



Gaza WASH Cluster Coordination Meeting Minutes

Date: June 2nd, 2009

Place: UNICEF meeting room. **Time:** 14:00 – 15:00

Organizations represented:

UNICEF	Islamic Relief
GVC	WHO
ACF	OCHA
Oxfam GB	CARE International
Christian Aid	Save the Children

Meeting Chairperson: Mark Buttle

- 1. Welcome and Introductions**
- 2. Minutes of the last meeting – action points followed up**

WASH cluster will follow up to put presentations on the OCHA website as soon as possible

- 3. Working groups update**

Water Tankering

The working group is inactive at present as most emergency tankering has finished, with the exception of CARE. There may be a need for this WG to meet soon regarding private tankering operations.

Health Promotion

Efforts to move the seawater quality issue forward are being undertaken. Since the meeting a press release by EQA was taken up by MAAN, which reported, over optimistically, that 90% of beaches in Gaza are clean. WASH cluster thanks EQA for initiating discussions with the municipality on the issue, but it was agreed that future press releases will be submitted to the WASH cluster, as a draft, before publication.

Investigations into pollution in drinking water stored in households are being taken forward by PHG who have prepared a concept note for a Gaza-wide study. In addition, GVC and PHG are considering working together to look into the causes of this.

Monitoring and surveillance

The working group is represented by Dalia Salha (WHO), and currently holds joint meetings with the HP working group. Dalia has handed over epidemiological information to the cluster.

Advocacy

Translated reports from Al Dameer have been received and will be made available soon.

The working group will meet soon to plan forthcoming advocacy work, led by Oxfam and funded by ECHO.

Technical

Action: WASH will circulate a few questions about the working of the Technical Working Group. Although it is a useful exchange of information with CMWU not so many organizations attend this, and we would like to see if the meeting format could be improved in any way.

4. Contingency Planning

A brief discussion was held on c the contingency planning and emergency preparedness with the following outcomes:

- An overall Gaza Contingency Plan was produced in summer 2008. Action: Unicef will send a copy to WASH Cluster for circulation.
- OCHA would like this revised within 2 or 3 weeks and would like input from the clusters. Action: WASH Cluster will organise a workshop on this issue.
- Some agencies may be interested in receiving training/facilitation on improving their own contingency plans.
- Stockpiling of material is currently impossible as it is difficult enough to bring in essential humanitarian supplies. Action: WASH cluster to take on the issue.

5. Inter-cluster issues – (Early Recovery, Environment and Health): Najla

Since the meeting it should be noted that H1N1 influenza (otherwise known as Swine Flu) was declared a pandemic, and the first confirmed case of H1N1 was reported in oPt, on Thursday 11th June, according to UNICEF in Jerusalem. Action: This will be added to the agenda of the

HP working group, so that info received from WHO/Health Cluster can be used effectively in Hygiene Promotion activities throughout the strip.

6. Information Management

Najla Shawa thanked everyone for recent input to the GRAD database.

UNICEF has signed an agreement with PHG on obtaining household level data via the Global Monitoring Tool questionnaire. Many thanks to those who participated in a meeting/workshop to decide if this was necessary. Action: WASH cluster will follow up with PHG to finalise the questionnaire.

This was Najla's last WASH cluster coordination meeting representing the WASH cluster. She moves to UNDP, so we wish her well and would like to thank her for her enthusiastic efforts!

7. Partner updates – any gaps and issues

Care supplied info on a new network repairs project which will be reported in the Technical Working Group minutes.

8. AOB

Next Meeting: Tuesday 16th June, 2pm at UNICEF.

Participants

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