

Summary of the Assistant Emergency Relief Coordinator and the UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) Team Activities in the Occupied Palestinian territory

29 April 2002

OCHA/UNDAC Presence in Jenin

1. The assessment of damage in human terms, to habitations and to the infrastructure in Jenin, was to be initiated immediately so as to rapidly identify the necessary resources for the support of the displaced population and the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Jenin Camp. In response to UNRWA's Commissioner General, Peter Hansen, request of OCHA's assistance, OCHA deployed a United Nations Disaster Assessment and Co-ordination (UNDAC) Team composed of 7 experts to assist UNRWA in the co-ordination of the humanitarian response to the current emergency, with particular reference to the situation in Jenin and other refugee camps.

2. The team has been involved in supporting the coordination efforts of UNRWA representative, participating in coordination meeting with the Governor's office in Jenin, municipality representatives and donors, briefing incoming missions and debriefing of missions. The team is also involved in the planning of the tent camp. The team has produced a preliminary database for tracking assistance (please find table on Reliefweb). The team also visited Bethlehem, while OCHA also participated to an assessment mission in Nablus (please find visit reports on Reliefweb and for daily reports, please visit OCHA Internet Website at <http://www.reliefweb.int>).

3. The Assistant Emergency Relief Co-ordinator traveled to the occupied Palestinian territory to support the UN agencies in their relief efforts and to assess humanitarian co-ordination needs. He visited Jenin on the 24 April 2002 (please find his visit report on Reliefweb) and met with several agencies, donors and the Palestinian Authority.

4. The priorities presented by the Governor's Office to the UNDAC team are as follows: security/crowd control as a major concern, removal of unexploded items/securing of damaged buildings, social work in the camp, medicines, temporary shelter, water supplies, electricity, psychosocial/trauma counseling, cash supplement for social welfare, food, employment creation, road construction/rehabilitation and assistance from a pathologist for the identification of bodies.

5. Although there are enough food and medical supplies in stock for the moment, accessing Jenin is still a challenge for persons and goods. Access is limited everywhere and local stocks are at a low. Please find an overview of the situation in the health sector in Jenin on Reliefweb. Only MSF and ICRC are working in the camp. Access restriction has also a great impact on the unemployment, since most (75%) of the population worked in Israel.

6. There are many Unexploded Ordinance (UXOs) and Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) in the camp (example: in four days, 285 items were found in the camp) needing to be removed as a

matter of urgency. Some international teams had done assessments but there has been no clearance yet. UNRWA's requested OCHA's assistance in providing expertise on demining coordination for Jenin refugee camp. OCHA liaised with the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) to obtain immediate deployment of an expert (already arrived) to look into demining issues in Jenin, particularly with expertise on Improvised Explosive Devices (IED). A Swedish team is being deployed to start demining. A Russian team is already on the ground. Security of the population and of humanitarian workers is a concern in this regard.

7. Land for a temporary camp needs to be cleared and tents set up; houses need to be reconstructed. Two experts from Habitat will be deployed this week to work on reconstruction issues.

8. For a broader overview, please find on Reliefweb a humanitarian overview of the situation in the Occupied Palestinian territory compiled by OCHA.

9. In light of the new humanitarian and information requirements as well as the complexity of the situation, OCHA is strengthening its field team through the deployment of two Information Officers and a Media Officer. A Database Coordinator from UNMAS Angola was also deployed to work together with the OCHA field team.

10. For coordination purposes, donors are requested to inform the Desk Officer/OCHA Geneva on relief missions/pledges/contributions and their estimated values. Contributions to this emergency may be found by clicking on Financial Tracking at the top of the page on the OCHA Internet Website (<http://www.reliefweb.int>). Donors are requested to verify this table and inform OCHA Geneva of corrections/additions/values. Donors are encouraged to notify OCHA Geneva of their contributions using the OCHA Standardized Contributions Recording Format, available electronically on the above mentioned Financial Tracking Website or by fax.

11. Other reports on the Occupied Palestinian Territory are also available on the OCHA Internet Website at <http://www.reliefweb.int>.

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