Consolato Generale d'Italia
Gerusalemme

AGENZIA ITALIANA
PER LA COOPERAZIONE
ALLO SVILUPPO

UNDP
Empowered lives.
Resilient nations

Press Release
Bethlehem Municipality Launches Road Rehabilitation Works with support from the Government of Italy and UNDP

Bethlehem, 06 September 2016 – The Bethlehem Municipality, Government of Italy and UNDP's Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People launched the Caritas road rehabilitation activities at the northern entrance of Bethlehem City, under the Facilitating Access to Infrastructure Resilience in Area C and East Jerusalem (FAIR) programme.

Fabio Sokolowicz, Consul General of Italy in Jerusalem, Dr Vincenzo Racalbuto, Head of the Italian Development Cooperation Agency, Director General at Ministry of Local Government Mr Shukri Rdaydeh, Mr Roberto Valent, UNDP Special Representative of the Administrator attended the event that took place under the auspices of the Mayor of Bethlehem, Ms Vera Baboun.

Mayor of Bethlehem City, Vera Baboun, thanked the Government of Italy and UNDP for their generous contributions and highlighted the importance of this street as a gateway for tourists entering Bethlehem and in meeting the needs of the population.

The project, worth USD 525,000, will include the rehabilitation and upgrading of the northern entrance of Bethlehem to ensure safe access and mobility of people and goods, and contribute to economic development in Bethlehem.

The Consul General of Italy in Jerusalem, Fabio Sokolowicz, underlined that Italy has approved more than USD 2.5 million for national-driven initiatives addressing municipalities and Local Government Units' priorities, notably infrastructure development activities located in Area C and Jerusalem, including interventions in Nablus, Qalqilia, Ramallah Bethlehem, Hebron, Salfeet, Jenin and Jerusalem, with prime focus on vital and productive sectors such as health, education, housing, transportation and energy.

UNDP Special Representative of the Administrator, Roberto Valent highlighted the importance of this partnership with the Palestinian Government and Italy in the provision of basic services and improving the livelihoods and resilience of the Palestinian population. "*This is a vital project for enhancing the hospitality potential in Bethlehem and generating income*," he added.

The FAIR program is a multi-donor platform which aims to empower and strengthen national institutions to plan and deliver essential public and social services in Area C and East Jerusalem through providing increased access to sustainable, equitable and affordable infrastructure. The program is supported by Italy, Norway, Bahrain and OFID, for projects worth over USD 11 million.

For further information, please contact:
Ms Dania Darwish, Communications Specialist, Tel. +972-2-6268229 – e-mail: dania.darwish@undp.org. For more information on UNDP/PAPP see http://www.ps.undp.org.

UNDP partners with people at all levels of society to help build nations that can withstand crisis, and drive and sustain the kind of growth that improves the quality of life for everyone. On the ground in more than 170 countries and territories, we offer global perspective and local insight to help empower lives and build resilient nations.