# Minutes of the Gaza Health Cluster Meeting

**Convened by:** HsCC  
**Meeting Notes taken by:** HsCC  
**Date:** 5 August 2021  
**Time:** 10:00 AM-11:30 AM  
**Venue:** Red Crescent Society for Gaza Strip

## AGENDA
- Opening Remarks
- Overview of Humanitarian Situation
- Health Status Update
- Working Groups Update
- HNO/HRP methodology this year
- Partners Key Updates
- A.O.B/Wrap Up

## Key issues Raised

### Overview of Humanitarian Situation (OCHA)

### Health Status Update (MoH)
- 42% of essential drugs are zero-stock (less than one month supply). Affected services are: Kidney transplantation and hemodialysis, Immunity & Genetic Disorders, and Ophthalmology. In addition, 52% of lab supplies are less than one month supply. Affected services: ICUs, NICUs, PHC, ED, Renal dialysis, and oncology.
- Turkish Hospital will be designated to treat and manage oncology patients. Plans were developed to move current services from Ranteesi hospital and EGH Hospital to Turkish hospital.
- Work in UAE field hospital hosted in EGH hospital was delayed as construction workers could not access Gaza due to visa issues. The hospital will be dedicated to COVID-19 case management and have a bed capacity of 150 including 50 ICU beds.
- Renovation of damaged health facilities was initiated with support from partners including Qatar Charity an PCRF. Hala Al-Shawa PHC services will be covered by UHWC temporarily.
- MoH is working on an agreement with local pharmaceutical suppliers to provide selected zero-stock drugs to MoH, in exchange, the local suppliers will receive a tax exemption.
- For COVID-19 situation, needs, and priorities please refer to MoH Health Status update from: [https://bit.ly/3CMAHt5](https://bit.ly/3CMAHt5)

### Working Groups Update
- **Nutrition WG (UNICEF)**
  - Nutrition partners did not receive funding against their HRP proposals. They have secured some fund from other resources for supporting the continuation of their regular services.

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55 Participants from: AAH, Al-Khair Hospital, Caritas Jerusalem, CBBS, Dar Essalam, GCMHP, Hayfa Hospital, HI, Humman Appeal UK, Igatha48, IMC, IRW, Kuwait Hospital, MAP, MdM-CH, MdM-F, MdM-S, MedGlobal, MoH, MSF, MSF Belgium, MSF Spain, NCCR, NSR, OCHA, PCRF, PRCS, QRC, QRCS, RCS4GS, Sahaba Hospital, UHCC, UHWC, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNRWA, WHO, WW-GVC
UNICEF with partners are working on monitoring the nutrition situation by reviewing the monthly nutrition data received from Nutrition partners in Gaza. There is no significant change in the malnutrition situation.

- UNICEF with partners is implementing a project to support nutrition friendly schools initiative and another project to support management of malnutrition of under-five children.

- **Trauma WG (WHO)**
  - The next TWG will be held next month, partners will be officially informed one week ahead.
  - After last escalation May 2021 and based on the results and recommendations of emergency assessment report; The TWG members continue supporting the MoH and PRCS on prehospital and hospital care services.

- **Rehabilitation Taskforce (HI)**
  - Training on LR protocol for physiotherapists was conducted in June with support of WHO, MoH, HI, MAP UK and MSFF, targeted 19 participants (13M-6F) targeting MoH staff, I/NGOs, while in August, 23 were trained (18M-5F). Total reached 42 and planned to reach 70. The coming training will be conducted end of August/ beginning of Sep.
  - RTF evaluation will be launched in Sep 2021 to identify strengths and areas that require improvement, documentation of lessons learnt and identify good practices.
  - Ongoing Support of MoH Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation Unit to develop the rehab strategy to ensure quality of rehabilitation service provision. ToR clarifying the framework and the methodology is under development.
  - Workshop to systemize the referral pathways between RTF members and other actors will be conducted in August.

- **Advocacy Taskforce (WHO)**
  - On 4 August, WHO with OCHA, Life With Dignity and OHCHR facilitated an online virtual visit to Gaza, focused on health attacks and the impact of recent escalations on the health sector; continuing barriers to health access; and obstacles to the realization of accountability for violations under international human rights and international humanitarian law.
  - The health parts of the virtual visit included a tour at Hala Al-Shawa clinic and discussion there with Dr Hashem Abu Hashem; a pre-recorded video of the attack and damage to facilities in the area of Rimal Clinic and facilitated discussion with Dr Abdullatif Al-Haj; and finally a visit to the Aid and Hope Programme for Cancer Patients where there was conversation with the mother of Ameer, a 3-year-old boy repeatedly delayed a permit to reach a hospital in Jerusalem, and Eman, a cancer survivor, advocate and the director of the Aid and Hope Programme.
  - The event was well attended, with over 90 participants on the call and the presence of diplomats from capitals.

HNO/HRP methodology this year

- The 2022 Humanitarian Programme Cycle has been launched (Refer to calendar from [https://bit.ly/2VI3KNq](https://bit.ly/2VI3KNq)) There will be meetings called first for Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) members (please see SAG members list from [https://bit.ly/3AvCUHd](https://bit.ly/3AvCUHd), it’s joint between Gaza and West Bank) to advise on key humanitarian needs for 2022 based on their technical expertise. Other experts outside of SAG will also be consulted. A draft template for identifying the needs will then be drafted and shared with all partners for discussion at the HNO workshop that will be held at the end of August. Please note that the Humanitarian Needs Overview is being done in a different way compared to previous years, so we would like to ask you to bear with us.
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<tr>
<th>Action Points</th>
<th>Responsible</th>
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<td>NGO hospitals are advised to either set plans or ask their donors to secure their needs of oxygen to cover their services.</td>
<td>Partner NGOs Hospitals</td>
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<td>Interested rehab service providers are encouraged to nominate Physiotherapists for participation in the LR training, by expressing interest and contact RTF coordinator - Reham Shaheen at <a href="mailto:r.shaheen@hi.org">r.shaheen@hi.org</a></td>
<td>Partner rehab service providers</td>
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<td>Development of tools that may support the referral pathways between RTF members and other actors</td>
<td>Partners</td>
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<td>SAG meetings to discuss the HNO dates to be announced</td>
<td>Health Cluster</td>
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<td>HNO workshop to be held before the end of August</td>
<td>Health Cluster</td>
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