



**Ministry of Health Emergency Operation Room
Sitrep on Gaza 5th February 2009
(Local Time 13:00)**

**Press statement MOH and UNICEF
5 February 2009**

The Palestinian Ministry of Health and UNICEF are concerned about the poor state of infant and young child feeding in Gaza communities currently experiencing attacks.

Reports from Gaza have revealed that families are receiving donated supplies of breast milk substitutes in the form of milk powder and liquid milk. These donations are coming from national and international relief agencies, as well as private donors.

Based on population estimates, there are nearly 255,000 infants and children under 60 months of age in Gaza. There are very real concerns that those infants who were breastfeeding before the conflict are now threatened with increased risk of diarrhea, morbidity, and mortality if they were to switch to formula feeding.

The Palestinian Minister of Health, Dr. Fathi Abu-Moghli, said: "In 2007, the Ministry issued clear recommendations on infants and young children. These emphasized the need to continue exclusive breastfeeding for all infants up to six months of age and to continue mixed feeding into the second year of life. It is important to avoid the risks associated with formula feeding where problems with clean water supplies can increase even more the risk and severity of disease."

"It is imperative that the most vulnerable members of our community are provided with the best nutritional support available. Donations of infant milk substitutes should only be distributed in close coordination with the local authorities, to ensure that it is used appropriately, is not close to expiry and only reaches children unable to breastfeed. UNICEF will help us in supporting appropriate infant and young child feeding in all the affected areas, to advise and help mothers affected by the conflict."

UNICEF's Special Representative, Ms. Patricia McPhillips, said: "Donations of milk, however well-intentioned, are discouraged and should only be accepted when their use can be carefully targeted and monitored. We recognize that some children were already formula fed before the conflict. We also know some mothers will be stressed in the wake of the continual bombardment, some have been killed or injured, and that this will have an impact on their ability to breastfeed. An appropriate environment for women, one that protects, promotes and supports breastfeeding, must be established. UNICEF calls on all relief agencies working in Gaza to promote such an environment."

The Ministry of Health and UNICEF strongly urge all who are involved in funding, planning and implementing an emergency response and in all levels of communication to refer to key policy and programme instruments to avoid unnecessary death following uncontrolled distribution of breast milk substitutes. Community leaders are called upon to monitor and report any donations that may undermine breastfeeding.

For more information contact:

Ala'a I. Abu Rub / Nutrition Department Director / MoH
UNICEF Communications Officer / Monica Awad

GENERAL:

OVERVIEW:

The total number of martyrs from the war on Gaza reached 1373 including the 23 year old Mithqal Al Rabadi who died at an Egyptian Hospital of injuries sustained during the war. (Ma'an News)

The UN Development Programme (UNDP) estimates that more than 14,000 homes, 68 government buildings and 31 non-governmental organization offices were either totally or partially damaged during the latest conflict. As a result, some 600,000 tons of concrete rubble will need to be removed. Once funding is secured, UNDP will: clear rubble; demolish and clean up sites of damaged buildings; and identify and remove unexploded ordnance. This project will generate 200,000 workdays for unemployed Gazans. (DEPUTY SPOKESPERSON FOR SECRETARY-GENERAL BAN KI-MOON UN HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK- Wednesday, February 4, 2009)

GAZA FLASH APPEAL- HEALTH RESPONSE PLAN

The following is the health response plan that was included in the Gaza Flash Appeal and which summarizes the sectoral objectives and activities.

Sectoral Objectives

Strengthening essential public health functions, including for chronic patients and elderly; rehabilitation, RH and PHC. Identifying and addressing environmental health risks; strengthening disease surveillance, early warning and outbreak response.

Proposed Activities

Assessment, coordination and management

- Assess the impact of the crisis on the health system and health status of the population, including damage to health infrastructure, the degree of functionality of health facilities and the availability of human resources at the health facilities.
- Ensure effective coordination of the immediate health response and the early recovery of the health sector, including the flexibility to respond rapidly to new needs.
- Support the MoH and other health stakeholders in coordinating and responding to the health needs of the Palestinian population.
- Through technical guidance and support to the MoH and health stakeholders, ensure a seamless transition from relief to recovery, so that local health systems and the capacity of national/local health authorities are restored and strengthened.
- Provide logistic/operational support in order to ensure efficient management of humanitarian supplies and medical donations; strengthen the MoH Drug supply management system; and coordination of international medical teams.

The emergency operation room responsible for following up on the health situation in Gaza has been established in the Palestinian ministry of health in collaboration with WHO and other international and local partners.

Ministry of Health requests that all assistance, interventions and donations to the Health Sector be communicated to the operation room.

Telephone: 02 241 4013

Telefax: 02 241 4014

Mobile: 059 8919738

Email:

moh.operation.room@gmail.com

pmohor@who-health.org

Health service delivery

- Rehabilitate damaged health facilities from primary to tertiary care.
- Rehabilitate water and sanitation infrastructure in health facilities.
- Address gaps in health services delivery and critical threats through appropriate and quality PHC interventions and by strengthening secondary and tertiary care.
- Address the health needs of internally displaced persons.
- Support to hospital services, with a special focus on injuries and chronic diseases.
- Strengthening of the existing internal and external referral system.

Public health functions

- Address priorities in primary health care: sustain vaccination coverage; disability and trauma rehabilitation and other specialized services for people with injuries and disabilities, reproductive health, chronic diseases, environmental health.
- Monitor health threats and risks, nutrition and water quality, including the restoration and enhancement of the early warning surveillance and outbreak response systems.
- Ensure preparedness for epidemic outbreaks by assessing risks and pre-positioning supplies for outbreak response.

INTERNATIONAL INTERVENTION:

1. Up till February 4th a total of 4400 MT of medical supplies was sent through Rafah Border since December 27, 2008. These were from the Egyptian Red Crescent Society, Egyptian Sharia Society, Malaysia, Libya, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey Morocco, Tunisia, Kuwait. On February 4th, forty tons of medical supplies entered through Rafah from Egyptian Red Crescent and Al Shariyah Charity and Qatar.

REFERRALS THROUGH RAFAH

The total referrals through Rafah until February 4th were **941**. Up until January 31st there were **38 martyrs** and **178 discharged** patients from a total of 893 referred up to that date. On February 4th, 20 patients were referred through Rafah.

Pediatric surgeons from Argentina denied entry into Gaza

The two specialists in pediatric surgery and traumatology from Argentina who planned to go to Gaza on Sunday morning to work in Gaza European Hospital for ten days, have been denied entry to Gaza for five consecutive days. Yesterday, this team was placed in Ramallah Governmental Hospital to assist in pediatric surgery. The team is leaving to Argentina on Sunday.

MEDICAL SUPPLIES NEEDS:

List of drug needs as of February 5:

The following list of drugs shows non- emergency drug needs for both the West Bank and Gaza including oncology medications for the year 2009. It will be highly appreciated if donors willing to provide drugs can donate the requested quantity of a drug item rather than providing partial quantities of more than one drug item.

	Name of Category and Products	Dosage Form	Unit	Quantity
1	mycophenolate mofetil 500mg tab	TAB		1580
2	etanercept 25mg/ml	VIAL		10000
3	meropenem 1gm vial	VIAL		20000
4	VANCOMYCIN 500 mg VIAL	VIAL		30000
5	teicoplanin 200mg vial	VIAL		8000
6	docetaxel 20mg 0.5ml vial	VIAL		200
7	gemcitabine 1gm via	VIAL		1000
8	interferon beta-1a 30mcg/ml vial	VIAL		10000
9	rituximab 500mg/50ml vial	VIAL		1000
10	PEGINTEFERON ALPHA-2A	VIAL		2000
11	ISOFOSFAMIDE 2 G VIAL	VIAL		300
12	zoledronic acid 4mg vial	VIAL		1000
13	imatinib 100mg cap	CAP		300
14	OCTREOTIDE 0.1 MG/ML AMP	AMP		8000
15	ERYTHROPOITEIN 2000 I.U VIAL	VIAL		200000
16	factor 1X			700000
17	ISOPRENALINE 0.2MG/ML 1ML AMP	AMP		4000
18	IRON III COMPLEX 100MG/5ML AMP	AMP		36000
19	magnes.sulpha.50% 10ml			1200
20	TACROLIMUS 1MG CAP	CAP		800

21	5-FLUOROURACIL 1g	VIAL	SINGLE	
22	ACETYLCHOLINE CHLORIDE 20 mg (INTRA OCULAR)	VIAL	SINGLE	
23	ACYCLOVIR 4.5 g	EYE OINT	SINGLE	
24	ALPROSTADIL 0.5 mg/ml 1ml	AMP	SINGLE	
25	DEXTROSE 5% + SALINE 0.9% . BAG OF500 mL	SOLN	SINGLE	
26	DEXTROSE 10% . BAG OF500 mL	SOLN	SINGLE	
27	DIHYDRALAZINE 25 mg 2ml I.M.,I.V.	AMP	SINGLE	
28	DINOPROSTONE 3 mg .	VAG.TAB	4TAB	
29	ENOXAPARIN 80 mg prefilled syringes	PREF SYR	SINGLE	
30	ENSURE LIQUID 240 mL OR ALIKE	SOLN	SINGLE	
31	FERROUS SUCROSE COMPLEX 100 mg/5 ml IV	VIAL	SINGLE	
32	GEMCITABINE 1GM (GEMZAR) VIAL.	VIAL	SINGLE	
33	GENTAMICIN 0.1% . 15 g	OINT	SINGLE	
34	HALOPERIDOL DECANOATE 100 mg I.V.	AMP	SINGLE	
35	HEPATITIS B IMMUNOGLOBULIN I.V SERUM 220IU/ML. 0.5 mL	VIAL	SINGLE	
36	IMMUNOGLOBULIN G HUMAN 5% INFUSION. 100 mL	VIAL	SINGLE	
37	ISOSORBIDE 5- MONONITRATE 20 mg	TAB	THOUSAND	
38	ISOSORBIDE DINITRATE 5 mg SL	TAB	THOUSAND	
39	MEGLUMINE IOXITALAMATE 51.3 g + SODIUM IOXITALAMATE 25.65 g/100 mL(TELEBRIX 35)	SOLN	SINGLE	
40	MEPIVACAINE HCl 3% 1.8ml	CART	SINGLE	

41	MESNA 400 mg	AMP	SINGLE	
42	PANCREATIC PREPARATION (Creon)150 mg	CAP	THOUSAND	
43	RANITIDINE HCl 150 mg	TAB	SINGLE	
44	SALINE 23.4% 30 ml	VIAL	SINGLE	
45	alfacalcidol	tab		
46	actinomycin-D	vial		
47	adefovir dipivoxil 10mg	tab		
48	atropine E/D	eye drop		
49	bisacodyl 5mg	tab		
50	Ca-Carbonate	chewable tab		
51	ketamine	vial		
52	metformin	tab		
53	obidoxime chloride	vial		
54	phenylamine free	milk		

DISPOSABLE NEEDS

The list of disposables remains unchanged since the last sitrep dated February 2nd 2009.

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT:

The list of medical equipments published in the last report dated February 2nd remains unchanged.