



## PRESS RELEASE

### Japan and UNDP/PAPP inaugurate rehabilitation works in Jenin

**Jerusalem, January 09, 2008** — Mr. Tetsushi Condo, the Japanese Representative to the Palestinian Authority; Mr. Hikmat Zid, President's Advisor for Governor's Affairs, Eng. Fadel Kawash, Head of the Palestinian Water Authority, Mr. Moneer Jaradat, Head of the Joint Services Council for Jenin western villages; and Mrs. Rima Abu Middain, Natural Capital Team Leader, accompanied by members of the Zbouba village council inaugurated a water rehabilitation project in Zbouba village in Jenin on Wednesday, 09 January, at 11:00 am.

The project aims at providing a reliable and safe source of water to Zbouba and 10 surrounding villages, benefiting approximately 60,000 residents and creating approximately 10,8033 working days during the period of 10 months. The works have included laying the necessary infrastructure such as the construction of a main water pipeline, a booster station, water reservoir, as well as the maintenance of old networks and house water connections.

Noting the long-standing relationship between UNDP/PAPP and the Japanese Government, the Special Representative of UNDP/PAPP, Mr. Jens Toyberg-Frandzen stated: "In times of emergency and peace, the Government of Japan has shown an unwavering commitment to the development of the Palestinian people. This project is a clear manifestation of how good cooperation, coordination and partnership at the local and international level can bring about positive change in the lives of the Palestinian people." "Access to clean and reliable water is not just an indicator of development, and a step towards achieving one of the Millennium Development Goals, but more so, a fundamental human right." He added.

To date, Japan's financial assistance to the Palestinian People, through UNDP/PAPP, has exceeded \$US270 million. Japan's continuous support to the development process in the oPt targeted a number of sectors including health, water and environment, infrastructure and education.

It is worth noting that only 87% of the Palestinian population has access to piped water services. There are 200 un-served communities in the oPt (representing 36% of the total communities) who rely mainly on rainwater harvesting and water vendors for water supply which render them vulnerable to many water related diseases and lead to their further insecurity and impoverishment. Zbouba and its 10 surrounding villages were among those unfortunate communities, where the average per capita has not exceeded 20 litres/capita/day.

**For further information, please contact:**

In Jerusalem: Dania Darwish, Communications Officer, Tel. +972-2-6268229 – e-mail: [danialdarwish@undp.org](mailto:danialdarwish@undp.org). Wadi Razzouk, PR Specialist, Tel. +972-2-6268311 – e-mail: [wadi.razzouk@undp.org](mailto:wadi.razzouk@undp.org). In New York: Sausan Ghosheh Communication's officer, Tel. +1 (212) 906-5382 – e-mail: [sausan.ghosheh@undp.org](mailto:sausan.ghosheh@undp.org). For more information on UNDP/PAPP see <http://www.undp.ps>.

*UNDP is the UN's global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. We are on the ground in 166 countries, working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges. As they develop local capacity, they draw on the people of UNDP and our wide range of partners.*