

IASC WASH Cluster for occupied Palestinian Territory

Water, Sanitation & Hygiene Cluster

Following the request of the UN Country Team and humanitarian partners, WASH Cluster approach has been activated in the occupied Palestinian Territory, (oPt) since January 2009. UNICEF, the designated Global WASH Cluster Lead has assumed its responsibility as the WASH Cluster Lead Agency in oPt.

The aim of the WASH Cluster is to strengthen the humanitarian response through partnership in order to achieve better prioritization of available resources. The WASH Cluster is committed to supporting the humanitarian community by ensuring the participation of all the key WASH partners, in planning, establishing and maintaining appropriate humanitarian coordination mechanisms, to ensure complementarities between all WASH actors. The WASH Cluster will ensure that activities are undertaken in conjunction with the national/local authorities and with existing in-country WASH coordination platforms such as **e-WASH**.

The WASH Cluster is committed to fulfilling its responsibilities in line with the IASC guidelines, and to providing adequate reporting, information sharing and cross-Cluster coordination. In addition, as agreed in the IASC guidelines, UNICEF will be responsible as the “provider of last resort” for WASH services, subject to access, security and the availability of the necessary resources.

WASH Cluster Objectives

To facilitate the coordination among local, international and UN agencies active in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene sector in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and to enhance predictability, timeliness and efficiency of the WASH sector in meeting beneficiaries’ needs. The main objective of WASH Cluster personnel is to facilitate the provision of WASH services for those affected by conflict, occupation and natural events such as drought.

Role of the WASH Country Cluster Lead

The role of sector leads, as specified in the IASC Guidance Note, at the country level includes:

- Inclusion of key humanitarian partners
- Establishment & maintenance of appropriate humanitarian coordination mechanisms
- Coordination with national/local authorities, State institutions, local civil society and other relevant actors

- Participatory and community-based approaches
- Attention to priority cross-cutting issues (e.g. age, diversity, environment, gender, HIV/AIDS and human rights)
- Needs assessment and analysis
- Emergency preparedness, planning and strategy development
- Application of standards
- Monitoring and reporting
- Advocacy and resource mobilization
- Training and capacity building
- Provision of assistance or services as a last resort

Structure

The WASH Cluster Coordinator in conjunction with **e-WASH Coordinator** will arrange the necessary events for WASH actors, including meeting, IM, reporting, workshops and coordination with national authorities, both in West Bank and Gaza. Any organization working in the Water and Sanitation sector can join the group, as can donors, and other sector leads.

Meetings are monthly the first **Tuesday** every month at **11h00 at Palestinian Water Authority (PWA)** building in Ramallah, and at **14h00 in the UN building** in Gaza unless otherwise indicated.

WASH Cluster - Key Contacts

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