



**PRESS RELEASE**  
**“Volunteers for the MDG’s”**  
**In celebration of International Volunteers’ Day 2008**

**Jerusalem, December 19, 2008** — The United Nations Development Programme, in cooperation with the United Nations Volunteers programme in the occupied Palestinian territory celebrated the IVD between December 05 – 19, 2008 with various events throughout the West Bank and Gaza. This year, both programmes, in cooperation with Sharek Youth Forum and other organizations in the field have focused their events to promote the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

The MDGs are a set of objectives that include halving poverty, ensure primary education, and reduce child and infant mortality by 2015. The activities commenced on December 5, 2008 in the Jerusalem Governorate, and travelled around the West Bank covering 13 localities and engaging more than 2350 youth and children. More than 250 volunteers from 15 civil society organizations participated in activities including theatrical shows, workshops, painting sessions, interactive games, screening of films, and others that reflect the MDG’s in the occupied Palestinian territory.

The activities closed on December 19, 2008 in the old city of Jerusalem, with the presence of the UNV’s Deputy Executive Coordinator Ms. Joyce Yu and the UNV Chief of Arab Countries Section Mr. Ibrahim Hussein. Throughout their visit, the delegation expressed their admiration and appreciation for the efforts of Palestinian volunteers in their development initiatives despite difficulties, and stressed the need for further promotion of voluntarism within the Palestinian community.

By celebrating the International Volunteers Day, the volunteers made a difference in the lives of many Palestinians of all ages throughout the West Bank, Jerusalem, and Gaza.

The International Volunteer Day (IVD) was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1985 to highlight the invaluable contribution of volunteers in communities worldwide. Held on December 5th, IVD provides an opportunity for Volunteer-involving organizations and individual Volunteers to work together in projects and campaigns promoting their contributions to economic and social development at local, national and international levels.

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