/planned and funded) in the context of the Gaza crisis, facilitating coordination both within the ER Cluster as well as across other clusters. Each organization is responsible for the updating and maintenance of their information, to be entered online using a username/password provided by the OCHA Information Management Unit (IMU) shortly.

ER partners are strongly encouraged to enter their information once the database is up and running. All enquiries should be directed to OCHA IMU (utas@un.org).

7. AOB

A representative (Management Consultant) of the private sector presented a statement entitled “The Civil Society and Private Sector Initiative on Gaza’s Reconstruction and Development” that expresses the concern of a group of leaders and major contributors in Palestinian civil society, private sector and academia. The representative shared the statement with ER partners, explaining its objectives and contents.

Copies of the statement are available from Sami Abdel-Shafi, Management Consultant (sami.abdelshafi@emergeconsultants.com).

Next steps:

Action	By Whom
Send invitation to ER partners asking agencies intending to play a role in any of the four thematic areas (governance, non-agricultural livelihoods, utilities infrastructure, natural resources & the environment) to participate in the next ER Cluster meeting.	ER Cluster Lead
Identify/confirm cluster ER focal points via email (laurent.marion@undp.org) by Monday 2 March , providing the following information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cluster/Sector Working Group Name • Focal Point Name • Position • Organization • Email • Telephone 	Cluster/Sectoral Working Group Leads
Share the first draft of the Survey of Surveys with Cluster/Sectoral Working Group Leads by Friday 27 February	ER Cluster Lead
Provide feedback and verify information appearing in the Survey of Surveys via email (yannick.guegan@gmail.com) by Wednesday 4 March	ER partners
Upon receipt of username/password, enter information on activities on the OCHA-managed Gaza Response Activity Database (all enquiries to: utas@un.org)	ER partners



Early Recovery Cluster/Network Meeting

Participant List
24 February 2009

In Gaza

Name	Position	Organisation	Email	Sector/ Cluster
Khaled Abdel Shafi	Head of Office	UNDP	khaled.abdelshafi@undp.org	
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In Jerusalem

Name	Position	Organisation	Email	Sector/ Cluster
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