
PRESS RELEASE
13 July 2009

UNRWA receives US\$34 million from Kuwait for Gaza refugees

Gaza, 13 July 2009

UNRWA has received a payment of US\$34 million from Kuwait to help support refugees in Gaza still reeling from the December-January Israeli onslaught and continuing blockade.

The Amir of Kuwait, His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah, announced during the Arab Economic Summit held in Kuwait in January that Kuwait was pledging this amount to cover the entirety of UNRWA's original flash appeal issued in the first days of the emergency. Due to the severity of the assault and its reverberations UNRWA was subsequently forced to launch a second appeal which took the total amount of funds requested to \$345 million, of which only about half has been raised.

Welcoming the arrival of the funds the Commissioner-General of UNRWA, Karen Koning AbuZayd, said: "We are profoundly grateful to the Amir, government and people of Kuwait for this magnificent donation. It comes at a time when, because of the scale of the devastation and the tightness of the continuing blockade, the people of Gaza are desperate and on the border of despair. This donation will help UNRWA with its task of alleviating that suffering through the provision of food, emergency shelter, emergency medical services and cash help for the poorest. Until, however, the blockade is lifted and Gazans are allowed to breathe and redevelop their economy, the international community will have no choice but to continue to keep Gaza on a life support machine of emergency relief."

ENDS

*For more information please contact Peter Ford, Representative of the Commissioner-General
UNRWA – Amman, Jordan +962 (6) 5808 521.*