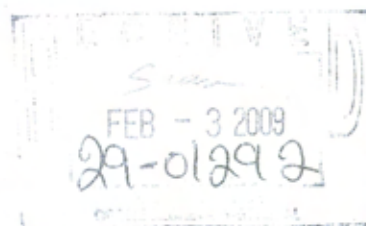


OCHA

UNSCO/gaza

Note to the Secretary-General

LAUNCH OF THE GAZA FLASH APPEAL



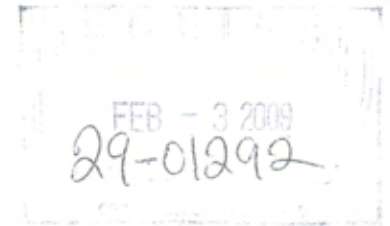
1. This note is to update you on the official launch of the Gaza Flash Appeal on 2 February in Geneva. As you know, the Appeal requests USD \$613 million to provide emergency relief for the next six to nine months.
2. The Appeal was launched by myself, Dr. Fathi Bu Moghli, Palestinian Minister of Health, Karen Abu-Zayed, Commissioner General of UNRWA, Max Gaylard, RC/HC, and Saleh Saeed, Chief Executive Director of Islamic Relief Worldwide. In the days leading up to the launch, advance drafts were shared with the Observer Mission of the oPt, as well as the Permanent Missions of Israel and the U.S. Adjustments were made to respect particular points of sensitivity. Prior to the meeting, the US delegation conveyed informally their appreciation of the amendments made to the draft appeal and its full support for the revised contents. The Israelis were, unsurprisingly, not completely content but were nevertheless grateful for our efforts and readiness to consult with them.
3. The Launch itself went off successfully. It was well attended and the Appeal well received, with approximately 60 delegations, including Israel, in addition to UN agencies, the IFRC and NGOs. Speakers universally commended the leadership and coordination of the UN, and the timely issuance of the appeal. Several speakers also reiterated the need for the basic pre-conditions of a durable ceasefire, full and free access for goods and staff, and no political interference, to be met, as highlighted in my own statement. The general emphasis on the need for the crossings to be fully open was particularly helpful. There were no major new pledges, but I am optimistic about our ability to raise the funds.
4. The Egyptian Conference on Reconstruction is now planned for 2 March in Cairo, at Ministerial level. I imagine that they will be very keen for you to attend.


John Holmes
3 February 2009

CC: Mr. Nambiar
Mr. Serry
Mr. Pascoe

Note to Mr. Nambiar

Launch of the Gaza Flash Appeal



Please find enclosed a Note to the Secretary-General on the official launch of the Gaza Flash Appeal held on 2 February in Geneva. I would be grateful if this could be submitted to the Secretary-General.

Many thanks.


John Holmes
3 February 2009