

United Nations Development Programme/ Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People



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September / October -2014

UNDP and the Ministry of Housing and Public Works begin assessing damages and needs in Gaza



Mr Frode Mauring announcing the start of funding for shelter at press conference in Gaza

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) announced a USD 1 million in funds for shelter support in Gaza at a joint press conference with UNRWA and the Ministry of Public Works and Housing.

Through this funding, support will be provided to non-refugee families whose houses were damaged or destroyed in order to find alternative accommodation through rental subsidies, repair assistance and cash for work. UNDP will use its own resources amounting USD 1 million, through its Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery.

In addition, UNDP in partnership with the Ministry of Public Works and Housing and the Union of Palestinian Contractors launched a comprehensive assessment of the damages and recovery needs in Gaza following 51 days of intense military operations.

The assessment will examine physical and material damages in the housing sector across the Gaza Strip over a period of six weeks. The Assessment will provide critical information that will be included in the report submitted to the ministerial committee formed by the Government of National Consensus.

Teams fielded to examine the damages and recovery needs of the housing sector consist of 70 engineers from the Ministry of Public Works and Housing, 206 engineers appointed by Union of Palestinian Contractors, in addition to 21 UNDP engineers. The teams will use tablets with a GIS system in order to store information in a shared database that will ease the planning and development process and avoid duplication.

Despite the challenge presented by the humanitarian situation, UNDP is mobilizing its resources to assess the damages and needs that will lay the foundation for reconstruction and development.

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From the Field

UN Secretary General visits UNDP fishermen project in Gaza



UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon talking to fishermen and the only fisherwoman in Gaza during his visit to UNDP

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon visited one of the UNDP projects that support Gaza fisheries, where he met with Gaza's sole registered fisherwoman.

"The challenges I face are not because I am a woman but because of the harsh circumstances we live in," said Madleen to the Secretary General. "I had to leave school at 13 to work on my father's boat and support my family. I would have loved to continue my education and have a career. But I do not regret it because I saved my family and I love the sea". The €126,000 investment to the fishery sector is strengthening livelihoods through the construction of 24 brick huts for 168 fishermen in Gaza's port to enable them to secure their fishing equipment. The brick huts will allow fishermen to store their tools and also reduce their maintenance costs. The project is funded by the Government of Germany through its development bank (KfW), and implemented by UNDP's programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People.

It is worth noting that Gaza has approximately 3,500 fishermen who support 35,000 people, from among the most vulnerable in the Gaza society. Since the imposition of the blockade on Gaza in 2007, fishermen have entered the food insecure category and their reliance on food aid has increased. The current fishing limit (6NM) is less than one third of the 20 NM fishing area allocated under the Oslo Accords.

Events and Activities

UNDP's Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People signed the new phase of Al-Fakhoora Dynamic Futures Programme



Photo from the last graduation ceremony of Al Fakhoora Students

UNDP's Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People signed the new phase of Al-Fakhoora Dynamic Futures Programme with Education Above All – Qatar. The seven year programme has an overall budget of US 28 million and will start in 2014 and end in 2021. It will provide opportunities for scholarships, leadership, and economic empowerment for 700 Palestinian postsecondary students and their families.

The programme continues its implementation and planning activities for the on-going phases at the national level through the Skilling programme for its students and by serving 197 undergraduates, 30 international scholars, and 87 Alumni.

UNDP boosts legal aid provision to over 40,000 people in the Gaza Strip

UNDP will provide legal aid services to over 40,000 Palestinians in Gaza who have suffered as a direct result of the 51-day Israeli Operation in July-August 2014, which caused untold death, destruction and damage.

With a USD 530,000 investment, legal aid services will be provided in conjunction with ten local partners in the Gaza Strip. The services provided will help the people in all areas of Gaza seek legal redress, which includes providing legal information, legal advice and mediation, legal and judicial representation, advocacy and policy analysis.

The agreements will enhance confidence in the justice system and raise legal awareness amongst the most needy, in addition to supporting community reconciliation and mediation. Furthermore, it will support human rights organizations to monitor and document international humanitarian law and human rights violations.

The legal aid provision is part of a USD 29.5 million UNDP/UN Women Joint Programme to strengthen the rule of law and improve access to justice across the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Agreements were signed with ten civil society partners in Gaza: the Palestinian Bar Association (PBA), the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights, Al Mezan Centre for Human Rights, Al-Dameer Association for Human Rights, Al Ataa' Charitable Society (ACS), Al-Mustaqbal Association for Violence Victims Care, the Supreme Coordinating Committee of Women Programme Centres, Centre for Women's Legal Research and Consulting, National Society for Democracy and Law, and Wefaq Society For Woman and Child Care.

Over the past 4 years, UNDP's Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People has provided legal aid to 15,000 people and legal awareness to an additional 48,000. UNDP's legal empowerment approach is considered as an integral part of the strategic objective to eradicate poverty and achieve comprehensive human development.



Gaza head of office, Nicholas Hercules signing an agreement with one of the partner organizations in Gaza

215 trucks of construction materials entered through UNDP between September and October 2014



Success story

Strawberry Packing Rooms- Gaza Red Gold Sold in Europe



Imad in the packing room

Brought up as a farmer, Imad Hamdouna, a 38-year-old father from Beit Lahia, who supports 10 family members, explains how farming is a way of life and a mean to live. Owning four acres in the north governorate of the Gaza Strip, Imad grows and distributes vegetables and fruits, especially strawberries, to local markets, and even international ones in 2011.

Strawberries are considered as a major produce for many farmers in the Gaza Strip. But, in order to package strawberries for local and international markets and meet global standards, farmers need space.

Imad is one of the beneficiaries who were granted a strawberry packing room in Northern Gaza as part of a German funded UNDP employment generation programme. The strawberry season, which is between December and April, is an important event for Imad and his family, as well as three other workers.

“We collect fresh strawberries that are packed according to international standards. We produce four tons of strawberry per acre and export 750 kilos of them to Europe” said Imad. “The packing units improved the quality of our produce”.

The packing units increased farmers’ profits by 10% per acre. This has improved the livelihoods of many families including Imad and his son Jihad.

“We used to call strawberries Red Gold,” says Jihad. “It is of great benefit to us but after the closure, it became so hard to export our products. The high prices of materials used in the planting process reduced our profit, in addition to the competition among farmers, which decreased the price of one kilo of strawberries from 25 Shekels (USD 6.7) to 10 Shekels (USD 2.7) in two days! We faced many challenges but at least we now have the packing room which revived our hope of better exporting and production of our Red Gold.”

The project came out of great necessity. Most exporting companies would have stopped dealing with strawberry farmers from Gaza as a result of not complying with the standards. Through the project, Imad and another 92 farmers were provided with a sustainable infrastructure that will facilitate and improve the care and management of crops for internal and external markets.

“We were in need of this project for a very simple reason - it is sustainable. Many organizations come and go with limited support or support for one season only. This room is long-lasting and would hopefully be there for the coming years. It taught us not to think of now, but of the future,” Imad explains.

After the strawberry season ends, Imad uses the room for other products such as cherries, which he also exports to other parts of the world. “Our products are sold on the other half of the planet thanks to this room. We never could have thought of a better thing that would contribute to the enhancement of our production and income.”

- Farmers represent 10% of the labour force in the Gaza Strip
- The project is worth Euro 490,000 funded by the Government of Germany through its Development bank KfW and implemented by UNDP’s Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian people
- The intervention is part of the seventh phase of the UNDP/KfW programme, which aims at providing support to Palestinian communities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip through small and medium scale social infrastructure
- Approximately 1000 jobs were created through this intervention

Procurement Notices

Lot # 3: Site Preparation and Crushing of Concrete Rubble

Procurement Process : ITB - Invitation to bid
Office : UNDP/PAPP
Deadline : 3-Nov-14
Development Area : CONSTRUCTION



New Faces



Mr Nicholas Hercules has been appointed as the new head of the UNDP office in the Gaza Strip.

Nicholas Hercules has served the United Nations over the past twelve years, with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the UN's Department for Peacekeeping, where his work has focused on crisis recovery and development in challenging environments from Afghanistan to the Balkans and the south Pacific. Mr Hercules holds a Bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of Wales and a Master's degree in International Relations from the University of Bristol, in the United Kingdom.

Fast Facts

- According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 20.6% of land in Gaza is agricultural
- Some 28,600 people in Gaza rely on farming (19,000 people), livestock raising (6,000) and fishing (3,600) for their livelihoods
- The recent crisis has resulted in substantial direct damage to Gaza's 17,000 hectares of croplands as well as much of its agricultural infrastructure
- Over 80% of the population in Gaza are food insecure

About UNDP/PAPP

The United Nations Development Programme/Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People (UNDP/PAPP) was established via a UN General Assembly Resolution (33/147) on 20 December 1978 to improve the economic and social conditions of the Palestinian People. Since its establishment in 1978, the Programme has mobilized over one billion Dollars worth of projects in support of the Palestinian People and generated thousands of workdays in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

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Published by

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