



PRESS RELEASE

The Government of Italy and UNDP/PAPP help children design playgrounds in Salfeet

Jerusalem, February 26, 2004 — The Ministries of Health, Local Government and Agriculture, the Italian Government, and the United Nations Development Programme/Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian people (UNDP/PAPP) inaugurated several playgrounds in Salfeet, on Thursday, February 26, 2004. The playgrounds were implemented by UNDP with a budget of US\$ 1.8 million, as part of the Italian Government's Psychological Relief for Traumatized Palestinian Children and Employment Generation programme.

The project aims at providing urgent support to the Palestinian community in response to the emergency health situation resulting from the recent turmoil in the Palestinian territories. "The playground, is not only a unique venue for the children to play in, but will also provide them with a shield from the conflict zone in which they reside". Said Mr. Timothy Rothermel, Special Representative of the UNDP/PAPP in Jerusalem. "The project will provide several deprived and vulnerable localities of the West Bank and Gaza with appropriate and safe areas for recreation and conduction of cultural and sports activities, namely several playgrounds and parks".

By involving children in recreational, cultural and sport activities as well as professional counseling and treatment, UNDP/PAPP, has been able to relief the psychological effects on the children and their families inflicted on them due to the prevailing situation. Through this project, both the community and children have participated in the design and building of the playgrounds

In addition, the project has been able to utilize labor intensive techniques in the process of constructing the playgrounds and parks, generating hundreds of employment opportunities for unemployed workers from the West Bank and Gaza.

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