

## Press Release

### The Government of Germany and UNDP Inaugurate Yabous Bookshop in East Jerusalem

**East Jerusalem, 08 March 2017** – The Federal Republic of Germany, through its German Development Bank KfW, Yabous Cultural Centre and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP/PAPP), marked the inauguration of the bookshop space at the Yabous Cultural Centre in an effort to promote social and cultural exchanges in East Jerusalem.

Peter Beerwerth, Head of the German Representative Office in Ramallah, underlined in his speech: “I hope that the Yabous Cultural Centre and the book shop in the middle of East Jerusalem will be further strengthened as a hub for cultural exchange and intellectual debate.”

The rehabilitation of the bookshop is jointly funded by Yabous Cultural Centre and the Federal Republic of Germany, through phase 10 of its employment generation programme and implemented by UNDP. The project aims at providing an environment that encourages and promotes social and cultural activities organized at the bookshop. Rehabilitation works covered a total area of approximately 265 m<sup>2</sup> including the bookshop space as well as the main and upper lobby areas. The project, which ran over a six months’ period generated approximately 200 workdays and is expected to benefit around 3000 people.

Rania Elias, Director of the Yabous Cultural Center highlighted that 2017 will mark the 22nd Anniversary of Yabous. “Our Centre takes great pride in our programme and projects, and the inauguration of the Bookshop “Dukan el Funoun- Art shop” is part of this year’s celebration. The art shop seeks to promote Palestinian artistic, literary and craft products by Palestinian young artists from different Palestinian cities and villages and work to revive the Palestinian cultural life in Jerusalem.”

Roberto Valent, UNDP Special Representative of the Administrator thanked the Government of Germany for their longstanding partnership and highlighted that the Employment Generation Programme has significantly improved people’s livelihoods and supported their resilience. “The bookshop we are opening today will not only contribute to the literary community but will also bring people together, allowing them to engage and discuss poetry and arts, and generate income through regular events,” he added.

Adnan Al Hussein, Governor of Jerusalem, highlighted the criticality of supporting the resilience of Jerusalem residents in light of the challenges they face on daily basis. He also reiterated the importance of reviving the cultural scene in Jerusalem and preserving its identity.



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The ceremony which took place on Wednesday 08 March 2017 was attended by Mr Peter Beerwerth, Permanent Representative of the Representative Office of the Federal Republic of Germany in Ramallah, Mr Adnan Al Husseini, Governor of Jerusalem, Ms Rania Elias, Director of Yabous Cultural Centre, and Mr Roberto Valent, UNDP Special Representative of the Administrator.

The Government of Germany has funded, through KfW and executed by UNDP, over 726 projects in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip through its Euro 91.9 million Employment Generation Programme (EGP), generating over 1.2 million workdays and thousands of permanent jobs. Out of these projects, 56 were implemented in East Jerusalem, with investments reaching Euro 5.8 million.

**For further information, please contact:**

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