



## PRESS RELEASE

### UNDP/PAPP, the Government of Germany, and the Palestinian Authority to Tackle Unemployment in the oPt

**Jerusalem, October 13, 2005** — His Excellency Dr. Ghassan Khatib, Palestinian Authority (PA) Minister of Planning; His Excellency Khaled Qawasmi, PA Minister for Local Government; Mr. Miguel Berger, German Representative to the PA; and Mr. Timothy Rothermel, UNDP Special Representative, will today sign a Memorandum of Understanding at a ceremony at the Ministry of Planning in Ramallah, to launch the new German Development Bank (KfW) funded Employment Generation Programme.

With unemployment in the West Bank and Gaza at alarmingly high levels (27%), and poverty affecting over 50% of the population, facilitating job creation is seen as imperative in the effort to reverse these trends. The United Nations Development Programme/Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People (UNDP/PAPP) and KfW are working to implement a programme which seeks to address the issues of unemployment and poverty through job creation in poverty-stricken rural communities, with a focus on employment opportunities for women and young people.

In coordination with the PA Ministry of Planning, the €20,000,000 project is expected to generate approximately 275,000 workdays. Of the total programme budget, some €3,000,000 has been set aside for emergency projects emanating from the recent Israeli disengagement from Gaza, as well as in Jenin in the northern West Bank, where 4 settlements were dismantled. In addition, 2 wastewater treatment plants will be rehabilitated in Gaza City and Jenin, and the remaining funds will be allocated to smaller infrastructure projects in communities throughout the West Bank and Gaza.

UNDP/PAPP and KfW's successful working relationship has resulted in hundreds of KfW-funded projects being implemented through UNDP/PAPP since 2001. KfW's community-driven approach to projects has enabled communities in the West Bank and Gaza to play an active role in the development process, through the submission of projects that address their main needs and priorities. Since the inception of the KfW Employment Generation Programmes, over 3000 proposals from communities have been submitted for consideration. This has resulted in the implementation of over 300 projects, in approximately 240 communities in cities, towns, villages and refugee camps throughout the West Bank and Gaza.

To date, the Government of Germany has funded a total of 5 Employment Generation Programmes through KfW and implemented by UNDP/PAPP, totaling €58,058,899. The diverse range of projects have included the rehabilitation or creation of water, sewage and road networks; sports facilities; youth clubs; women's centers; health clinics; kindergartens; vocational training centers; and hospitals.

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