



Terms of Reference

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Acronyms:

CLA – Cluster Lead Agency

HC – Humanitarian Coordinator

HNC – Health and Nutrition Cluster

HNCC – Health and Nutrition Cluster Coordinator

HNC SG – Health and Nutrition Cluster Support Group

OCHA – UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

oPt – occupied Palestinian Territory

RC – Resident Coordinator

TWG – Technical Working Groups

WB – West Bank

WHO – World Health Organization

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1. oPt Health Cluster's Mission and Goal

The oPt Health Cluster's **mission** is to: provide effective leadership to enhance accountability, predictability and efficiency of humanitarian health response conducted by UN, local and international NGO-s and private for-profit sector in oPt and its alignment with the national health systems.

Goal: To reduce avoidable mortality, morbidity and disability, and restore the delivery of, and equitable access to, preventive and curative health and nutrition services as quickly as possible and in a sustainable manner as possible.

2. Health Cluster objectives

- Increase participation of cluster partners and donors / strengthen coordination with non- Health Cluster partner health providers/ working groups
- Conduct contingency planning / develop plan to predict, prevent and respond to new emergencies / deterioration of the current humanitarian situation in West Bank and Gaza
- Develop Health Cluster strategy and action plan to respond to the priority emergency health hazards and risks in oPt
- Define geographical and thematic structure of the cluster, roles of the partners / update Health Cluster ToR
- Develop and operationalize Health Cluster advocacy strategy to inform humanitarian community, donors, relevant authorities about priority health issues in oPt and strengthen resource mobilization for the health sector with the aim to have identified problems tackled/solved
- Develop and operationalize systems for monitoring Health Cluster joint response/ develop systems for aggregating and analyzing cluster partner data
- Define and agree on health sector priorities and standards
- Capacity building in project design and management

3. oPt Health Cluster Guiding Principles and responsibilities of the oPt Health Cluster Partners

3.1 Humanitarian Principles

The Humanitarian Principles form the foundation of oPt Health Cluster. Health Cluster partners will adhere to these principles in all circumstances and without exception.

- **Humanity:** Human suffering will be addressed by the Health Cluster Partner Agencies wherever it is found with attention to the most vulnerable in the population, such as children, women and the elderly. The dignity and rights of all victims will be respected and protected.
- **Neutrality:** Health Cluster Partner Agencies assist without engaging in

hostilities or taking sides in controversies of a political, religious or ideological nature.

- **Impartiality:** Health Cluster Partner Agencies assist without discriminating as to ethnic origin, gender, nationality, political opinions, race or religion. Relief of the suffering is to be guided solely by needs and priority will be given to the most urgent cases of distress

3.2 Cooperation with the Ministry of Health (MoH)

oPt Health Cluster partners recognize that Palestinian Ministry of Health has the primary responsibility in the initiation, organization, coordination and implementation of humanitarian health assistance within its territory and in the facilitation of the work of humanitarian organizations in mitigating the consequences of natural disasters. oPt Health Cluster partners will design and implement their projects in alignment with the relevant national policies, standards and plans in order to support and strengthen national health systems.

To ensure the strong linkages between the oPt Health Cluster and the MoH, Palestinian Ministry of Health is co-leading the oPt Health Cluster and co-chairing the regular joint meetings.

3.3 Principles of Partnership

To uphold spirit of collaboration, strengthen participation and communication within (and outside), the cluster oPt Health Cluster Partners will adhere to the following **Principles of Partnership:**

Equality: Equality requires mutual respect between members of the partnership irrespective of size and power. The oPt Health Cluster partners respect each other's mandates, obligations and independence and recognize each other's constraints and commitments. Mutual respect however will not preclude organizations from engaging in constructive dissent.

Transparency: Transparency is achieved through dialogue between all partners on an equal footing, with an emphasis on early consultations and early sharing of information. Communication and transparency, including financial transparency, increase the level of trust among organizations.

Result-oriented approach: Effective humanitarian action must be reality-based and action-oriented. This requires result-oriented coordination based on effective capabilities and concrete operational capacities.

Responsibility: oPt Health Cluster partners have an ethical obligation to each other to accomplish their tasks responsibly, with integrity and in a relevant and appropriate way. They will commit to activities only when they have the means, competencies, skills, and capacity to deliver on their commitments.

Complementarity: The diversity of the oPt Health Cluster partners is an asset if we build on our comparative advantages and complement each other's contributions. Local capacity is one of the main assets to enhance and on which to build. Whenever possible, oPt Health Cluster partners, particularly UN and International NGO-s will strive to make it an integral part in emergency response.

3.4 Mainstreaming Cross-Cutting Issues

The oPt Health Cluster will ensure that **protection, gender, disability and age** are taken into consideration in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all health interventions delivered to populations of humanitarian concern. The recognition, within these populations, of the needs of most vulnerable groups including children, women, elderly and the disabled, will be a priority for the Cluster. Cross-linkages will be established with other clusters to ensure the Health Cluster contributes to the comprehensive response these cross cutting issues deserve.

3.5. Responsibilities of the Cluster Partners

Health Cluster partners are committed to the Health Cluster Mission, Goal and to:

- Be proactive in exchanging information, highlighting needs and gaps and reporting progress, mobilizing resources, and building local capacity;
- Share responsibility for Health Cluster activities including assessing needs, developing plans and guidelines, and organizing joint training;
- Respect and adhere to agreed principles, policies and standards, and implement activities in line with agreed priorities and objectives.

4. oPt Health Cluster Key Deliverables

Support service delivery

- Providing a platform that ensures service delivery is driven by the country humanitarian response plan and strategic priorities
- Developing mechanisms to eliminate duplication of service delivery
- Up-to-date mapping of health actors, available health services, and service delivery activities
- Up-to-date information on the health situation and needs is available to all stakeholders; regular situation reports/health bulletins
- Ensure utilization of participatory and community-based approaches in sectoral needs assessment, analysis, planning, monitoring and response
- Monitor critical health determinants in Gaza and West Bank (morbidity, mortality, availability of essential drugs and supplies, protection issues)

Inform the HC/HCT's strategic decision-making

- Consolidating and sharing needs assessments and analysis of gaps (across and within sectors, using IM tools as needed).
- Identifying and finding solutions for (emerging) gaps, obstacles, duplication and cross-cutting issues.
- Formulating priorities based on analysis of data from cluster members and observers.

Plan and develop strategy

- Developing cluster plans, objectives and indicators that directly support realization of the members' and observers' response strategic priorities

- Applying and encouraging adherence to standards and guidelines
- Clarifying funding requirements, helping to set priorities, and agreeing cluster contributions to the HC's overall humanitarian funding proposals (Flash Appeals, YHRP) and other funds (CERF, ERF, CHF, etc.).

Monitor and evaluate performance

- Monitoring and reporting on activities and needs
- Measuring performance against the cluster strategy and agreed target results
- Recommending corrective action where necessary
- Share agreed standards, protocols and guidelines for basic health care delivery, standard formats for reporting
- Regular joint situation updates based on monitoring of the situation and of the health services
- Ensuring that oPt Health Cluster partners are aware of relevant policy guidelines, technical standards and relevant commitments that the Government has undertaken under international human rights law
- Ensuring that responses are in line with existing policy guidance, technical standards, and relevant Government human rights legal obligations

Build capacity in preparedness and contingency planning

- Developing a joint contingency plan for response to future events that could impact on the populations' health or partners' response activities
- Training materials and opportunities available to all partners for upgrading skills and standards of service provision, as needed

Advocate and mobilize resources

- Identifying concerns that contribute to HC and HCT messaging and action
- Undertaking advocacy on behalf of the cluster, cluster members, and affected people.
- Common advocacy strategy and mass awareness plan, resource mobilization and pooling of resources for addressing priority needs.
- Carry out advocacy for priority projects' resource mobilization (financial and capacity), promote appropriate interventions in accessible areas of identified need, innovative strategies of providing health services and appropriate inter-sectoral strategies to address emergency health needs of the Palestinians

Attention to priority cross-cutting issues

- Ensure integration of agreed priority cross-cutting issues in sectoral needs assessment, analysis, planning, monitoring and response (e.g. age, diversity, environment, gender, HIV/AIDS and human rights)

5. Amendments to the TOR

These Terms of Reference will be periodically reviewed, particularly if there is a change in the situation on the ground, with a view to their modification or amendment.