

United Nations Development Programme

Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People

برنامج الامم المتحدة الاتماني/ برنامج مساعدة الشعب الفلسطيني



Press Release

UNDP/PAPP and USAID Collaborate to Combat Unemployment and Poverty in Gaza by Initiating Programme Worth US. \$2.6 million

Gaza, March 18, 2003— As part of their rigorous effort to combat the rising levels of poverty and unemployment in the occupied Palestinian territory, The United Nations Development Programme / Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People (UNDP/PAPP), and USAID inaugurated an extensive programme for employment generation in Gaza worth US. \$2.6 million.

Carried out in partnership with the Palestinian Ministry of Education, the Union of Agricultural Workers, the Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committees (PARC), and the Arab Centre for Agricultural Development, the programme aims to whither the rising tide of poverty through employment generation in infrastructural and agricultural projects. This includes the construction of 89 much needed classrooms in 11 schools across the Gaza strip, as well as a number of land reclamation projects.

“In this very critical time, when unemployment and poverty have reached alarming levels in Gaza, the initiation of employment generation projects could not be more fitting” said Timothy Rothermel, the Special Representative of the UNDP/PAPP. He added that “not only will these projects answer to the emergency needs of reducing poverty and creating jobs, but they are also in concert with the strategic framework for employment generation, developed by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC).”

Dr. Abdallah Abdulmonim, the Deputy Minister of Education, expressed his deep gratitude to the UNDP and USAID for answering the Ministry’s profound need to build these new classrooms in response to the high annual growth in the student population, which makes classes very congested, hindering the teaching process.

In the inauguration ceremony, Mr. Khaled Abdulshafi, Manager of the UNDP in Gaza, stated that “these projects are part of concerted effort and a series of leading projects carried out by the UNDP to generate employment through improving the infra structure in Palestinian cities. Thus, they provide a dual benefit to the community.”

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