

Submission in follow-up to HRC resolution 19/34 “The Right to development”

United nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA)

With reference to your letter dated 16 December 2011, seeking comments and feedback on the right to development criteria and operation sub-criteria developed by the working Group on the Right to Development, we are happy to share with you our comments (below) and the UNRWA Medium Term Strategy 2010-2015 (MTS), which sets out UNRWA’s approach to human development of Palestine refugees, available at <http://www.unrwa.org/userfiles/201003317746.pdf>.

The MTS consists of a strategic framework providing direction for UNRWA to help every Palestine refugee to enjoy the best possible standards of human development, based on 15 strategic objectives, each of which contributes to one or more of four human development goals: *a long and healthy life; knowledge and skills; a decent standard of living; and human rights enjoyed to the fullest*. The Agency’s vision especially concentrates on supporting Palestine refugees: (-) attaining full potential individually and as a family and community member; (-) being an active and productive participant in socio-economic and cultural life; and (-) feeling assured that his or her rights are being defended, protected and preserved. The MTS also sets out the objectives and priorities that guide the use of resources as well as the direction of UNRWA’s work.

We find that the approach defined in the MTS might be of interest to the work developed by the WG, particularly with reference to Attribute 1 (comprehensive and human-centred development policy), which more than the others recalls UNRWA’s approach to meet the human development aspirations of refugees, through basic education, primary health care, social safety-net, infrastructure improvement and microfinance (see MTS, Chapter 4). In our view some of the aspects of the MTS are of immediate relevance to the WG’s reflection on criteria and indicators.

With reference to Attribute 1: comprehensive human-centered development policy, Annex 1, page 8, we suggest consideration of the following indicators, subject to availability of data. The additional indicators are adapted from UNRWA’s MTS:

Current Sub-criteria	Current Indicators	Additional indicators recommended by UNRWA	Rationale for consideration of additional indicators
[on Health]:	Public expenditures on primary health; Life expectancy at birth; access to essential drugs; low birth weight babies; child	- Percentage of population with access to health services;	<i>To capture targeted populations receiving health care with a focus on marginalized ones. The risk is that if not</i>

	<p>mortality; HIV prevalence; births attended by skilled personnel</p>	<p>- Percentage of marginalized groups accessing primary health services;</p> <p>- Measures taken to prevent/control diseases (e.g. outbreak of vector borne diseases)</p> <p><i>[Further reference: MTS, p.58, Goal 1, Long and healthy life]</i></p>	<p><i>captured by public expenditure per se, these groups' further vulnerability to ill-health could go unnoticed.</i></p>
[on Education]:	<p>Public spending on primary education; school enrolment rates; school completion rates;</p> <p>international scores for student achievement</p>	<p>-Access to education opportunities for learners with special needs (e.g. persons with disabilities, marginalized groups)</p> <p>- Percentage of children with special needs accessing and completing primary education.</p> <p><i>[Further reference: MTS, p.58, Goal 2, knowledge and skills]</i></p>	<p><i>To capture measures taken and their impact to upgrade vulnerable learners.</i></p>
[on Housing and water]:	<p>Public expenditure on public service provision; access to improved drinking water and sanitation;</p>	<p>-Percentage of rehabilitation and structural interventions in disadvantaged areas.</p>	<p><i>To capture measures taken and their impact to upgrade socio-economically vulnerable individuals/and communities.</i></p>

	homelessness rate; cost of housing relative to income; slum populations	<i>[Further reference: MTS, p.58, Goal 1, Long and healthy life and 3, decent standard of living]</i>	
[on Work and social security]:	Long-term unemployment; involuntary part-time employment; public expenditure on social security; income poverty rates below national and international lines	<p>-(Positive) measures to improve employability among the most vulnerable including: percentage of employed individuals through technical/vocation upgrading/training</p> <p><i>[Further reference: MTS, p.58, Goal 2, knowledge and skills and 3, decent standard of living]</i></p>	<i>To capture measures taken and their impact to upgrade economically vulnerable individuals/and communities.</i>