

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



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Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.



UNDP Inaugurates Nabil El-Shareef Building-Job Creation Programme



Representatives of supporting org. and UNDP receives a recognition plaque

With funds from the German Development Bank (KfW), UNDP inaugurated Nabil El-Shareef building job creation programme. The ceremony was held with participation of Nabil El-Shareef family, representatives of local and international NGOs, and UNDP Gaza staff. The ceremony was opened with welcoming speeches by representatives and partners, followed by an orientation tour and an exhibition of products by the programme beneficiaries.

The building was named after the late Nabil El-Shareef, head of the Palestinian Water Authority and the Job Creation Programme. The building is about 250 meters and consists of three floors. It provides essential services to about 300,000 Gaza residents, improves access to health services and provides job opportunities for staff operating the premises.

UNDP’s Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People Receives Swedish Delegation

A delegation, headed by Mr Fredrik Westerholm, representing the Swedish Development Cooperation visited UNDP’s Rule of Law and Access to Justice Programme in Gaza.

During the visit, Mr Ibrahim Abu Shamala, deputy manager for the Rule of Law Programme escorted the delegation around the legal clinic of Union of Women Programs Centers in the Beach Refugees Camp. The delegation was introduced to the programme, achievements, challenges and developments that will be achieved during the second phase of its implementation.



Delegation, UNDP staff and legal clinic staff at the end of the meeting– Beach Camp

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From the Field

UNDP's Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People Receives UN Humanitarian Coordinator



Mr Rawley and UNDP staff on location-
Beit Lahia

During his visit to the Gaza Strip, Mr James Rawley, UN Humanitarian Coordinator, visited Al Shafie's vocational centre, which is one of UNDP's projects that were halted due to the blockade imposed on the Gaza Strip. The project was anticipated to generate 3,360 working days, in addition to at least 30 permanent job opportunities resulting from activities implemented through the project in the Gaza Strip. In addition, the centre would have been the only facility in Beit Lahia targeting poor young girls and boys, and serving as a platform for vocational training in various trades such as carpentry, electricity, and car maintenance.

While touring around the site, Mr Rawley was briefed by UNDP staff members on the humanitarian situation facing Gaza residents, the blockade, and the siege that is affecting their daily lives.

UNDP's Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People Conducts a Workshop on "Capacity Building in Climate Change"

UNDP, with funds from the Government of Belgium, conducted a workshop on "Capacity Building in Climate Change" as part of enhancing the capacities of the Palestinian Government in mainstreaming environment and climate change in the oPt project.

The workshop was opened by Mr Trond Husby, Head of Gaza office, who welcomed attendees and reiterated the importance of climate change mainstreaming in the oPt.

During the workshop, several presentations were conducted covering the impact of climate change on the water resource, sea water intrusion and sea level rise, climate change adaptation strategy, renewable energy and its role in mitigation of greenhouse gas emission, and finally traffic emission and climate change. The presentations will help the 27 participants in designing the proposals that will compete for funding through the project.

It is worth mentioning that the USD 1,455,550 project aims at enhancing the capacities of the Palestinian Government to mainstream and address the challenges of climate change in the areas of reporting, mitigation and adaptation. Throughout the project, the initial national communication on climate change including greenhouse gases inventory report will be prepared and the capacity of Palestinian institutions will be assessed and further enhanced to be able to mainstream climate change in their policies, plans and projects. Pilot adaptation projects will be selected and implemented in the most affected areas of the oPt. Projects will address water resources and food security, efficient and sustainable use of energy and sea level rise.



Part of the workshop conducted at Roots hotel-
Gaza

UNDP Conducts the Annual Student's Meeting and Workshop within Al Fakhoora Scholarship and Empowerment Programme – Dynamic Futures



Part of the annual meeting

UNDP's Al Fakhoora Scholarship and Empowerment Programme held its annual students meeting in order to update the students on progress and listen to their views on how to improve the programme and the challenges they face.

In addition, the programme held a workshop to identify the selection criteria for students' enrollment. The workshop was attended by local and international NGOs who were then divided into groups to discuss three main areas of evaluation; leadership, poverty



Part of the discussion during the workshop

and academic achievement.

The programme is currently conducting a series of complementary workshops in preparation for admission procedures.

It is worth mentioning that Al-Fakhoora Scholarship and Empowerment Programme – Dynamic Futures is supported by Al Fakhoora Campaign and the Islamic Development Bank and implemented by UNDP's Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People. It grants Bachelor and Master scholarships in addition to training courses for students and staff of educational institutions.

Events and Activities

UNDP's Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People Conducts Meetings with Municipalities and Local NGOs

UNDP's governance team conducted several meetings with municipalities' representatives and NGOs in the Gaza Strip to discuss the new governance strategic plan, and the priorities of Gaza residents and institutions in light of the reconciliation agreement and the political and social changes that may occur as a result.

It is worth mentioning that UNDP's Statehood Programme seeks to further strengthen and consolidate critical governance areas, as identified by the Palestinian Government. Emphasis is placed on the rule of law, access to justice, local governance and public administration. In addition, attention is given to the reconciliation process and the need for a strong social contract between the State and its citizens, including the growing youth population.



Meeting with NGO representatives at UNDP office

Success story

A source of Joy - Tour boat sets sail in Gaza

Graduated recently as an architect, Raed El-Shorafa, 27 years old, was facing the risk of joining the increasing number of the unemployed in Gaza. Despite his good average, job opportunities are still rare. "I had no income. I was a burden on my family. The future was ahead and I was not certain of my plans" Raed said.

Under such economic, political and social circumstances, and with a family of nine, Raed decided it was time to take the initiative and try his chance of self-reliance. "Our house is located near the beach. In summer, one can enjoy and benefit from working there." This was how Raed cleverly thought about building his own boat for tours in the sea.

Raed was granted USD 6,500 as part of the MDG Joint Programme on Culture and Development of USD 3 million. The project was implemented in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in partnership with other UN agencies including UNESCO, UNIFEM and FAO.

The programme interventions ranged from training, developing capacities in heritage protection, management and promotion, to piloting community based tourism initiatives in historical sites, and finally establishing a startup mechanism based on grants for the development of business activities.



25 small grants were provided through the MDG Joint Programme on Culture and Development, targeting women and youth

In the grants component of the programme, UNDP tapped into the expertise of its poverty reduction programme (DEEP), where they supported the drafting of a preliminary criterion for selection including business plan concepts for the grants mechanism for discussion with implementing partners. The grants were geared towards those individuals, male and female, who benefited from the various skills development courses being offered to support culture and tourism within the MDG Programme.

Raed designed, built and operated the boat by himself. He started his business as an attempt to improve his livelihood. Palestinians and the few international visitors can now enjoy a 15 to 60 minute tour in the sea. "It is a unique experience as it promotes domestic tourism inside besieged Gaza". Raed said "We are making use of the only source of joy we have: the sea!"

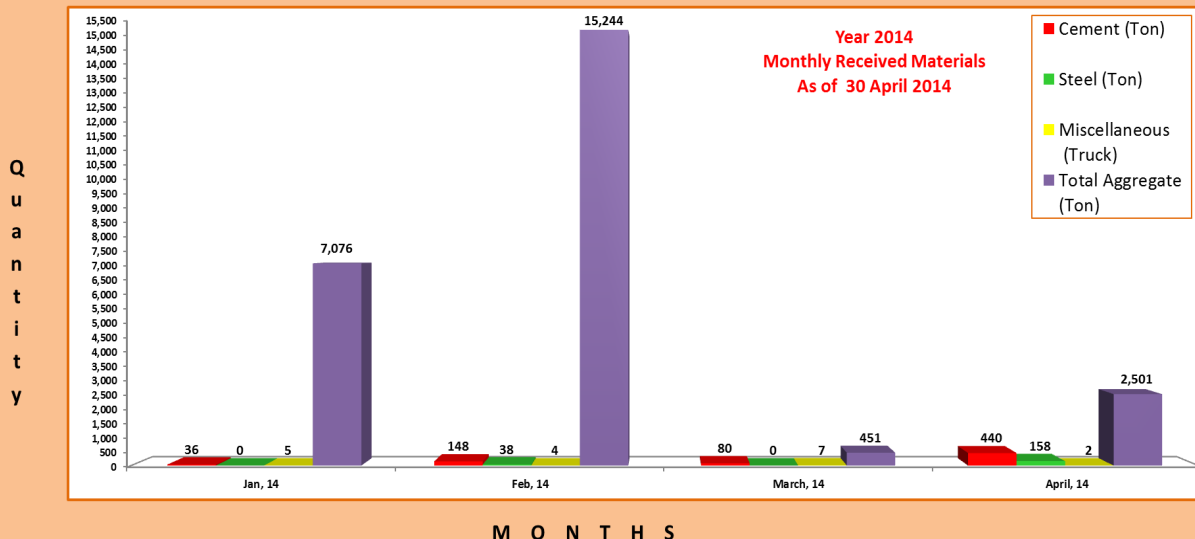
"I faced many challenges starting from the scarcity of materials needed to build the boat; I had to replace the materials with available alternatives in the market. The boat also encouraged many to follow in my steps, which is good and competitive. The lack of fuel is a real challenge that is actually decreasing our profit." Raed Said.

Raed is not the only one currently preparing for the next summer season, but also two other workers assisting him. With an average income of 12,000 NIS (USD 3,500) a season, a driver and his assistant are looking forward to the summer of 2014. The salary they will both receive will help buy school clothes for their children and get ready for the month of Ramadan and Eid.

"We repaint the boat repeatedly, add attractive and beautiful designs, and we are thinking of adding a banana boat which will be a first in Gaza." Raed explained. "The grant made me believe that one can start and run a business. I can see a future ahead; I already built my own house, am currently thinking about marriage, children, a larger business, and a better life."

Percentages of Materials coordinated and entered by UNDP's Access team

January - April 2014






Fast Facts

- According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, the highest number of domestic trips (62%) is in the Gaza Strip compared to 20% in the West Bank
- The number of visitors to the Gaza Strip decreased by 90% since 2000
- According to OCHA, unemployment in the Gaza Strip reached 41.5% during the last quarter of 2013
- 57% of Gaza households are food insecure and about 80% of the Gaza population receive aid in the face of food insecurity and restrictions to economic and social growth

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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