23 June 2016

eTools Team Kicks Off Series of Workshops on eTools Release 2 Features in Palestine

NEW YORK, 23 June 2016 - Following the eTools Release 2 in May 2016,the HQ "eToolers" kicked off the series of workshops on some of its key features such as HACT Assurance Activity Planning and Monitoring,Simplified Government Partnership Management, Partner Portal for Indicator Reporting, and etc. The first stop was UNICEF State of Palestine Office.

@UNICEF Palestine/2016
eTools workshop: UNICEF Gaza and local surfing instructor.

As an early adopting office, UNICEF State of Palestine will benefit from existing features in eTools, and equally important, will help shape the final design of eTools by providing valuable feedback to the HQ Team who will then work on its refinements as part of Release 3 and 4.

A two-day workshop was held in both Jerusalem and Gaza for UNICEF staff members to provide hands-on training and discuss eTools adoption strategies. Furthermore, two national CSO WASH and Child Protection partners will also be the first to test and provide feedback on the eTools online portal for partner performance reporting. This new partner reporting feature is aimed at easy and flexible real-time reporting on indicators and will be tested with approximately 30 international and national partners between June – November.

Chief of WASH and workshop participant Gregor von Medeazza commented: "We were privileged to test the eTools Partner Portal first-hand with Dr. Ayman Rabi, Director of one of our key WASH NGO partners -the Palestinian Hydrology Group. Dr. Rabi is very enthusiastic about the potential this new tool offers our partnership in terms of user-friendly reporting, while providing an attractive visual representation of concurrent progress monitoring."

Excitement about eTools

In an interview after the workshop, Shereen Obaid, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist from the Gaza Office could not hide her excitement about her office being the first one to see the Release 2 of the eTools and commented: "We think that it [eTools] is a comprehensive, integrated system that will shift us from classic reporting system to the integrated technological online reporting system."

Click **here** to watch the full interview with Shereen Obaid and Mariane Mathia Daibes.

You can't stop the waves but you can learn how to surf

While surfing on the eTools platform during the Gaza portion of the training, the team also organized a visit from a local surf in-

structor for surfing enthusiast Mac Glovinsky, eTools Country Support Lead. Workshop participants were briefed by the local surf instructor on the challenges he encounters in teaching swimming and surfing to youth in Gaza, under his 'Surfing for peace' initiative. He also highlighted how surfing and swimming supports the development of girls and boys and promotes a sense of accomplishment and freedom.

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children