

To: Mr. Maxwell Gaylard
UN Resident Coordinator
Occupied Palestinian Territories

Date: 20 January 2012

From: Ms. Sara Ferrer-Olivella
Officer-in-charge
MDG-F Secretariat

Subject: No-cost extension request: MDGF-1702 – *“Gender Equality-Social, Political and Economic in the occupied Palestinian Territory”*
Gender equality and Women’s Empowerment - Thematic Window

I. Approval Status

We are pleased to inform you that, as per your request, the MDG-F Secretariat has granted the Joint Programme *“Gender Equality-Social, Political and Economic in the occupied Palestinian Territory”* a no cost extension of eight (8) months. Thus, the new end date of the Joint Programme is 30 September 2012. Please note that this is a one-time only extension intended to allow the Joint Programme to complete its activities and achieve its expected results. At this end date, the programme should be operationally closed, so that no new financial commitments are made, only outstanding payments. Any unspent funds within the agreed timeframe (30 September 2012) will have to be reimbursed to the MDG-F.

II. Recommendations

It is recommended that the following aspects are taken into account:

- **The improvement plan should be implemented and updated until it is fully completed.** The team should address at this point those issues pointed out by the midterm evaluation instead of leaving them as aspects to be analyzed by the final evaluation. The idea of the midterm evaluation is to make recommendations when there is still time for improvement. For this reason we recommend amending the improvement plan so that the PMC has the chance to discuss those issues during this phase.
- **The team should ensure that the coordination amongst partners continues to take place during the extension period to avoid fragmentation of the intervention.** We strongly recommend that the team makes sure that the following tasks are completed during this final phase, including:
 - ✓ Systematization of lessons learned and participation in the ongoing knowledge management thematic initiative;
 - ✓ Follow up to key actions required to ensure sustainability (signature of MOUs, institutionalization of consultative mechanisms, etc.);
 - ✓ Bi-annual and final reporting and;
 - ✓ Support to the final evaluation, among others.
- **The exit and sustainability strategy should guide the implementation from now until the end of the implementation.**

- **The team should make an effort to identify and implement joint initiatives between the two joint programmes in the country**, for instance joint communication products and exchange of best practices on M&E.

III. Monitoring and Reporting

Quarterly color-coded annual work plans, and biannual monitoring reports should continue to be prepared and submitted to the MDG-F Secretariat. Please be reminded that each Joint Programme is responsible for conducting its final evaluation prior to the closure of the programme and sharing the final report with the MDG-F Secretariat.

We would highly appreciate it if you could forward this memo to all participating UN agencies to the joint programme, and each participating UN agency should forward the memo to their corresponding HQs. Further information on the closure of programmes is available on the revised “MDG-F Joint Implementation Guidelines” uploaded on the MDG-F website (www.mdgfund.org).

With best wishes.

cc.:

Mr. Bisrat Akililu, Executive Coordinator, Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office
Ms. Amat Al Aleem Alsoswa, Assistant Administrator and Director Bureau for Arab States, UNDP, New York
Ms. Sigrid Kaag, Assistant Secretary-General and Assistant Administrator of the Bureau of External Relations and Advocacy, UNDP New York
Ms. Deborah Landey, Director, United Nations Development Operations Coordinator Office (DOCO)
MDG-F Secretariat