

United Nations Development Programme

Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People

برنامج الأمم المتحدة الإنمائي / برنامج مساعدة الشعب الفلسطيني



PRESS RELEASE

Italy provides 7 million euros to uplift Palestinian education System

The Italian government, through the Italian Cooperation, and UNDP's Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People (PAPP) have joined hands to give a much needed boost to the Palestinian education system.

The project which is worth over 7 million euros is extensive as it is thorough. It includes the building of four new schools in Jericho, Jet and Series in the district of Tulkarem (northern West Bank), Beit Liqia in the district of Ramallah. Also, ten schools will be renovated and expanded across the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) including Gaza to meet the demands of a rapidly growing population and to counter the immense strains on certain villages created by the construction of the Israel's separation barrier.

Dr. Na'eem Abu Homos, the Palestinian Minister of Education and Higher Education, expressed his gratitude to the people and government of Italy and to PAPP for their support stating that "this essential infra structure will help ease some of the pressures and in a tangible way uplift our efforts to create a developed education system."

But the project is not just about infrastructure, as important as it may be, since it also includes equipping over 190 schools, throughout the Territory, with laboratories, libraries, computer centers, and audio visual equipment and material.

"For Palestinians, education is the key. They very much value education as a way of negotiation with the tremendous difficulties and challenges they face. So, we wanted to support an element of development that is not only about the present, but also sets the foundation for a better future" said Dr. Antonio Aloï, coordinator of the Italian Cooperation. "With one of the highest birth rates in the world and tremendous strains placed on schools as a result of overcrowding and lack of equipment, this contribution will go a long way in responding to a very pressing need of the Palestinians" added Dr. Aloï.

For Timothy Rothermel, the Special representative of the UNDP in Jerusalem, this contribution is "yet another example of a longstanding tradition of the government and people of Italy to support the development of the Palestinian people."

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For more information on UNDP/PAPP see <http://www.papp.undp.org>.

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