



# **UNRWA**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development donates US\$2 millions to UNRWA**

Amman– The United Nations Relief and Works Agency in the Near East (UNRWA) has received a contribution of \$2 millions from the Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development (AAAID) for UNRWA's Micro finance and Micro credit programme (MMP) in the West Bank and Gaza.

In a ceremony held this afternoon at UNRWA headquarters in Amman, an agreement for the contribution was signed by H.E. Mr. Abdul Kareem Mohammad Al-Amri, president of the AAAID, and the Commissioner General of UNRWA Ms. Karen Koning AbuZayd, who expressed her appreciation for the AAAID's contribution which will support UNRWA's MMP activities in the West Bank and Gaza. Attending the ceremony were also the AAAID's legal advisor Mr. Abd Alla Wad Biha, head of its developmental programme Dr. Alkheir Khalafalla Khalid and its financial analyst Mr. Mahadi Aldooud, as well as a number of senior UNRWA officials.

AAAID was established in 1976 as an independent financial agricultural investment institution to contribute to the achievement of food security in the Arab world through the utilization and development of the financial, agricultural and human resource capabilities that are available in the Arab countries. The authority, which has its headquarters in Khartoum and a regional office in Dubai, includes in its membership 19 Arab countries.

UNRWA's MMP was launched in Gaza in 1991 to alleviate poverty and support economic development in the refugee community by providing capital investment and working capital loans at commercial rates. The programme, which in 2003 was expanded to Jordan and Syria, has a strong record of creating employment, generating income and empowering refugees.

A relief and human development agency, UNRWA provides education, healthcare, social services and emergency aid to over 4.3 million refugees living in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab republic.

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