



Press Release: Sept. 9th, 2017 – Laying of Foundation Stone – Tulkarem Health Directorate

Last Sept. 9th, the foundation stone laying ceremony for the construction of the Tulkarem Health Directorate took place in the presence of HE the Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah, the Minister of Health Jawad Awwad, the Deputy Minister of Health Assad Ramlawi, the Consul General of Italy in Jerusalem, Fabio Sokolowicz and the Representative of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation Cristina Natoli.

The building of the Tulkarem Health Directorate for a total amount of 775.000,00 Euro - funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation within the Project “**POSIT: Strengthening Primary Health Care System in Palestine**” is part of the Italian commitment in Palestine to strengthen primary and secondary prevention and curative services of chronic non-communicable diseases (cardiovascular disorders, diabetes, cancers and respiratory problems) as well as their diagnosis and treatment in the public hospital system.

Italy – EU Lead Donor in the Health Sector since 2013 – is involved in Palestine with 14 Million Euro as a grant in a number of projects aimed at providing health services to the Palestinian population to tackle non-communicable diseases and strengthen the referral system to hospitals, assuring healthcare to the Bedouin communities through Mobile Clinics, providing laparoscopic surgery in Jenin, Jericho and Beit Jala; in addition to that, with 10 Million Euro as a soft loan, Italy is supporting the construction of two new hospitals in the Hebron Governorate (Halhoul and Dura) which will provide additional health services to the population.

The Consul General in Jerusalem, Fabio Sokolowicz, recalled that improving the quality of the health services and increasing the accessibility to health services and the equitable provision of care is a milestone for the Italian Commitment in the health sector, further confirmed by Italy’s role as EU Lead Donor in the sector in Palestine.

Finally, the representative of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation in Jerusalem-Cristina Natoli – mentioned that the headquarter in Rome is in the process of approving a new 11.5 Million EURO aimed at strengthening the health system in order to meet the health needs of the population, to ensure prevention and clinical management of chronic diseases in the public hospitals and to reduce the costs of the referrals abroad or outside the public health system of Palestine.



