

INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE  
IASC WEEKLY MEETING

**Summary Note**

20 February 2008  
Geneva

**Joint Update on the Humanitarian Situation in the oPt by UNRWA,  
ICRC, OCHA/Jerusalem and UNFPA**

Presenters

Mr. Matthias Burchard (UNRWA), Ms. Elena Mancusi Materia (UNRWA), Mr. Vincent Cassard (ICRC), Mr. Manuel Bessler (Head of OCHA Office Jerusalem) and Ms. Laila Baker (UNFPA) updated participants on the current humanitarian situation in the occupied Palestinian Territories (oPt).

Key issues discussed

Mr. Burchard and Ms. Mancusi Materia together with Mr. Cassard gave an update on the humanitarian situation in Gaza and the West Bank, with particular focus on the operational challenges faced in delivering humanitarian assistance and providing the necessary protection to Palestinians living in Gaza due to restricted access.

Dialling in via videoconference, Mr. Bessler debriefed on the visit to the oPt and Israel by the Emergency Relief Coordinator, Sir John Holmes, from 14 to 18 of February 2008. During his visit, the ERC had the opportunity to meet with both Palestinian and Israeli authorities to discuss the security situation and the lack of access to the Palestinian areas. The ERC, moreover, gained insight into the difficulties Palestinian residents face in terms of job opportunities, limited access to agricultural land and obtaining health services.

Finally, Ms. Baker briefed on the insecure situation in the oPts and its impact on UNFPA's programme implementation and general humanitarian service delivery.

Follow-up actions

There were no follow-up actions from this meeting.

Prepared by: IASC Secretariat (Geneva)

## List of participants

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