UNDP Statement at WHA 72 item 11.2: Public Health emergencies: preparedness and response.

Delivered by Douglas Webb

Thank you Madame Chair.

UNDP considers Ebola outbreaks and health emergencies as social as well as biological events. Understanding and addressing the social determinants of health threats remain a priority: as regarding to social norms, gender, vulnerabilities linked to inequities, political instability and conflict, the nature of belief systems and health seeking behaviours, animal husbandry practices and behavioural risk distribution.

UNDP has developed a draft corporate guidance for our potential role in health emergencies, outlining possible programme entry points and aims to guide Country Offices and UN country teams facing a health crisis. This is in line with the MOU signed between WHO and UNDP last year.

UNDP has the capacity to engage, as appropriate and when requested, in the following 10 programme areas:

- Waste management.
- Health system procurement and supply management
- Non-food item procurement and supply.
- Support to security and law enforcement personnel
- Salary and hazard pay for health or non-health personnel.
- Cash and non-cash based assistance.
- Community engagement.
- Recovery programming.
- Impact assessment and gender analysis.
- UN system support.

We are also keen to better link the International Health Regulations with national disaster risk reduction structures and processes. We look forward to formalising this position within a coherent UN response framework, supporting WHO, UN partners, member states and civil society partners in this regard.

Thank you