Press Release
Jerusalem
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The EU provides nearly €20 million to support families in need in Palestine

The European Union made a contribution of €20 million to the Palestinian Authority's (PA) quarterly payment of social allowances to poor Palestinian families in the West Bank and Gaza. The EU funds will cover the social allowances for more than 70,000 families. More than two thirds of them live in Gaza.

This quarterly payment is channelled in times of heightened tensions in Gaza and a difficult situation for the people living there.

The EU supports the Ministry of Social Development to serve vulnerable families through an inclusive and equitable social protection system. The social allowances are paid to households living in extreme poverty who are registered in the cash transfer programme of the Ministry of Social Development.

"*Today's payment of social allowances is made at the end of the holy month of Ramadan. Ramadan is the month of social solidarity and compassion in the Muslim world. The EU remains committed to the contributions to the Cash Transfer Programme to ensure social protection for the poor and vulnerable"* said the **EU Representative Ralph Tarraf.**

Background:

Most of the European Union's assistance to the Palestinian Authority is channelled through PEGASE (1) Direct Financial Support to the PA, the financial mechanism launched in 2008 to support the PA Reform and Development Plan (2008-2010) and the subsequent Palestinian national development plans. As well as helping to meet a substantial proportion of the PA's running costs, European Union funds are supporting major reform and development programmes in key ministries to help prepare the PA for statehood. Since February 2008, over €2,21 billion have been disbursed through the PEGASE direct financial support programmes. In addition, the EU has provided assistance to the Palestinian people through UNRWA as well as a wide range of other cooperation projects.

*(1) Mécanisme **P**alestino-**E**uropéen de **G**estion de l'**A**ide **S**ocio-**E**conomique (PEGASE)*

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