

GAZA RAPID RESPONSE DEPLOYMENT

SITREP, as at 30 Jan 2009

GENERAL SITUATION

Nothing significant to report regarding situation within Gaza.

Personnel Location

Gaza

1. EOD Technical Advisor (Mark Frankish)
1 x MAG personal (Mark Buswell)
2. The 2 x MAG EOD personnel scheduled to cross into Gaza yesterday (29th) were turned away at the crossing. The issue has been raised with COGAT/IDF and we anticipate them to be able to cross on Sun 1st.
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. Attend/participate in the Early Recovery Appeal co-ordination mtg.
 - b. Meet with DFID and EC regarding funding for Emergency UXO clearance in Gaza.
 - c. Meet/discuss with UNOPS Jerusalem regarding future admin and logistic support.
 - d. Chaired Mine Action Co-ordination mtg held at UNICEF.
 - e. Met/discussed future deployment with NPA Team from Jordan
 - f. Met/briefed MA personnel from DCA, FSD and HI.

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. Requests to check/clear UNICEF supported clinics are being prioritized, as is a request from UNRWA to check/clear certain residential areas.
- c. A meeting was facilitated by Ellen Verluyten (ICRC Deputy Head of Sub-Delegation Gaza) for all Gaza based parties directly involved in an / or reporting on Mine Action activities. Attendees included ICRC, Humans Rights Watch, SRSA, MAG and UNMAS. The coordination of in-direct Mine Action activities along with the sharing of information was agreed by all. It was confirmed that the SRSA personnel (Srdjan Jovanovic and Magnus Beugtsson), mine action involvement will be limited to the direct support of ICRC activities and they have no immediate plans to become directly involved in any clearance activities. Information was also received concerning the actual location of the previously cleared UXO by Hamas / PA assets following the cessation of hostilities, following a joint UNMAS / SRSA reconnaissance of the site which is being planned for on Sunday, this information will be presented to DSS along with a brief report outlining any immediate recommendations.
- d. Guidance has been given to UNICEF MRE Coordinator concerning the possible use of a number of personnel from Sharek Youth Project who are soon to be utilised by UNDP Engineering Section in the assessment of non-refugee housing in the 5 x districts of Gaza. It has been suggested that this would / could be an excellent channel of communication to assist in the maintenance of the vigorous MRE campaign.
- e. General UXO situation briefing given to Mike Cowing (UNEP Project Coordinator) along with the coordinates of sites that could be used in the collection of samples (possible WP and DIME impact areas).
- f. The bombed WFP compound at Karni remains un-accessible due to IDF activity on the border.
- g. Assistance is on-going to UN DSS to facilitate their ongoing security assessments of the various sub-areas of Gaza.

FUTURE INTENTIONS

6. Draft SOW for EOD Teams
7. Continue liaison with COGAT/IDF to facilitate eventual entry into Gaza of EOD Teams (Equipment, personnel and alternatives to bulk explosives)

8. Continue direct support to UN Humanitarian Agencies inside Gaza.
9. Liaise/discuss with UNOPS NY in order to facilitate immediate admin support needs.
10. Facilitate entry and admin of incoming UNMAS/UNOPS pers.
11. Draft Concept of Operations