

## ToR and scope of Health Cluster

---

### **I. Health Cluster Objectives**

The objective of the Health Cluster's interventions is to address in an efficient and timely manner identified emergency health needs and to alleviate human suffering in close support to the Ministry of Health:

- a. Carry out the assessment of the impact of the crisis on the health system and health status of the population;
- b. Assure an effective coordination of the humanitarian response in the health sector, including establishing a flexible capacity and regional approach to operations;
- c. Monitor health threats and risks, including the restoration and enhancement of the early warning surveillance and outbreak response systems;
- d. Address gaps in health services delivery and critical threats with appropriate and quality primary health care interventions, environmental health services; and strengthening secondary and tertiary levels of medical care in the affected areas;
- e. Provide logistic/operational support for a high risk environment in order to ensure efficient management of humanitarian supplies and medical donations;
- f. Support the relevant Ministries of Health and other health stakeholders in coordinating and responding to the health needs of the Palestinian population.
- g. Through technical guidance and support to the MoH and health stakeholders, ensure a seamless transition from relief to recovery, so that local health systems and the capacity of national/local health authorities are restored and strengthened.

### **II. Health sector interventions in Early recovery**

#### **1. Needs assessment for rehabilitation and reconstruction of damaged health infrastructure**

- Assess the damages of the infrastructure, the degree of functionality of health facilities and the availability of human resources at the health facilities;
- Liaise with relevant partners to ensure that efficient coordination for rehabilitation and/or reconstruction is taking place;

#### **2. Strengthening the essential public health functions**

##### **2.1 Restore and strengthen the surveillance system for communicable diseases, nutrition and water quality**

- Review existing surveillance forms at all levels of the health system and provision of refresher training on principles of surveillance, if needed;
- Ensure timely flow of information;

- Assess laboratory capacities;
- Provide technical / financial support where required;

**2.2. Ensure preparedness to epidemic outbreaks by assessing needs for pre-positioning of supplies for outbreak response and ensure proper pre-positioning**

**2.3 Address priorities in primary health care services delivery**

**a. Sustain vaccination coverage**

- Provide support to the MoH for resuming the routine immunization activities (EPI);
- Assess possible need for mass vaccination.

**b. Address needs in mental health and psychosocial support**

- Enhance and strengthen the working group on psycho-social support and mental health in collaboration with MoH
- Develop joint strategy with partners on how to address the various interventions for affected population, including medical staff and relief workers;
- If needed, deploy / mobilize additional mental health staff

**c. Address needs in disability and trauma rehabilitation**

- Enhance and strengthen the sub-sector on disability, coordinated by Handicap International, and in collaboration with the MoH;
- Develop joint strategy with partners on how to address the various levels of interventions;
- If needed, deploy / mobilize additional trauma rehabilitation health staff

**d. Address needs in reproductive health**

- Support and strengthen the capacity for EmOCat hospital level
- Ensure integrity of the reproductive health and new born care at hospital and PHC level
- Strengthen the Child Survival programme and ensure the scaling up of IMCI

**e. Address needs in chronic disease**

- Assess and analyse the availability of services for chronic diseases, especially for dialysis, diabetics', cancer and vascular ill patients.
- Assess and analyse the need for referral of chronically ill patients

**f. Address needs in environmental health**

- Analyse potential risks for major outbreaks (water- and vector-born diseases) in an urban setting
- Assist local authorities in assessing the damage to water and sewage systems
- Ensure water quality control, in collaboration with the Water and sanitation authorities

**g. Address the health needs of internally displaced persons (none refugees)**

- Ensure that IDPs have access to basic package of health services and referral system;
- Ensure that psycho-social support and mental health and trauma rehabilitation services are provided to IDPs

### **3. Strengthening the essential public health services**

#### **3.1 Strengthen the MoH Drug supply management system**

- Coordinate the drug supplies with the MoH Central Drug Store and strengthen the management of the drug supply system
- Assess the immediate needs at hospitals and PHC centres level in terms of supplies and equipment

#### **3.2 Support to hospital services**

- Assess the immediate needs for specific care /rehabilitation in post crisis situation;
- Coordinate and strengthen the referral and/or evacuation of wounded and chronic patients
- Compile and disseminate health information to partners;
- Coordinate support to hospitals;
- Procure and purchase required equipment / spare parts, if needed.

#### **3.3 Return to functioning primary health care services**

- Facilitate physical rehabilitation and replacement of facilities and broken equipment;
- Assess quality of services provided and identify needs for strengthening, e.g. management of patients with risk factors for chronic diseases;
- Provide training / required equipment where needed;
- Strengthen the mental health and disability services at PHC level (Basic Package of Health Services).

#### **3.4 Strengthening of the existing referral system for those who need care outside Gaza**

- Assess and analyse the need for referral of trauma and chronically ill patients
- Support the referral abroad department if required, e.g. provision of telecommunication means or Human Resource support;
- Maintain strong coordination channels with Israeli authorities;
- Facilitate collaboration with the East Jerusalem Hospitals network and WB health facilities to facilitate rehabilitation of disabled patients.