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Press release

Germany continues to significantly support the work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA)

The German Government decided to provide two additional contributions amounting to 16 Mio Euros to work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) in Gaza and Syria. 8 Mio Euros are designated for UNRWA's food aid program and will help to provide emergency food assistance for around 700 000 Palestinian refugees in the Gaza Strip. Another 8 Mio Euros are foreseen for the UNRWA Syria crisis response program and will support 430,000 Palestine refugees in Syria with cash assistance.

The German Representative in Ramallah, Peter Beerwerth, welcomed the additional funding: "It is alarming that 80% of Gaza households are dependent on food assistance. The additional German funding of 8 million Euros will help to alleviate the plight of the Gazan people. In addition to humanitarian assistance, though, a political horizon is urgently needed for the benefit of the Gazan population."

The newly announced funding raises Germany's total support for UNRWA's food aid program in Gaza to 7.6 Mio Euros in 2018. For 2019, the additional funding increases the total German support for the food aid program to 6 Mio. The funds will help meet the urgent humanitarian needs of Palestinian refugees living in Gaza as latest figures reveal that around 80 percent of Gaza households are dependent on aid to meet basic food needs.

The Government of Germany also announced an additional contribution of 8 Mio Euros to UNRWA's cash assistance program in Syria (additional 2 Mio Euros for the program's 2018 budget and 6 Mio Euros for the 2019 budget). The contributions will support Palestinian refugees affected by the conflict in Syria.

These additional contributions further extend the significant support of the German Federal Government for the Palestinian refugees. Germany continues to support UNRWA in the fields of humanitarian assistance, employment creation, infrastructure, reconstruction and rehabilitation.

For further information, please contact:

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