Marte Teie Hellum, Programme Advisor, the Representative Office of Norway and Tony Laurance, Head of Office, WHO oPt6 December 2012, Jerusalem – Two donors have responded so far to the World Health Organization's urgent appeal for US$ 10 million to provide essential medicines and medical disposables for Gaza Strip. The financial support from Norway and Mercy Relief in Singapore, channelled through the World Health Organization, total US$ 620 000. The donations will contribute towards alleviating the severe shortages of life-saving medicines and medical disposables in Gaza Strip made critical by the recent 8-day escalation of violence resulting in more than 1500 casualties.

The most recent donation, from Norway, was made on 5 December 2012 by the Minister Counsellor from the Representative Office of Norway, who signed an agreement for a donation of US$ 600 000 to WHO oPt.

The donation will be utilized to procure 13 medicines and 31 medical disposable items currently at zero stock. The charity foundation Mercy Relief, based in Singapore, donated US$ 20 000 for urgently needed laboratory supplies and essential medicines. The first items were procured and delivered to Gaza Strip in December for use in public health facilities.

WHO is working with the Ministry of Health and other health partners to ensure that the supplies are delivered to the health facilities where they are most needed.
The latest casualty figures according to the Ministry of Health in the Gaza Strip are (as of 20 November, 11:00 pm):

- 1399 persons injured, of whom 431 (31%) are children; 141 are children less than 5 years old.
- 165 persons killed (139 males; 22 females; 4 not yet identified) of whom 42 (26%) are children.

Injuries include severe burns, injuries from collapsing buildings and head injuries, with some of the injured in critical condition.

WHO has appealed to the international community for support in providing essential medical supplies by coordinating donations according to the specific needs of the Ministry of Health (see related links).

See also:
- BBC News: Gaza medical supplies 'running low' - World Health Organization
- IRIN News: OPT: Gaza Hospitals need more drugs
- Al Jazeera: WHO calls for effective response to Gaza crisis
- Press release November 17, 2012
- WHO oPt Daily Update No.1 21 November 2012.pdf
- Press release November 17, 2012
- WHO oPt Situation Report No 3: Gaza Strip, 27 November 2012
- WHO oPt Situation Report: Gaza Strip, 20 November 2012 [pdf 387.82kb]
- WHO EMRO | Update: emergency situation in the Gaza Strip, November-December 2012

Follow-up on the situation in the Gaza Strip following eight days of violence in the Gaza Strip, a cease-fire was declared effective 21:00, 21 November 2012.

Prior to the start of the recent escalation, 25% of medicines and medical consumables were delivered to health facilities where they were most needed. WHO is working with the Ministry of Health, United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to ensure that essential medicines and medical disposables for primary and secondary care facilities are delivered to health facilities in Gaza Strip by a number of different organizations.

A 40-bed Jordanian field hospital, which has operated in Gaza City since 2009, was hit by a direct hit from an Israeli missile early today with the reopening of a second ward department.

On 17 November, WHO appealed for US$ 10 million to cover the gap in supplies as well as needs for the next three months. On 29 November, 35% of medicines and medical disposables for primary and secondary care facilities were supplied to health facilities in Gaza Strip by a number of different organizations.

In addition to medicines and medical disposable supplies sent by the Ministry of Health in Ramallah during the hostilities, donations were also sent to the Ministry of Health and other health facilities in Gaza Strip by a number of different organizations.

Mercy Relief donation to WHO

Please see related links for further information.