



Gaza Health Cluster Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday 13 May, 2019

Time: 12:30 PM-14:00 PM

Venue: PMRS Meeting Room

Chair: Sara Halimah, Health Cluster Coordinator (HCC), and Abdelnaser Soboh, Health sub-Cluster Coordinator (HsCC).

Participants: 35 participants representing 24 organizations (refer to annex 1).

Meeting Agenda

Agenda Item
Health Humanitarian update
Updating Health Cluster Preparedness for potential escalation and mass casualties on Friday 17 th May 2019
AOB <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drug Monitoring• Key advocacy messages to donors• Trauma Event Launch• oPt joint Health Cluster Meetings

Meeting Highlights

1. Health Humanitarian update

Drugs and medical supplies

- 268 items (52%) out of the essential medications (CDS), and 226 items (26%) out of the medical disposables in the essential list were reported at zero stock levels in the Central Drug Store, affecting negatively the health service delivery at both primary and secondary level.
- MoH reported that 56% out of the 936 essential laboratory items are at zero stock levels in the Central Laboratory and Blood Bank Department, e.g. 52 items out of the 99 used in emergency, ICU and Operation Theatre are out of stock. Similarly, 19 out of 50 Blood Bank items are at zero stock, all of which affects negatively the early and correct diagnosis and treatment of various diseases. MoH calls for support in fulfilling the gaps in drugs, disposables and laboratory reagents shortages.
- For full CDS report click [here](#).

Electricity

- The electricity situation has improved given the recent efforts to connect the grid lines to nine out of the 14 public hospitals, including Al Shifa, Indonesia, Al Aqsa, Nasser, Al Dora, Ophthalmic Hospital, Paediatric, Psychiatric, Specialized Paediatric Hospital. These hospitals now have access to up to 22 hours of electricity every day. Meanwhile, the MoH has appealed for 500,000 liters to cover the interim period until all the hospitals are all connected to the grid lines.

Update from working groups:

Trauma Working Group:

- From 30 March until 30 April 2019, 279 people have been killed¹. The total figure of people injured stands at 28,778. Out of 28,778 people injured, 14,556 were treated at the TSPs and discharged. This has reduced the burden of casualties arriving at the hospitals by an average of 50%. The remaining 17,021 casualties arrived at the emergency departments (ED) of MoH and NGO hospitals. Of them, 3,467 were children. Gunshot injuries: Out of 17,021 casualties that arrived to emergency departments (ED), 7,013 cases were gunshot injuries; which account for 41% of the total casualties arriving at the hospitals. From 7,013 gunshot injuries, 88% are limb gunshot injuries. Refer to figure 3 for a breakdown of gunshot wounds by affected body part.
- **Permanent disability:**
 - **Amputations:** 129 amputations have taken place as a result of injuries during the mass demonstrations, including 31 in children. 110 were lower limb amputations and 18 upper limb amputations³.
 - **Paralysis:** 22 patients are currently paralyzed due to spinal cord injuries.
 - **Eye injuries:** Nine people suffered permanent loss of vision as a result of injuries caused during the mass demonstrations.

¹ 7 bodies have been reported to be held by Israeli authorities, according to OCHA.

² Although the MoH report 31,577 injured, WHO was able to verify 28,778.

³ According to Assalama Society

Nutrition Working Group:

- In line with the recommendations of the Nutrition Multi Sectoral Assessment, UNICEF with SCF and WFP are working on the development of an operational action plan for Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition, that will guide us in addressing the gaps identified by the assessment as well as in improving the maternal, infant and young child nutrition situation in the Gaza strip.
- UNICEF is planning to organize two workshops with the NWG; the first one to review and build consensus on each and every proposed strategic action of the MIYCN operational action plan. The second one to Develop a Nutrition Working Group Roll out of the detailed action plan for the MIYCN operational plan.

Action points	Person/organization responsible	Deadline
Health Cluster to issue updated Situation report	Health Cluster Team	15 May 2019

2. Updating Health Cluster Preparedness for potential escalation and mass casualties (Friday 17th May 2019)

- Please click [here](#) to open the analysis of preparations.

Action points	Person/organization responsible	Deadline
Partners to provide the Health Cluster with list of supplies 1 week before they are delivered to Gaza	Partners	Ongoing

3. AOB

Drug Monitoring

- UNOPS has begun monitoring medical supplies in Gaza (as part of our PMU project). The monitoring involves:
 - Confirming arrival of supplies at Karm Abu Salem (though not precise counts here)
 - Confirming arrival of supplies at MoH warehouses and counting/recording them in detail
 - Confirming distribution of supplies from main MoH warehouse to other warehouses and/or health facilities
 - Regular inventory checks at MoH warehouses
 - Spot checks of inventory at health facilities
- As such, the data mostly consists of the amounts of supplies held at each warehouse/facility on a given date as well as details of each shipment that enters Gaza.
- Partner will be requested to provide inputs once the system is up and running.

A discussion on key advocacy messages ahead of the donor meeting

- There was an open discussion on the key challenges facing partners. The following key points were made:
 - Funding for preparedness remains limited. Out stock piles have minimised over the past few weeks in response to the ongoing acute events. A minimum of \$1.5million is required to appropriately prepare for a potential escalation.
 - Staff members of UN, INGO and NGOs have faced several challenges in accessing permits to leave Gaza. 55 days are required for permits and often staff are rejected or there is no reply. This has significantly affected the ability to conduct operational work in the Gaza Strip. For example, the key health coordinator for UNFPA in Gaza has no permit, MAP-UK also faces major challenges and only two WHO staff have permits to leave.
 - The entry and exit of spare parts remains a major concern. Partners complained about the highly beurocratic Israeli procedures that delay critical spare parts. The sub-cluster coordinator explained that often there are also some delays from partners as they do not always submit the right paper work. Partners explained that the lack of transparency creates a room for error.
 - International medical staff with Arab names are often denied permits to be deployed to Gaza in order to conduct lifesaving work.

- The issue of patients permits remains very challenging. WHO continues to monitor barriers to the right to health, including barriers to access for patients. For WHO's latest monthly access report click [here](#). As of 30 April 2019, according to Gaza's Coordination and Liaison Office, there had been 550 applications to Israeli authorities by those injured in demonstrations to exit Gaza via Erez crossing to access health care. Of those applications, 17% were approved, 26% were denied and 56% were delayed.

Action points	Person/organization responsible	Deadline
Health Cluster Coordinator, Sara Halimah to relay these messages to donors in Jerusalem	Health Cluster Coordinator	Monday 20 th May

Trauma Event Launch: on 29th May 2019

- For the first time, WHO as the technical health lead agency, in collaboration with over 20 agencies is presenting a one-year analysis of the trauma injuries in Gaza since the start of the Great March of Return and the humanitarian impact. The publication also captures a detailed analysis of almost 7,000 gunshot wounds and a detailed perspective on the 1,700 people facing amputation if medical services are not made available.
- Presented by the UN Humanitarian Coordinator Mr. Jamie McGoldrick and Dr Gerald Rockenschaub, Head of the WHO oPt, this launch event lays the groundwork for future priority health interventions and how best the international community can help save lives and prevent future disability.
- WHO will also explore the key elements that lie ahead: What is the role of international emergency medical teams in the oPt? How effective were the trauma stabilization points in reaching the injured? Why are so many people in Gaza facing a possible amputation and how can we prevent amputations? **This will take place at the Ambassador Hotel in Jerusalem. Wednesday, 29th May 2019 at 09:30-12:00.**

oPt joint Health Cluster Meetings

- The Health Cluster Coordinator briefed partners on her recent meeting with the new Minister of Health. The meeting was positive with an agreement to restart joint oPt Health Cluster meetings. The first joint oPt Cluster meeting will take place after Ramadhan.

For further information, please contact:

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Annex 1: Participants

No.	Organization
1	AAH
2	CBBS
3	Dar Essalam Hospital
4	DCA
5	GVC
6	Hayat Center
7	Human Appeal UK
8	IOCC
9	Karama Hospital
10	MAP
11	MDM-F
12	MoH
13	MSF
14	NECC
15	PMRS
16	QRC
17	RCS4GS
18	TRCS
19	UHWC
20	UNFPA
21	UNICEF
22	UNOPS
23	UNRWA
24	WHO