



PRESS RELEASE

A Memorandum of Understanding for Emergency Operations and Maintenance works for Gaza Waste Water Treatment Plant funded by the Government of Germany

Gaza, October 24, 2005 —Mr. Miguel Berger, the German Representative to the Palestinian Authority; Dr. Majed Abu Ramadan, Mayor of Gaza Municipality; and Mr. Timothy Rothermel, UNDP Special Representative, will today sign a Memorandum of Understanding in Gaza Municipality, to launch the Emergency Operations and Maintenance works for the Existing Gaza Waste Water Treatment Plant funded by the Government of Germany.

The Project, worth 325,000 Euros, is an Emergency Response Project expected to last for the period of four months and is part of the recently signed Phase V of the Employment Generation Programme, EGP. A programme of 20 million Euros financed by the Government of Germany through the German Development Bank, (KfW).

In coordination with the PA Ministry of Planning, the €20,000,000 fund is expected to generate approximately 275,000 workdays. Of the total programme budget, some €3,000,000 has been set aside for emergency projects emanating from the recent Israeli disengagement from Gaza, as well as in Jenin in the northern West Bank, where 4 settlements were dismantled. In addition, a wastewater treatment plant will be rehabilitated in Jenin, and the remaining funds will be allocated to smaller infrastructure projects in communities throughout the West Bank and Gaza. This new phase of the EGP will mitigate the effects of both unemployment and poverty facing the Palestinian community.

The Gaza Waste Water Treatment Plant was upgraded to treat up to **30 000 m³ /day** wastewater from Gaza City, but due to the continuous increase of wastewater to more than **50 000 m³/day** up to summer of 2005, these huge amounts of wastewater made the process of treatment very poor and caused many environmental problems around the area of the plant creating an emergency situation. Hence rehabilitation and maintenance works are needed in order for the Waste Water Treatment Plant to operate more efficiently, reducing environmental hazards.

To date, the Government of Germany has funded a total of 5 Employment Generation Programmes through KfW and implemented by UNDP/PAPP, totaling €58,058,899. The diverse range of projects have included the rehabilitation or creation of water, sewage and road networks; sports facilities; youth clubs; women's centers; health clinics; kindergartens; vocational training centers; and hospitals.

For further information, please contact:

In Jerusalem: Ehab Shanti, Communications Officer, Tel. +972-2-6268229 – e-mail: ehab.shanti@undp.org; or Dania Darwish, Tel. +972-2-626-8200 – e-mail: dania.darwish@undp.org. In Gaza: Ahmad Abu Nada, Assistant Communications Officer, Tel. +972-8-2822167 – e-mail: ahmad.abunada@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 www.papp.undp.org.