Press Release

UNOPS and Germany launch phase II of the House Reconstruction in Gaza Project



UNOPS and Germany launch phase II of the House Reconstruction in Gaza Project. From Left to right Mrs. Fatima Abbasi (UNOPS PSU manager) ,Mr. Tokumitsu Kobayashi (UNOPS Director) and Mr. Jonas Blume (Ramallah KfW Director) and Mr. Bernd Kuebart, Acting Head of the German Representative Office, Mrs. Lara Abu Shilbayeh (UNOPS Partnerships Advisor. /UNOPS 2018

Jerusalem/Gaza – 23 July 2018- The Director of the German Development Bank KfW Office in Ramallah Mr Jonas Blume, , and in presence of Mr. Bernd Kuebart, Acting Head of the German Representative Office in Ramallah and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) Jerusalem office Director Mr Tokumitsu Kobayashi signed a new agreement today to further improve the living and housing conditions for people in Gaza.

The signing of the agreement launches the start of phase II of the *House Reconstruction in Gaza* project which is aiming to reconstruct a further 345 homes with a budget of EUR 13 million. During phase I of the program (July 2016-March 2018) UNOPS in cooperation with NRC completed the reconstruction of 155 homes.

On this occasion, Mr. Bernd Kuebart, Acting Head of the German Representative Office, said: *"The project with UNOPS and NRC is part of the strong commitment by the German Government to rebuild housing and improve the living conditions in Gaza. We are very proud to start a second phase with the aim to reconstruct a further 345 homes. With*

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our funding through KfW, we aim to address the most vulnerable population in Gaza who lost their homes in the 2014 hostilities."

Throughout the new, 18-month-long project, UNOPS will provide Gazans with safe, secure, quality and sustainable homes and ensure that their legal rights are protected in the future following the destruction and displacement caused by the 2014 conflict in Gaza.

Mr Tokumitsu Kobayashi, Director of UNOPS Jerusalem Office, highlighted that *"this project inherits good practices of the phase-1. We must deliver the contribution from the German Federal Government to the most vulnerable people in Gaza in a timely and beneficiaries-oriented manner."*

The beneficiaries of this project are non-refugees, selected from the most vulnerable group of the population as assessed through a clear and transparent vulnerability matrix. Particular attention will be given to women and elderly-headed-households, as well as people living with disabilities.

Phase I of The *House Reconstruction in Gaza* project aimed to set new and improved standards in efficiency, transparency, sustainability and quality standards for owner-driven reconstruction. Phase II will replicate the same approach to enhance inclusion of the affected population through UNOPS' advisory and monitoring role for the quality, integrity and safety of the structures for the families that will live in them.

Under the agreement with KfW, UNOPS will repeat its successful partnership with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and work closely with the Palestinian Ministry of Public Works and Housing (MoPWH).

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