

GAZA RAPID RESPONSE DEPLOYMENT

SITREP, as at 28 Jan 2009

GENERAL SITUATION

The incident on the border yesterday makes the situation in Gaza uncertain and the probability of further Israeli retaliation high.

The limited availability of armored vehicles in Gaza continues to restrict possible mine action activity.

Personnel Location

Gaza

1. EOD Technical Advisor (Mark Frankish)
1 x MAG personal (Mark Buswell)
2. 2 x MAG EOD personnel scheduled to cross into Gaza tomorrow (29th)
3. Team Leader (Chris Clark), Planning Offr (Allen Kelly), EOD/QA Advisor (Steve Harrop) and MAG (Steve Priestly) in Jerusalem.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

4. Liaison with UN agencies continues and the following key activities completed:
 - a. Due to continued IDF military activity along border, close to Erez crossing extraction from Gaza today took almost seven hours.
 - b. Discussion/meeting with UN HC for Gaza; suggests to offer longer term training to PA civil defense pers in Ramalah/West Bank. Also, to consider longer term assessment of UXO situation in West Bank. Team Leader will meet with them in coming days to discuss further.

SUPPORT TO OVERALL UN HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

5. Direct support to the UN Humanitarian Response continues:
 - a. The Mine Action Portal on the OCHA website is now fully up and running.
www.ochaopt.org/gazacrisis
 - b. Final adjustment to UNICEF MRE materials has been made and a second print will now start with distribution to follow as soon as possible.

- c. A common UXO Safety Briefing has now been designed and completed with “live” photos from Gaza. It will be uploaded to the website tomorrow.
- d. All of the schools supported by UNRWA have now been checked and cleared.
- e. Of the 32 outstanding UNICEF supported schools, eight were completed today and the remaining 24 will be given priority over the coming days.
- f. Requests to check/clear UNICEF supported clinics are being prioritized, as is a request from UNRWA to check/clear certain residential areas.
- g. The bombed WFP compound at Karni remains un-accessible due to IDF activity on the border.
- h. Assistance is on-going to UN DSS to facilitate their ongoing security assessments of the various sub-areas of Gaza.

FUTURE INTENTIONS

- 6. Meet with EU and DFID. Planned mtgs for today were not held due to late extraction from Gaza. Tentative meet with DFID planned for tomorrow with EU on Friday.
- 7. Submit procurement plan to UNOPS for immediate items.
- 8. Draft SOW for EOD Teams
- 9. Continue liaison with COGAT/IDF to facilitate eventual entry into Gaza of EOD Teams (Equipment, personnel and alternatives to bulk explosives)
- 10. Continue direct support to UN Humanitarian Agencies inside Gaza.
- 11. Liaise with UNDP to develop proposals for inclusion in the Early Recovery Appeal.
- 12. Liaise/discuss with UNOPS NY in order to facilitate immediate admin support needs.
- 13. Chair Mine Action coordination meeting tomorrow (29th), 12.30 at UNICEF building.