

# *UN Halts Gaza Reconstruction Works as Donors Renege on Vows*

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United Nations, January 29 (RHC)-- The United Nations has stopped rebuilding of homes in the war-ravaged Gaza Strip amid freezing temperatures, citing lack of fund from pledged donors.

"The agency has exhausted all funding to support repairs and rental subsidies," according to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). The statement added that "\$5.4 billion was pledged at the Cairo (aid) conference last October and virtually none of it has reached Gaza. This is distressing and unacceptable."

International aid agencies had already cautioned that the displaced victims of Israel's 50-day war are badly affected by severe weather conditions. Earlier this month, four babies, including one as young as a month old, died due to severe cold weather in the besieged Gaza Strip.

About 1,500 buildings and structures were demolished during the Israeli offensive, which started in early July 2014 and ended in late August that year. Over 2,140 Palestinians, including 577 children, were killed in the Israeli onslaught. Over 11,100 others, including 3,374 children, 2,088 women and 410 elderly people, were also injured.

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