



MoM – EWASH Meeting

Day/Date: Thursday 7th May 2009, 10:00 am

Place: City Inn Palace Hotel Ramallah

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

- Update from Gaza
- Drought response update
- World Bank report
- Information Management
- Advocacy task force

Update from Gaza

- CoGAT has requested additional information on the CMWU list, and there is work in progress on how to move forward with this, as well as making sure that the CMWU list is corresponding with the list the logistics cluster has published
- There are now 5 functioning working groups in Gaza:
 - Water tankering working group, which is currently looking into more sustainable solutions for providing water
 - Hygiene and health working group, which has organized a workshop on Water and hygiene.
 - Advocacy task force, which is coordinating with the task force in Ramallah, and has prepared a report on the Public Health Laboratory operation
 - Technical working group, which is working with the CMWU list
 - Monitoring and surveillance working group, which has prepared a report of the UNRWA health data

- Graham Henderson will be leaving Gaza, since his assignment has ended and will be replaced by Mark Buttle. The handover will take place in Jerusalem next week.

Drought response update

The response plan for the drought is ongoing and there was a workshop in Amman May 4-6 to discuss the regional impacts of the drought. It was agreed that it is of great importance that the PA owns the strategic plan, with support from the UN and NGO,s.

In parallel with the emergency response plans, the cluster is also preparing a joint proposal for the joint water committee. Currently, small projects always get down prioritized and do not receive permits, so it has been decided to gather the small, drought related activities into one plan and present it to the JWC. During the meeting, the point was made that it is important not to include activities that do not need permits according to the current agreements (such as cisterns), since this could legalize illegitimate procedures. It has been agreed that a separate meeting on the issue is needed to further discuss the policy and procedures of working in Area C. PWA will be requested to provide some clear guidance on this issue.

World Bank report

Postponed to next meeting, due to lack of time.

Information Management

OCHA has produced output from the GRAD (Gaza Response Activity Database), and the main activities of the WASH cluster were water distribution. Agencies that want to do further analysis of the data are welcome to contact Nina for assistance. OCHA can also help provide certain agency specific outputs.

Andrea (GVC) brought up the question if any agencies are producing guidelines on handling of catchments areas. PHG has information and will share it.

Advocacy task force

ECHO has shown an interest in funding the advocacy task force initiative as part of a larger Oxfam WASH project. The funding will not cover all costs for activities and agencies are still strongly encouraged to continue with their advocacy activities, whilst coordinating with the task force.

The task force will be routed through the EWASH platform and will be coordinated closely with the WASH cluster and the HCT advocacy group.

Currently the cluster is working together with Oxfam to adapt the earlier proposal to something that is achievable within a six-months-period and the available funding.

Action points

- Ghassan to invite to a meeting to discuss the long-term strategy for Area C

Attendance List

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