

Press Release: July 29th, 2017 – Laying of Foundation Stone - Qalqilya Hospital

On July 29th, a foundation stone laying ceremony for the expansion of the Qalqilya Hospital 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 Governor of Qalqilya Rafe' Rawajbeh, the Deputy Consul General of Italy in Jerusalem, Luigi Mattiolo and the Health Coordinator at the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, Sandro Accorsi.

The expansion of the Qalqilya Hospital for a total amount of 350.000,00 Euro - funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation within the Project “CRONO: Tackling noncommunicable diseases in Palestine”- is part of the Italian commitment in Palestine to strengthen primary and secondary prevention services of chronic non-communicable diseases (cardiovascular disorders, diabetes, tumors 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 noncommunicable 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 Deputy Consul General in Jerusalem, Luigi Mattiolo, recalled that strengthening the referral system and providing hospital services is an important key feature to address the health needs of the population, ensure clinical management of chronic diseases in the public hospitals and reduce the costs of the referrals abroad or outside the public health system of Palestine. He concluded that Italy will be working together with the Ministry of Health in order to contribute to the development of the public health system in Palestine and to support the National Health Strategy 2017-2022.