



## Press Release

### UNDP and the Municipality of Jericho Commence Works on the Jericho Agro Industrial Road Project Funded by the Government of Japan

**Jerusalem, September 07th, 2009** – Rehabilitation works on the Jericho Agro Industrial Road project commenced today. The project funded by the Government of Japan in the amount of US 1.596 million is the first phase of works slated to support the soon to be developed Agro Industrial Park project.

Both projects are part of the Government of Japan's "corridor for peace and prosperity" initiative in the Jordan Valley which aims to establish a viable state for Palestinians accompanied with sustainable economic development through the strengthening of their partnership with neighboring countries; and the role of the private sector, coupled with the development of the public private partnership (PPP) is crucial in achieving sustainable economic development.

The works are being implemented in partnership between the United Nations Development Programme/Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People (UNDP/PAPP) and the Municipality of Jericho. Rehabilitation works will include the rehabilitation of 1.8 km 18 meter wide road over a period of 3 months. It is anticipated that approximately 8,000 workdays will be generated thus providing short term employment opportunities for the residents of the Jordan Valley.

This project is also part of Jericho Municipality's master plan to encourage growth in outlying communities and stimulate economic growth. In the short term, the project is expected to encourage further investment opportunities along the road by either individual investors or the business community.

It is worth noting that the town of Jericho and the Jordan Valley have some of the lowest unemployment rates in the oPt at 13% due to the strength of their agricultural and tourism sectors. In the West Bank, agriculture and agro-industry could be a driving force for sustainable economic development.

**For further information, please contact:**

In Jerusalem: Dania Darwish, Communications Officer, Tel. +972-2-6268229 – e-mail: [danial.darwish@undp.org](mailto:danial.darwish@undp.org), Conal Urquhart, External Relations Advisor, Tel. +972-2-6268200 – e-mail: [conal.urquhart@undp.org](mailto:conal.urquhart@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.*