

United Nations Development Programme

Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People

برنامج الأمم المتحدة الإنمائي / برنامج مساعدة الشعب الفلسطيني



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PRESS RELEASE

The Islamic Development Bank and UNDP sign a US\$ 5 million Memorandum of Understanding in support to Palestinian municipalities and village councils

Jeddah, August 5th, 2003: Dr. Ahmad Mohammad Ali, Chairman of the Islamic Development Bank and Mr. Timothy Rothermel, the Special Representative of the United Nations Development Programme/Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People (UNDP/PAPP) signed a Memorandum of Understanding in Jeddah on the 4th of August 2003 to implement an emergency programme in response to the urgent needs of Palestinian municipalities and village councils. The signing of the memorandum comes after the success UNDP/PAPP has had in the implementation of several agricultural, educational, health and infrastructure projects worth over US\$10 million from Al-Aqsa Fund last year. The signing ceremony was attended by senior officials from the Bank and the UNDP.

The Islamic Development Bank has allocated the amount of US\$5 million for the rehabilitation of water and electricity networks, sanitation, internal roads and education to be implemented within a year in partnership with the Palestinian Authority and the Ministry of Local Government. The project will provide institutional strengthening to several municipal and village councils benefiting 55 development projects carried throughout the West Bank and Gaza.

"The signing of this memorandum of understanding is part of our sustained support to the Palestinian people especially at these difficult times" stated Dr. Ahmad Mohammad Ali, President of the Islamic Development Bank. "We very much value our partnership with UNDP/PAPP and their efforts to reduce the suffering and misery of the citizens of the West Bank and Gaza" He added.

"We deeply appreciate the co-operation between the UNDP and the Islamic Development Bank" said Timothy Rothermel, the Special Representative of the UNDP/PAPP. "This grant reflects the Islamic Development Bank's deep commitment to assist the Palestinian people, especially in these difficult times."

During the past three years, The Islamic Development Bank has already contributed more than US\$73 million in support to the Palestinian National Authority with over 56 developmental projects in the areas of health, education and infrastructure.

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