



Press Release

Government of Italy and UNDP Inaugurate the Northern Wing of Princess Alia Hospital in Hebron

Jerusalem, April 24th 2008: The Palestinian Ministry of Health, the Italian Consulate in Jerusalem, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) inaugurated the completion of phase two of the development of the Northern Wing at Hebron Hospital on Thursday, April 24, 2008. The project was implemented by UNDP with a US\$ 7.0 million contribution from the Government of Italy.

The project aimed at improving the quality of health care services in the Hebron District through the expansion of medical services provided at Hebron Hospital to reach acceptable standards and by increasing the bed- capacity of the hospital by more than 75 beds. In addition, the project comprised a technical assistance component to enhance the managerial and technical skills of key medical professionals and support staff at the Palestinian Ministry of Health.

The completed Phase included the expansion of the hospital facilities by 6,940 square meters, allowing the new wing to house an inpatient gynecology ward, pediatric ward, incubators room, mother rooms, and other support services, giving mothers, infants and over half a million inhabitants in the Hebron district access to high quality medical services and hospitalization conditions.

“For over 10 years, the Government of Italy and UNDP/PAPP have assumed a key role in the development of health institutions in the West Bank and Gaza, contributing over nine million dollars to the sector”, said Roberto Valent, UNDP Deputy Special Representative. “This hospital represents an important pillar for the city of Hebron, and the governorate as a whole” he added.

Expressing his Government’s commitment to the health sector, the Consul General of Italy, Mr. Luciano Pezzotti stated “ Italy, in its role as the shepherd of the donor community in the health sector, is consolidating its support to the Palestinian Ministry of Health in order to improve the quality and efficiency of health services in the oPt”.

UNDP/PAPP’s continuous support to the health sector represents a major commitment towards the implementation of the Ministry of Health’s plan, which calls for the development of government hospitals in the oPt. It also manifests a commitment to the achievement of two MDG goals; **the reduction of child mortality** and **the improvement of maternal health** by the year 2015.

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