Hospitals in Gaza with no power, water or supplies cannot save lives - UNOPS Executive Director

Jorge Moreira da Silva also condemned the attacks by Hamas on Israeli civilians “in the most emphatic terms”

The comments were made in Berlin, Germany during the high-level panel discussion on “Fostering Health System Resilience in Fragile and Conflict-Affected Countries”, hosted by UNOPS and WHO at the World Health Summit on Monday, 16 October 2023.

The session gathered leaders of international organizations (UNOPS, WHO and IFRC) and government officials (Ministers of Health, Yemen and Democratic Republic of the Congo) to deep dive into the challenges faced by health systems in fragile settings, and help explain the types of practical solutions that could be scaled up to provide better access to health for vulnerable populations in such settings. At the opening of the session, the moderator asked Mr Moreira da Silva about the situation in Gaza.

**Jorge Moreira da Silva, UNOPS Executive Director, said:**

“Many of us, including my colleague [WHO Director-General] Tedros, have been following closely what has been happening to the population in Gaza.

“I condemn, in the most emphatic terms, the attack that affected civilians in Israel. But let’s make no mistake, the civilian population in Gaza cannot pay the price of Hamas’ brutality.

“It is very important, as the Secretary-General has been saying, first [the] need to release hostages. We have to reverse the order to evacuate civilians in Gaza because it is impossible to do without dramatically affecting the security and wellbeing of the citizens there.

“It’s important that international humanitarian law is fulfilled in all its terms. It is fundamental that the humanitarian corridors are open to ensure that water, food, fuel and
medical supplies can be provided. As the Secretary-General said, we have all this ready. In a few hours we can release all of this. Let’s open the corridors.”

**Speaking about his colleagues and ongoing projects in Gaza, Mr Moreira da Silva said:**
“All my thoughts are with the populations that are being affected, and to my colleagues who are there providing all the support they can - but they are also under huge insecurity.

“They were also asked to move...they are in the middle of the bombing. They went to a safer place with the population, but they are heartbroken because they still want to support the population.

“All our projects have been suspended. I hope that we can restart at the soonest, but we can only restart when the security and safety can be provided.

“The situation is alarming. What can happen in the next hours, can affect the next decades. I still hope the situation will be reversed and that the people, and the children, can be protected.”

**ENDS**
Notes to the editors:

For more information please contact Tom Collins: tomco@unops.org.

About UNOPS work in Gaza

UNOPS has worked for many years in Gaza to promote sustainable development collaboration with the donor community, UN organizations and non-governmental organisations, among others.

About UNOPS

UNOPS mission is to help people build better lives and countries achieve peace and sustainable development. We help the United Nations, governments and other partners to manage projects, and deliver sustainable infrastructure and procurement in an efficient way. Read more: www.unops.org