



The Role of the Health Cluster in Crisis

Focus on Gaza



Why Health Cluster Approach

2005: Findings of the Independent review commissioned by the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator include:

- Lack of predictability and accountability in humanitarian response.
- Gaps in response (duplication, missing, not sufficient.....etc)
- Lack of coordination among humanitarian actors (donors, INGOs)

Humanitarian Reform pillars

1. The Cluster Approach
2. Strengthening the Humanitarian Coordination System
3. Strengthening the Humanitarian Financing System (CERF)

What is the Cluster Approach?

A way of organizing coordination and cooperation among humanitarian actors (National and International) to facilitate joint strategic planning and effective response

oPT Health and Nutrition Cluster's Mission and Goal

The oPT Health and Nutrition 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.

oPT Health Cluster Guiding Principles

- **Humanity:** Human suffering will be addressed with particular 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:** HNC Partner Agencies provide assistance without engaging in hostilities or taking sides in controversies of a political, religious or ideological nature.
- **Impartiality:** HNC Partner Agencies provide assistance 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

Principles of Partnership

- Equality
- Transparency
- Result-oriented approach
- Responsibility
- Complementarity
- Mainstreaming Cross-Cutting Issues: (protection, gender, disability and age)

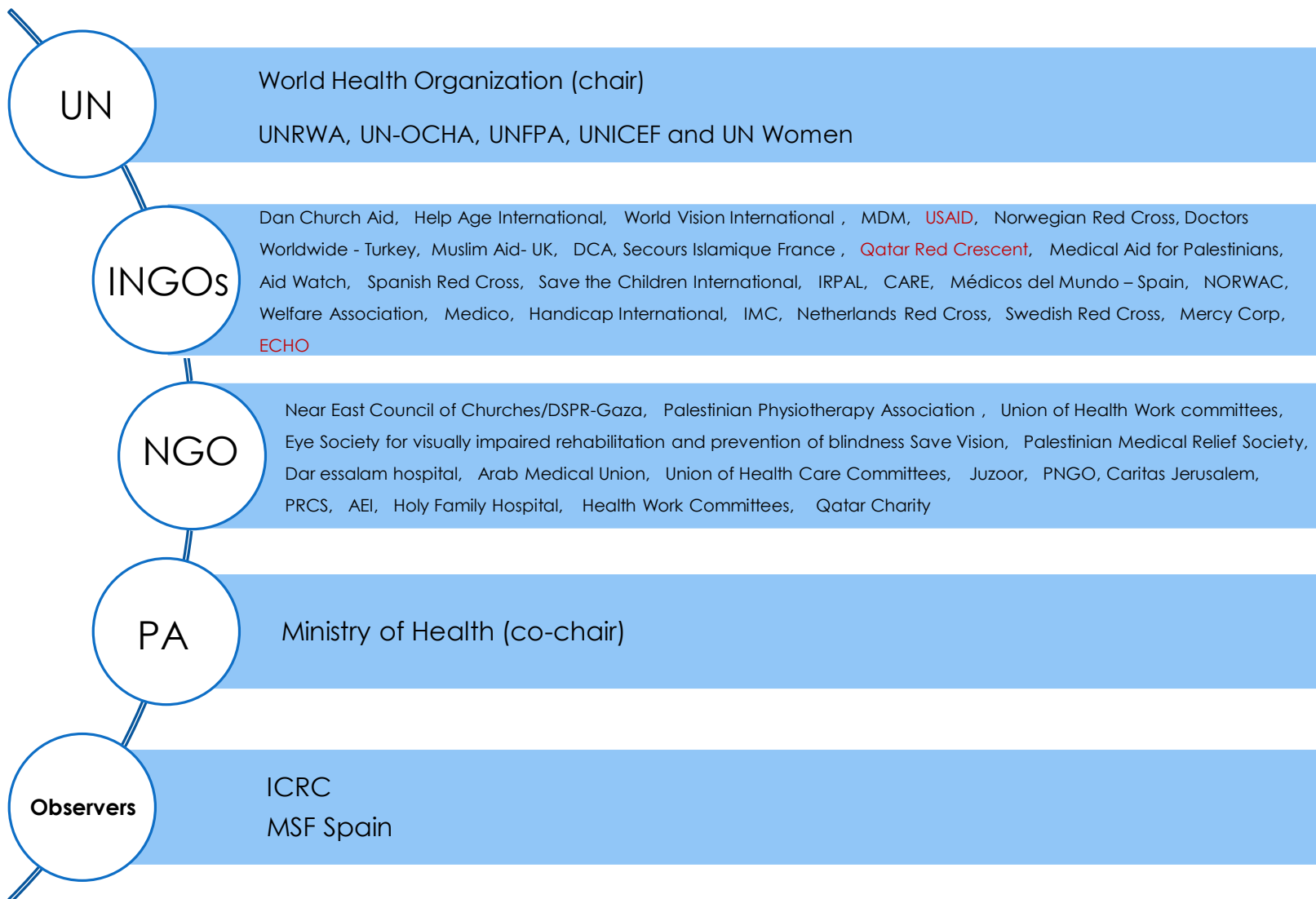
HNC core functions / key deliverables

- Maintenance of appropriate humanitarian coordination mechanisms
- Coordination with national/local authorities, State institutions, local civil society and other relevant actors
- Participatory and community-based approaches
- Attention to priority cross-cutting issues

Health Cluster Members

Total: 60 Organizations/Agencies

- INGOs: 28
- NGOs: 21
- UN: 6
- PA: 1 (MoH)
- Observers: 2 (ICRC+ MSF)
- Donors: 2



Elements of the right to health

- **Availability**

- Sufficient quantity

- **Accessibility**

- Affordability; non-discrimination; physical accessibility; information accessibility

- **Acceptability**

- culture, religion, social norms.....etc

- **Quality**

- The minimum acceptable quality (safe)

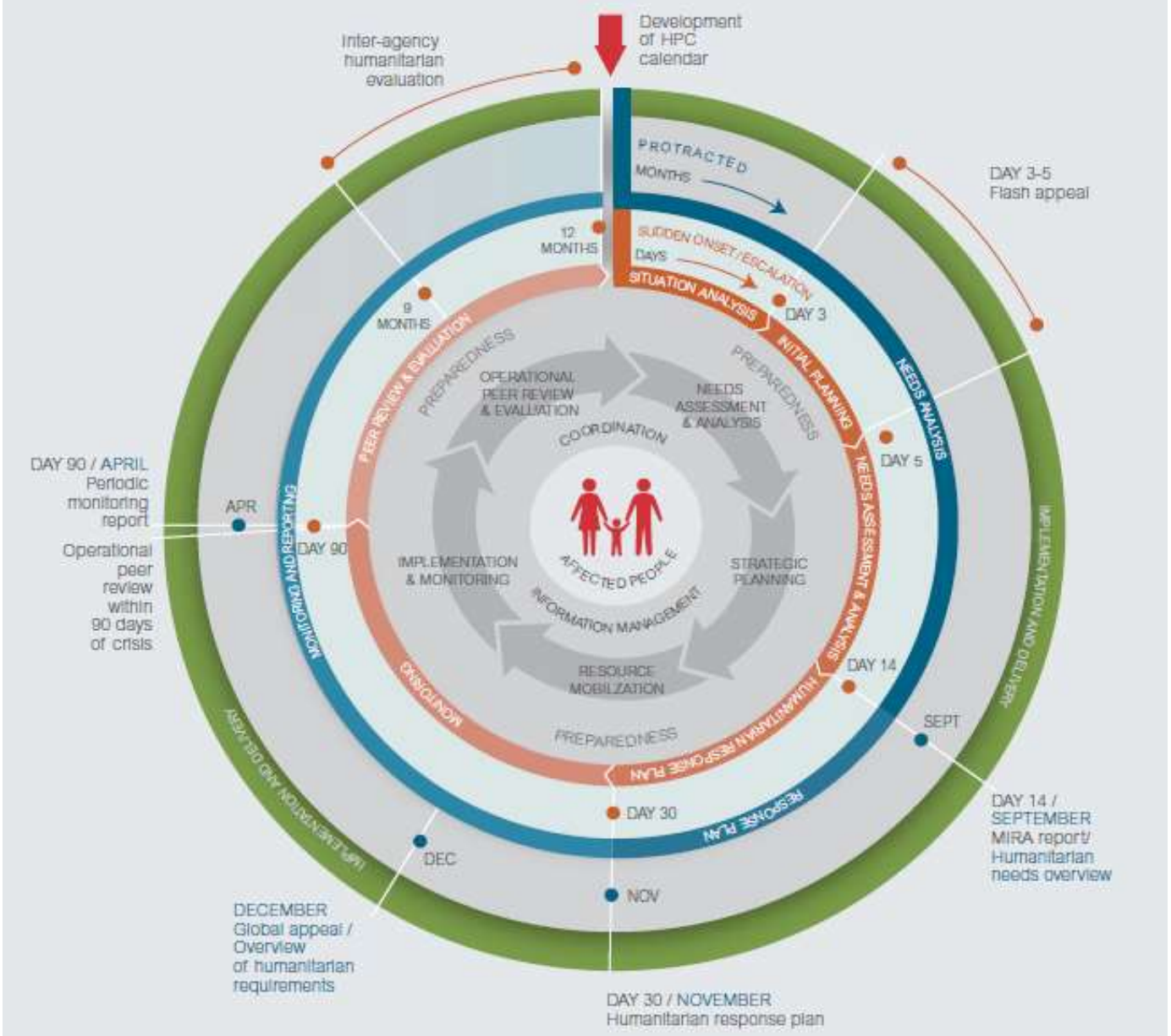
What is the S/HRP all about?

- About **structuring** the **response**
- Getting the **services** to the affected **people**
- **Why** and **where**
- Showing **how** that will happen
- **Resources** needed
- **Challenges**
- Timelines and **indicators**



Be prepared

The Humanitarian Program Cycle



HRP 2017: Strategic objectives and cross cutting themes

The rights of Palestinians living under occupation, including those living under the blockade and other restrictions, are protected, respected and promoted in accordance with IHL and IHRL

Violations of international humanitarian and human rights law are at the heart of the oPt crisis, and are the main driver of humanitarian vulnerability of Palestinians, providing the entry point for the response across clusters. The aim of this objective is to enhance protection by promoting respect for IHL and IHRL, promoting accountability and mitigating the impact of violations

The basic needs of vulnerable Palestinians living under occupation are met through the provision of essential services, in accordance with the rights of protected persons under IHL.

In this spirit, a number of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, Area C of the West Bank, and East Jerusalem are considered highly vulnerable and in need of access to basic services, including education, health, WASH and adequate shelter. In the Gaza Strip, the blockade and internal Palestinian political divide have additionally led to a serious deterioration in the level of basic services. Across oPt, clusters have identified particular groups such as people with disabilities, the elderly, widows, children, and female-headed households as high priorities for this category of response.

The ability of vulnerable Palestinians to cope with the protracted crisis, including environmental threats, is supported, while solutions to violations and other root causes of threats and shocks are pursued.

Interventions under this objective include provision of assistance to promote basic livelihoods and safety nets; Psycho-social assistance to children exposed to prolonged conflict-related stress is also relevant to this axis of intervention



HNC Humanitarian Needs 2017

- To ensure that **neonates and children under the age of 5** in Gaza have access to quality care decreasing the risk of infant mortality.
- Ensure that **women in Gaza of reproductive age** have access to quality healthcare services in order to prevent the impact of high risk pregnancies.
- Lack of drugs, medical disposables shortages in Gaza's hospitals are life threatening, particularly for **non-communicable disease patients and emergency patients**.
- Essential treatment, rehabilitation and support to over 136,500 people in Gaza who are **elderly or have a disability** are in need of access to healthcare services to prevent a further deterioration in their health status.
- **Shortages of electricity , fuel and spare parts** to operate the standby electric generators in Gaza to sustain functionality of health services.
- **Weak emergency preparedness in health facilities**, and resilience at the community level.
- Advanced emergency response and secondary healthcare provision is critically needed for 10,000 acutely **vulnerable people living in Access Restricted Area (ARA)** in Gaza.
- Across the oPt, there is an increasing need for **mental health and psychosocial support services**.
- Ensure access to treatment for **patients referred outside of Gaza**.
- The need to strengthen and sustain **information and coordination among health stakeholders** and between Gaza and West Bank.

HNC Objectives 2018 - 20

Cluster Objective 1: Access of vulnerable communities in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank to quality and affordable health services, referral of victims of violence to protection organizations and advocacy ensured

Indicator

of vulnerable people in West Bank and Gaza (women and men) accessing quality and affordable essential health by type of service (including nutrition, maternal and child health, reproductive health, mental health, rehabilitation services for people with disabilities)

Cluster Objective 2: Vulnerable communities in the West Bank and Gaza better prepared to cope with the impact of current and potential new man-made and natural disasters

Indicator

of identified vulnerable communities in West Bank and Gaza has demonstrated better preparedness to cope with impact of current and future crisis

HNC Response Planning Template, 2016

Activity	Link with Strategic Objective	Location	Indicators	Baseline	Target
Example: Delivering PHC services through mobile clinics	SO 2	Khozaa - Khanyounis Johr Al Deek- Middle area Shejai'a - Gaza	Number of consultations	NA	30,000 beneficiaries

Thank You

