AGENZIA ITALIANA
PER LA COOPERAZIONE
ALLO SVILUPPO

HEALTH FOR ALL

SEDE DI GERUSALEMME

WORLD HEALTH DAY 2018
Universal health coverage: everyone, everywhere

MESSAGE FROM MS. CRISTINA NATOLI

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Italy and Palestine have a long history of cooperation in the health sector. Since the Oslo Agreements, the Italian Development Cooperation supported the Ministry of Health and the overall Palestinian health system in order to achieve the **dual goal of improving health and addressing inequalities**.

According with the strategy of the Palestinian Ministry of Health to accomplish the Universal Health Coverage (UHC), the Italian development projects covered the full spectrum of essential and quality health services, from health promotion to prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, and palliative care.

On the occasion of the World Health Day 2018, which is under the slogan/hashtag *#Healthforall*, I would like to sum-up our strong commitment to the Palestinian Health System.

As **EU Lead Donor in the health sector in Palestine**, we promote a fruitful dialogue related to public health and its policies. The Italian Agency for Development Cooperation funds projects and programmes through different intervention channels, such as bilateral, soft loans, multilateral, projects implemented by NGOs and humanitarian AID.

Currently, we are implementing the **POSIT** Programme (5,450,000 Euro, out of which 3,400,000 € directly managed by AICS and 2,050,000 € through budget support) aimed at strengthening the primary health care, tackling the chronic non-communicable diseases, developing breast cancer screening and supporting the family medicine programme. Besides the activities of training and communication in public health, a plan for development of infrastructure for primary healthcare is being developed.
In continuity with POSIT, AICS Jerusalem is also implementing **CRONO** (€ 3,000,000 Euro, out of which € 1,350,000 directly managed by AICS and € 1,650,000 through budget support), focused on primary and secondary prevention interventions in order to reduce the alarming growth of chronic diseases.

RING programme (€ 11,500,000 Euro, out of which € 4,016,000 directly managed by AICS and € 7,484,000 through budget support), which is currently starting, will reinforce our strategy with integrated actions in order to address the growing burden of non-communicable chronic diseases in Palestine. This programme also plans to strengthen the network of community mental health centers and psycho-social rehabilitation services as well as public health programs aimed at reducing inequalities and improving maternal and child health, with a specific focus on pregnancy and first two years of life of the baby ("the first one thousand days").
Furthermore, it is planned to support the construction and functioning of health facilities to respond to the needs of the population in areas with poor health infrastructure and thus reduce referrals outside the public system.

Moreover, Italy supported several Italian Universities and NGOs initiatives strengthening the provision of services in Bedouin communities, psychosocial support, nutrition, rehabilitation of facilities, prevention, diagnosis and treatments. In addition, AICS Jerusalem is financing through soft loans the construction of two new hospitals in the Hebron Governorate (Dura and Halhoul) with the aim to enhance the hospital network and reduce the medical referrals.