



## **MoM – EWASH Cluster Biweekly Meeting**

**Day/Date: Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> Mar. 2009, 11:00 am**

**Place: PWA Office/Ramallah**

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The main points that were included on the agenda to be covered in this weeks meeting include:

- Brief update on situation in Gaza
  - Arrival of WASH Cluster focal point in Gaza
  - Water quality issues
- Logistics and Access
  - Project based format for priority lists (CMWU)
  - Creating a suppliers list Gaza/West Bank/Israel (support from logs cluster?)
  - Sourcing on the local market (what quantities are required?)
- Linking to Advocacy
  - Next meeting, Weds 11th March, at 14h00 PWA

### **Update of developments during the week**

- The main highlights of the week included the entrance of a desalination plant through a project implemented by GVC after two long years of coordination and lobbying efforts by the Israeli manufacturer, GVC, CMWU and PWA all putting constant pressure on the Israel officials. The unit has been in the pipeline for so long but there's nothing too optimistic.
- Graham Henderson the WASH Cluster Coordinator has now arrived in Gaza and is based in Oxfam. A local has also been recruited for information management also based in Gaza.
- Graham is investigating the water quality issue with CMWU. Samples collected by CMWU in North Gaza have tested to be positive with fecal and total coliform. A slight rise in diarrheal rates have been noticed. But the situation still remains to be under control but must be closely monitored but no panic is necessary. Investigations to link WHO, MOH and CMWU about disinfection are also necessary. UNICEF is looking into

providing extra chlorine supply based CMWU's request. The next SitRep will include information and analysis about that.

- CMWU are making improvements on the ground, there is still intermittent supplies in some areas. Activities by organizations continue including water distribution through tankers and distribution of hygiene items.
- Organizations/Agencies have been trained on the new 3W web interface launched two weeks ago developed by OCHA where other references and contact lists can be found. Data collection has been handed over to Gaza. Most Organizations/Agencies have chosen people from Gaza to follow up the data entry who have been urged to refer to the Information Manager for support.

### **Logistics and Access**

- Best ways to present materials lists to Israeli Authorities discussed with the Logistics Cluster. Lists have been received from some organizations such as ACF and Care while others are looking into local procurement. CMWU and PWA met with Israel which was believed to be positive but still no news on improvement.
- The format developed by CMWU containing the main items that are required by CoGAT, Gaza will be keeping this list updated on a biweekly basis. The Logistics Cluster will use the generic list that includes families of items that are not specifically detailed for lobbying and advocacy purposes. With this comes the risk of general answers but no justifications for rejections. Going into the ER phase this would have to change but to what extent is not known.

*Comment/Action Point:* A suggestion was made to add a column to the CMWU format that would include the date when clearance was requested.

- Materials are not going into Gaza, people are accessing what's available in the market.

*Comment/Action Point:* Support is requested from the Logistics Cluster in understanding the market in order to avoid negative competition.

*Comment/Action Point:* Participants propose that a sub-cluster group be developed to discuss and assist in this process, it was suggested that this be tasked over to Gaza.

### **Advocacy**

An advocacy group has been developed to define activities by developing an Advocacy Action Plan. A draft developed by Lara will be circulated for organizations to fill in. The next meeting is planned on March 11<sup>th</sup>, at 14h00.