Press Release

Germany, UNOPS and NRC join efforts to rebuild totally damaged homes in Gaza

July 2016 – Jerusalem -- The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and the Government of Germany, through the German Development Bank (KfW) have signed an agreement to reconstruct approximately 100 totally damaged homes. Under this Government of Germany funding, UNOPS has partnered with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and is working closely with the Palestinian Ministry of Public Works and Housing (MoPWH), to provide families with legal, technical and financial assistance, to help them reconstruct and return to their homes damaged in the 2014 conflict.

The German Representative Office said that 'this project with the UNOPS and NRC is part of the strong commitment by the German Government to rebuild Gaza and improve the living conditions of the people there. Since the end of the war Germany has committed more than 120 Mio. EUR to reconstruction and humanitarian aid in Gaza.'

This 18 month project, valued at EUR 5 Million, will take an owner driven construction approach, and assists owners to contract professional companies for the structural works in order to ensure the quality, integrity and safety of the structures for the families that will live in them. In addition, legal assistance to address land ownership and permitting will be provided to ensure sustainability of housing rights. UNOPS has also developed an open source software platform to facilitate the processing of the assistance. This software platform will allow public viewing of progress throughout the life of this project through to impact evaluation, in an effort to improve information sharing of reconstruction progress in Gaza.

This project aims to introduce best practices for others to adopt to improve aid assistance and builds on the work the Partners are already undertaking in Gaza in efforts to improve the living conditions of Palestinians there.

UNOPS Country Director Mr. Nick O'regan highlighted that UNOPS is extremely proud to have the opportunity to build on our existing work in Gaza by applying this much needed contribution to the reconstruction efforts in Gaza. Our aim to help people to improve living conditions with safe, secure and sustainable homes and also ensure that their legal rights are secure into the future.

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Photo (From right to left):

Jonas Blume, Director of KfW Office Ramallah

Dr. Rachel Folz, Deputy Head of Development Cooperation, Representative Office of the Federal Republic of Germany

Nick O'Regan, Director, UNOPS Jerusalem Office & Centre of Excellence

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