



PRESS RELEASE

Palestinian Ministry of Planning to establish a National System to monitor National and Millennium Development Goals with UNDP-UNICEF support

Jerusalem, Saturday, July 16, 2005 – H.E. Dr. Ghassan Khatib, Minister of Planning (MoP), Mr. Loay Shabaneh, President, Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), Ms. Patricia Dowling, Officer in Charge, UNICEF and Mr. Timothy Rothermel, Special Representative of UNDP/PAPP, will today sign a Memorandum of Understanding to establish a uniform national system for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and the progress made towards the World Fit for Children Declaration and the National Plan of Action for Palestinian children in the occupied Palestinian territory. This national monitoring system which is known as PalInfo, is an initiative that tracks development indicators.

The joint system is a partnership between MOP, PCBS, UNDP and UNICEF with funding from the United Kingdom Department of International Development (DFID) in order to monitor progress made towards the Millennium Development Goals, as set out in September 2000 (www.un.org/millenniumgoals). The Millennium Development Goals were endorsed by the UN member states in 2000, and include targets for rolling back hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation, and discrimination against women by 2015. Further localization of the MDG's will also be a main aim of the initiative.

In addition to monitoring the MDG's, the National Monitoring System will also track the progress of the Palestinian National Authority's Mid-Term Development Plan for the period 2005 to 2007 and the World Fit for Children. The Ministry of Planning and PCBS will oversee the implementation of the system, as well as the development of PalInfo – a specialized information technology solution to monitor and facilitate the collation and presentation of development data.

"We are grateful for this partnership with UNICEF and UNDP, which will go a long way in affording us a mechanism for measuring development outcomes". Said Mr. Louay Shabaneh from PCBS.

"This represents an important step towards meeting the Millennium Development Goals," said UNDP Special Representative, Mr. Timothy Rothermel.

"Through the development of a computerized system, the relevant parties will be able to track progress, as well as identify problems, which will ultimately serve to facilitate meeting goals, including eliminating gender disparity in education and tackling the spread of HIV/AIDS and poverty." Said Dr. Ghassan Khatib, Minister of Planning.

According to Ms. Patricia Dowling "the development of PalInfo will provide national parties with the means to more effectively monitor and track development outcomes". In addition to the Palestinian National Authority Ministry of Planning and UNDP/PAPP, other UN sister agencies and the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DfID).

For further information, please contact:

In Jerusalem: Ehab Shanti, Communications Officer, Tel. +972-2-6268207 – e-mail: ehab.shanti@undp.org; or Dania Darwish, Tel. +972-2-626-8229 – e-mail: dania.darwish@undp.org. In New York: William Orme, Media Section Chief, Tel. +1 (212) 906-5382 – e-mail: william.orme@undp.org. For more information on UNDP/PAPP see <http://www.papp.undp.org>