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Press Release

## UN-HABITAT AND THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN LAUNCH URGENT EARLY RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE PROJECT IN THE GAZA STRIP TO ENHANCE RESILIENCE OF CRISIS-AFFECTED VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES THROUGH CREATING PATHWAYS OUT OF THE ONGOING ACUTE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

**Gaza, 24 June 2025** - The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) in collaboration with the Palestinian Housing Council (PHC) and with the generous financial support of the Government of Japan, has officially launched the project titled “*Urgent Early Recovery and Resilience Building Towards Reconstruction in the Gaza Strip*.” This initiative represents a vital and timely response to the devastating humanitarian conditions caused by the ongoing war in the Gaza Strip.

The project aims to support crisis-affected communities through early recovery interventions that combine emergency relief with long-term resilience strategies, implemented in close coordination with national counterparts, including the Ministry of Local Government, the Ministry of Public Works and Housing, and targeted municipalities. Through a participatory, area-based approach, the project empowers communities to lead planning and recovery efforts, ensuring interventions reflect local needs and priorities.

The Gaza Strip has experienced unprecedented devastation, with over 1.9 million internally displaced persons and extensive damages to homes, public infrastructure, and critical services. This reflects a worsening humanitarian crisis, as many displaced persons now face major Housing, Land, and Property (HLP) challenges.

In response, the newly launched project, through working closely with national and local authorities and communities, will:

- Develop Urban Profiles and Neighbourhood Action Plans for two affected areas;
- Rehabilitate socio-economic infrastructure such as water, electricity, and public spaces;



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- Support the self-help rehabilitation of 25 partially damaged houses;
- Launch an HLP rights awareness campaign for vulnerable communities, especially women.

The project will benefit approximately 20,000 individuals across two neighbourhoods, while also enhancing the capacity of municipalities to lead an inclusive and resilient recovery.

“This project reflects our shared commitment with the Government of Japan to respond to urgent needs on the ground while building a more resilient and inclusive future for Gaza,” said Zeyad Elshakra, Head of Country Programme, UN-Habitat Palestine. “By combining humanitarian assistance with participatory urban recovery planning, we are not only supporting immediate relief efforts but also helping to pave the way for sustainable reconstruction.”

Ambassador for Palestinian Affairs and Representative of Japan to Palestine Mr. ARAIKE Katsuhiko stated: “Japan remains deeply committed to supporting the people of Gaza during this critical time. Through our partnership with UN-Habitat, we seek not only to address urgent humanitarian needs but also to promote long-term recovery and resilience. We believe that restoring dignity, rebuilding communities, and laying the foundations for peace are essential steps toward a more stable and hopeful future.”

The project reflects the shared commitment of UN-Habitat and the Government of Japan to promoting peace-building through the promotion of social and economic independence and improving people's livelihoods based on Human Security.

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