

To: Mr. James W. Rawley
UN Resident Coordinator
Occupied Palestinian Territory

Date: 27 September 2012

From: Ms. Sophie de Caen
Director
MDG-F Secretariat

Subject: No-cost extension request: Second Amendment-MDGF-1702: "*Gender Equality-Social, Political and Economic in the occupied Palestinian Territories*" – Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment - Thematic Window

I. Approval Status

Further to the approved amendment memo dated 9 August 2012 granting a no-cost extension until 30 November 2012 for the Joint Programme "*Gender Equality-Social, Political and Economic in the occupied Palestinian Territories*", we wish to inform you that, as per your request and as an exception, the MDG-F Secretariat has amended the no-cost extension request to grant an additional 1 (one) month to enable the adequate closure of the joint programme and wrap up the final evaluation process. Nevertheless we consider that, despite the challenging context in which this programme takes place, this amendment would have been unnecessary if the planning exercise carried out by the programme team in this last implementation phase was more realistic and if risks were considered and the respective mitigation actions identified. We hope that you take this aspect into consideration as a lesson learned for future programmes with these types of characteristics.

Thus, the new end date of the Joint Programme is 31 December 2012. At this end date, the programme should be operationally closed, so that no new financial commitments are made, only outstanding payments. Any unspent fund within the agreed timeframe (31 December 2012) will have to be returned to the MDG-F.

II. 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 Aklilu, 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 and of the Bureau of External Relations and Advocacy, UNDP New York

MDG-F Secretariat

