



Press Release

UNDP/PAPP concludes Leadership Training on HIV and AIDS in Gaza

Gaza, December 9th, 2010 – Representatives from civil society organizations, UN agencies, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Youth and Sports, religious and media leaders just completed a three day training on strengthening the response to HIV and AIDS in the Gaza Strip. The training was made possible through funding by the Global Fund to fight HIV and AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

The workshop, organized by UNDP's Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People, in cooperation with the UNDP HIV and AIDS Regional Programme in the Arab States (HARPAS), provided leadership training to enhance the capacities of civil society organizations and technical practitioners from ministries and public institutions in the fight against HIV and AIDS in Gaza. The training also included designing effective and innovative means to prevention, care, treatment and reduction of vulnerability.

During the workshop, Dr. Taiseer El Shorafa, from the Ministry of Education and Higher Education highlighted that the Palestinian curriculum addresses many health issues including HIV and AIDS and reducing its stigma. He also encouraged civil society organizations to promote such issues in Gaza.

Ms. Iman El Hussani, representing UNDP, thanked the partners for their commitment and support in advancing the response of HIV and AIDS in the occupied Palestinian territory, and more specifically in the Gaza Strip, and in contributing to achieving the sixth millennium development goal.

It is worth noting that the cumulative number of HIV and AIDS patients in Gaza reached twenty three from 1987, with only four still alive and one under the Anti Retroviral Treatment (ARV). Through the Global Fund grant, one physician from Gaza was able to receive training in Belgium on HIV and AIDS clinical treatment, and currently two laboratory technologists are preparing for the training on HIV and AIDS Lab. diagnosis and monitoring.

For further information, please contact:

In Jerusalem: Dania Darwish, Communications Officer - UNDP/PAPP, Tel. +972-2-6268229, e-mail: danialdarwish@undp.org. Conal Urquhart, External Relations Advisor - UNDP/PAPP, Tel. +972-2-6268200, e-mail: conal.urquhart@undp.org or Ms. Veronique Fages, UNDP/PAPP Programme Manager for the Global Fund to fight HIV and AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, Tel. +972-2-6268283 – e-mail: veronique.fages@undp.org and in Gaza Ms. Reem Abu Shomar Gaza Global Fund coordinator - +97282822167 e-mail reem.abushomar@undp.org. For more information on UNDP/PAPP, see: <http://www.undp.ps>

UNDP is the UN's global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. We are on the ground in 166 countries, working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges. As they develop local capacity, they draw on the people of UNDP and our wide range of partners.