Press Release
Jerusalem
11 June 2018

The EU provides around €15 million to support families in need in Palestine

The European Union made a contribution of €15 million to the Palestinian Authority payment of social allowances to poor families in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. It will contribute to payments made to around 65,839 families of which 80% live in the Gaza Strip.

The EU's support to the Palestinian Authority cash transfer programme is a commitment to the welfare of vulnerable families in the West Bank and Gaza. The EU supports the Ministry of Social Development in serving a total of 110,000 vulnerable families through an inclusive and equitable social protection system.

*"The EU is making its contribution to Palestinian families in need to be able to provide for their rightful basic human needs," said the **EU Representative Ralph Tarraf**. "We believe that supporting vulnerable families in Palestine is fundamental to creating a strong and effective social protection system that leaves no one behind," he added.*

Background:

Most of the European Union's assistance to the Palestinian Authority (PA) is channelled through PEGASE[1] Direct Financial Support since 2008 to support the PA Reform and Development Plan (2008-2010) and the subsequent Palestinian National Development Plans. PEGASE supports the PA's recurrent expenditures, mainly the salaries and pensions of civil servants, the social allowances paid through the cash transfer programme and part of the costs of referrals to the East Jerusalem Hospitals. This has contributed to the PA's major reforms and development programmes implemented by key ministries in preparation for statehood. Since February 2008, over €2.3 billion have been disbursed through PEGASE. In addition, the EU provides assistance to the Palestinian people through UNRWA as well as through a wide range of other cooperation projects.

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