

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



March -2014

*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

UNDP Administrator Helen Clark Inaugurates the “Construction of Storage Tank ST 25 and Booster Pumping Station” in Beit Hanoun

UNDP Administrator, Helen Clark, inaugurated the “Construction of Storage Tank ST 25 and Booster Pumping Station” project in Beit Hanoun. The project is funded by the Government of Japan and implemented in partnership with the Palestinian Water Authority, Coastal Municipalities Water Utility and Beit Hanoun Municipality. The inauguration ceremony was in the presence of Mr. Rebhi El-Sheikh, Deputy Head of the Palestinian Water Authority, and Mr. Junya Matsuura, Ambassador for the Palestinian Affairs at the Representative of Japan.

The project is part of a larger Emergency Water Supply and Rehabilitation Programme funded by the Government of Japan for the amount of USD 5,424,107. The programme consists of two packages: Rafah component and Beit Hanoun component. Beit Hanoun package included: new storage tank ST-25, water network, reconfiguration of existing wells, construction of Khadeja storage tank and Khadeja well and booster pumping station.

Over 45,000 inhabitants (42,000 people in Beit Hanoun and over 2,500 people in the nearby Um Al Nasser area) will have access to good quality water service after the project is finalized. 10,000 meters of old and new water network is constructed through the project to prevent any contamination. In addition, UNDP/PAPP has completed more than 200 water supply and sanitation projects in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Projects ranged from strengthening water and sanitation authorities to the construction of water supply and distribution networks, storage reservoirs and house connections.



UNDP to Build USD 58 million Waste Water Treatment Plant in Gaza with Japan and Kuwait Funding through Islamic Development Bank



The Palestinian Water Authority, Coastal Municipalities Water Utility, Khan Younis Municipality and UNDP’s Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People signed a USD 58 million agreement to construct the Khan Younis Waste Water Treatment Plant in the Gaza Strip. The Plant aims at protecting public health, water resources and environment of more than 320,000 residents of Khan Younis Governorate while developing public and social infrastructure in the Gaza Strip. In addition, more than 40,000 working days will be generated for unemployed Palestinians; which will also contribute to enhancing their livelihoods.

In this Issue

News of the Month	1
From the Field	2
Events and Activities	3
Success Story	4
Procurement and Job	5
New Faces	6

From the Field

UNDP's Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People Receives Brazilian Delegation

UNDP's Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People hosted a Brazilian delegation on 25 February 2014 headed by Mr Paulo Roberto Franca, Representative of Brazil to the State of Palestine, and other members of the Brazil Consulate.

The delegation visited a number of UNDP projects in the Gaza Strip including Al-Quds hospital, which is currently being rehabilitated.

The delegation were also escorted to Al-Zahra and Sika Bridges that link the Mughraka and Nusyrat areas and were demolished during the Israeli incursions in Gaza. It is worth mentioning that Brazil is a member of the IBSA Board, India, Brazil and South Africa, and funded several projects implemented by UNDP/PAPP in the West Bank and Gaza Strip including the rehabilitation of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRSC) in Gaza for the amount of one million Dollars.



UNDP Coordinates Entry of Materials and Installations to Complete the Renewable Energy Generation through Solar Panels Project in Gaza



Through the "Renewable Energy Generation through Solar Panels" project, UNDP/PAPP coordinated the entry of materials and mirrors into Gaza and commenced the process of installing the solar panels. The access team coordinated the entry of 244 batteries and 352 solar panels in addition to cables, spare parts and inverters.

The project, funded by OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID), is implemented by UNDP/PAPP in partnership with the Energy and Natural Resources Authority, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health. The panels will be installed in four schools in Rafah, Khan Younis, Gaza and the Northern area of the Strip. The project will serve over 5600 student, 1000 children at the Down Syndrome Children Society and finally two maternity clinics that serves 50,000 inhabitants.

UNDP's Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People Receives a Delegation from the Norwegian Representative Office to the occupied Palestinian territory



UNDP's Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People received a delegation from the Norwegian Representative Office to the occupied Palestinian territory. The delegation included Anne Beathe Kristiansen Tvinnereim, Anne Ødegaard Røtzer and Marte Teie Hellum.

The delegation visited the landfill project implemented by UNDP/PAPP. Trond Husby, acting Head of Gaza office explained the importance of the landfill project and the environmental risks residents are exposed to and suffer from.

He also highlighted the access restrictions on materials entry into Gaza. Furthermore, he elaborated on the main challenges encountered during the coordination process and the efforts of the Access team to ensure the continuity of the projects implanted in Gaza.



Events and Activities

UNDP Trains First Group of Beneficiaries in Gaza Benefiting from the Second Phase of the Deprived Families Economic Empowerment Programme (DEEP)

UNDP's Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People signed agreements of cooperation and partnership with eight local organizations in Gaza to support the implementation of the DEEP Programme. In addition, training sessions were conducted for the first group of beneficiaries (150 people) who established their own businesses and feasibility plans.

The second phase of the Deprived Families Economic Empowerment Programme (DEEP) is implemented in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and Gaza with funds from the Islamic Development Bank.



Overall, the programme has created sustainable employment opportunities to over 12,000 families, During this phase, the programme aims at empowering and additional 8,000 poor and marginalized Palestinian families throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and improve their livelihoods through facilitating their access to services and financial and professional resources.

It is worth mentioning that the programme is being implemented since 2006 and won the Palestinian Award for Creativity in 2011.

Success Story

“I thank God every day for the change the project made”

In Gaza, a water project brings hope of better life



After a long suffering from water supply shortage, Beit Hanoun’s inhabitants can now enjoy having sufficient water at their homes. Recently, UNDP’s programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People inaugurated a water tank in Beit Hanoun City with the capacity of 4000 m³, including a booster station.

Abu Nader is one of the residents in Beit Hanoun city where water was provided only twice a week. “We did not have municipal water for more than twice a week” said Abu Nader. “Most of the time, washing our faces was a challenge, taking a bath or even brushing our teeth. We had to buy drinking water from local vendors with the cost of 20 NIS per 1000 Liters, and this is not affordable for a man in my situation. Our life was completely affected, no one can lead a good life without enough water” .

The situation is even harder for housewives. Um Nader is a mother of four children who was suffering daily from shortage of water. She says “Water supply was extremely rare. When water was there, electricity was off! Which meant that home tanks can not be filled and we had to do it manually.” She explains “I used to ask my children not to wash their hands, not even to flush the toilet for more than twice a day! showers were always a problem with me shouting “get out and leave some water for us”.

The scarcity of water supply and the measures the family had to take imposed pressure on them. The stress the family had to go through was of severe effects. “I used to get out of home as much as I can, my sons were angry with me when I ask them not to waste water. It was such a disastrous situation to adapt yourself not to consume the water you need!” um Nader said. “Thankfully, it is better now with the tank being operational. We now can flush the toilet freely and wash the dishes. Kids can enjoy their baths without me shouting “enough”.

WHO recommends International standards for the protection of public health (minimum standard 150 l/ c/ d) while the annual per capita consumption in the Gaza Strip reached 95 l/ c/ d in 2011

The water tank in Beit Hanoun is part of the emergency water supply and rehabilitation programme that UNDP is implementing in the Gaza Strip and consists of two packages: Rafah component and Beit Hanoun component at a total cost of USD 5.4 million, funded by the Government of Japan. Over 45,000 inhabitants in Beit Hanoun and near-by Um Al Nasser area now have access to good quality water service.

The project aims at improving the quality of life and health conditions through developing and improving water supply services and facilities in both Rafah and Northern Governorates in the Gaza Strip.

“I thank god every day for the change the project made, water is a blessing for those who do not have it. suffering due to its absence is unimaginable. I hope that this continues and that water is always at our home!” Um Nader concluded.

It is worth noting that the construction of water tanks, boosters, main carriers and networks are considered the basis for equitable water distribution for Gaza citizens.

New Faces

Ms. Shahd El-swerki, Communications Assistant

Ms. Shahd El-Swerki occupies currently the position of UNV Communications Assistant at the UNDP Gaza Office..

She has a BA in English and French literature from Al-Azhar University and worked as a translator, project assistant and public relations officer.



Procurement Notices

- **ITB-2014-090: Facilitating Access to Infrastructure Resilience (FAIR) in the Gaza Strip — Package 1: Development of Al Hurriya Regional Road: **Deadline: 03.04.2014****

Fast Facts

- Palestinians in Gaza consume 70 -90 litres of water per person per day, compared to 100 litres per person per day as recommended by WHO
- According to WHO, over 90% of water in Gaza is unsuitable for human consumption
- Gaza’s Coastal aquifer is over abstracted. Aquifer maybe unsustainable by 2014, with damage irreversible by 2020
- The Gaza Power Plant is at risk of shutting down due to depletion of its fuel reserves. The power outage is expected to increase to up to 16 hours per day (currently 12) if the Plant shuts down

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.

FOLLOW US



www.facebook.com/pages/undp-palestinian-territory



www.twitter.com/UNDPPalestinian



www.youtube.com/user/undppalestinian

Published by

United Nations Development Programme/ Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People
Gaza Office: Phone no. 00972-8-2822167. Website: www.ps.undp.org
For more information, please contact: Shahd El-Swerki, Communication Assistant. E-mail: shahd.el-swerki@undp.org
In Jerusalem, Dania Darwish, Communication Specialist. E-mail: дания.darwish@undp.org