



**SPEECH**  
**For UNDP/PAPP Special Representative**  
**Mr. Jens Toyberg-Frandzen**

<b>Speaking event:</b>	Hand Over Ceremony for Water Tanks / Jericho
<b>Date and time:</b>	Thursday, 03.05.2007; 13:00 – 16:00
<b>Venue:</b>	Naourah Restaurant / Jericho
<b>Participants/audience:</b>	Governor of Jericho, Head of Negotiations Office, Mayor of Jericho, Local community and Bedouin representatives
<b>Length of speech:</b>	<b>5 minutes</b>
<b>Context of speech:</b>	opening remarks, no question and answer session
<b>Draft prepared by:</b>	Communications Unit

H.E. Dr. Mussallam

Dr. Erikat,

Esteemed Representatives of the Bedouin Community,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to be with all of you here today, on behalf of UNDP/PAPP, for the handover ceremony of 60 water tanks as part of the UNDP Emergency Support to Bedouins in the eastern slopes project.

Over 3000 Bedouin communities reside in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt). These communities have suffered in recent times, due to financial difficulties incurred by restrictions on movement, and the subsequent deterioration of their economic situation. Many lack access to portable water in their homes and limited access to educational resources due to distance from schools and difficult topography. The pressures arising from population growth and climate change have undermined their traditional way of living.

These factors and others led the United Nations Development Programme/Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People (UNDP/PAPP) to initiate the emergency support to the Bedouins in the eastern slopes project, targeting the very basic requirements of at least 5000 people in this area.



Through the project, 60 water tanks have been provided to ease access and water availability for household and animal use. The tanks will serve as a temporary water supply source and will help improve the quality of drinking water and reduce the risks of water borne diseases.

The generators supplied by UNDP will have a relief effect on the environment and household members. Women and children will enjoy the improvement of their living conditions since they are the ones responsible for fetching water and wood. Electricity will also have a significant impact on the quality of Bedouin products, enabling them to sell at a higher price. It is also important for the youth who are keen on improving their living conditions and want to stay in touch with the outside world.

The provision of a mini bus to transport school children will also increase the students' school attendance and ease their access to neighboring urban facilities.

This project is only a small part of our contribution to the Bedouin communities in the occupied Palestinian territory. Our first initiative in supporting the Bedouin community was through a US\$1.5 million project to improve the livelihood of approximately 25,000 Bedouins in the West Bank through economic and technical assistance.

UNDP/PAPP views this project as a great opportunity to assist in the development and service of a community, the Bedouins, who have sadly faced years of neglect and lack of support.

As I conclude, I wish to thank our partner, the Negotiations office, The Governor of Jericho, the Bedouin community leaders and everyone who has been involved in this Programme to date.

Thank you.