Press release

10 families sign contracts with UNOPS to receive cash assistance to reconstruct their damaged homes in Gaza

Gaza **-** The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), signed contracts with the first families whose homes have been destroyed during the 2014 conflict in Gaza under the UNOPS Housing Reconstruction Project. These families are the first of over hundred to receive the first payment of cash assistance for *reconstructing their homes and reconstructing their lives*.

The primary aim of this project is to provide legal, financial and technical support to the most vulnerable internally displaced (IDPs) households who had their houses totally destroyed in the conflict. The project aims firstly, to establish and protect housing, legal and property (HLP) rights of IDPs and to promote security of tenure where necessary and then, with the provision of cash grants and technical support, to reconstruct quality and sustainable homes. UNOPS plays a support and advisory role during the construction process to ensure that quality; integrity and safety of the homes that the families will live in are to the highest standards.

UNOPS has developed an open source software platform to facilitate the processing of the assistance. The public will also be able to access this online platform to view the progress made in the reconstruction of homes throughout the life of this project.

UNOPS and the government of Germany through the German Development Bank (KfW), in partnership with the Norwegian Refugee council (NRC) and in close collaboration with the Palestinian Ministry of Public Works and Housing (MoPWH) signed an agreement in July last year, to reconstruct approximately 100 totally damaged homes.

This project aims to introduce best practices 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.

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