Press Release

UNOPS and Germany completed the reconstruction of 155 homes for families in Gaza

Gaza – 09 April 2018- The United Nations office for Project Services (UNOPS) and the Federal Republic of Germany, through its German Development Bank KfW, announce the completion of the reconstruction of 155 homes for 158 families in Gaza through the House reconstruction project.

The project aimed to help people improve their living conditions through providing them with safe, secure, quality and sustainable homes and also ensured that their legal rights are protected into the future following the destruction and displacement caused by the 2014 conflict in Gaza.

Under this Government of Germany funding, UNOPS has partnered with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and worked closely with the Palestinian Ministry of Public Works and Housing (MoPWH), to provide families with legal, technical and financial assistance to reconstruct and return to their homes.

Mr. Tokumitsu Kobayashi, Director of UNOPS Jerusalem Office highlighted "We appreciate the generous support from the people of Germany through KfW. This project exceeded typical construction support in including additional legal and financial assistance to families who lost their home during the 2014 conflict. This approach can be replicated to the future support to the people in Gaza. "

The beneficiaries of this project were non-refugees, selected among the most vulnerable affected population assessed through a clear and transparent vulnerability matrix. Particular attention has been given to women and elderly headed-households, as well as people living with disabilities. Cash grants for the purchase of construction materials were co-signed by both spouses, helping ensure property rights for women.

It is worth noting that this 18-month project, valued at EUR 5 Million, utilised an owner driven construction approach to enhance inclusion of the affected population, while ensuring through UNOPS's advisory and monitoring role for the quality, integrity and safety of the structures for the families that will live in them.

On this Occasion, Mr Bernd Kuebart, Acting Head of the German Representative Office in Ramallah, emphasized: "The project with 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. We are very proud to see the reconstructing of private homes progressing. Germany will continue its support to the people in Gaza as best as it can: bilaterally, within the EU framework or through international organisations".

UNOPS has developed a software platform to facilitate the processing of the assistance. The public has access to this online platform to view the progress made in the reconstruction of homes throughout the life of this project. Please visit Homes4Gaza.org.

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UNOPS and the Government of Germany have signed an agreement in July 2016 to join their efforts to introduce best practices in order to improve aid assistance and build on the work other Partners are already undertaking in Gaza in efforts to improve the living conditions of Palestinians there.

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