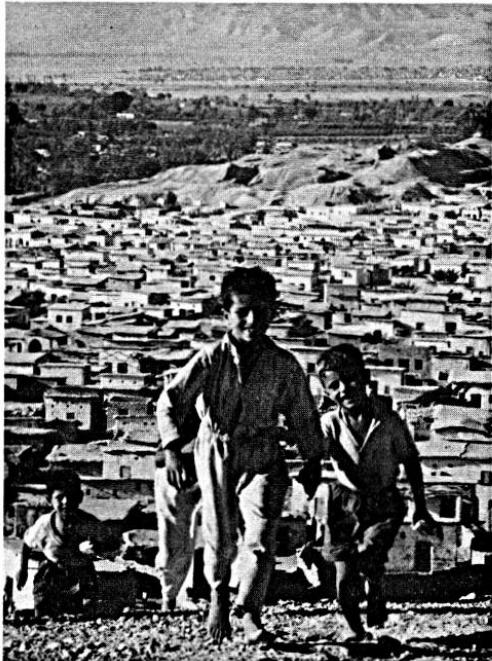


PALESTINE REFUGEES TODAY

AN UNRWA NEWSLETTER • OCT. 1966 • NO. 50





Against a background of one of the largest refugee camps in the Middle East, these Palestine refugee children play on the rocky slopes of the Mount of Temptation, which overlooks the camp and the ancient city of Jericho in Jordan. The camp is Ein Sultan refugee camp -- a vast sea of tiny mud-brick huts that shelters 19,000 refugees. Behind the camp can be seen the excavations that have uncovered the remains of the massive walls of Biblical Jericho. These children, unburdened as yet by the cares and frustrations of refugee existence, have the natural gaiety of youth. But for them, and for the half a million refugees under 18 years of age -- what does the future hold?

A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSIONER-GENERAL OF UNRWA

For the past 18 years, hundreds of thousands of Palestine Arab refugees have depended for their existence on international aid. It is UNRWA's task to channel this aid to the refugees: shelter and food rations for many of them, health care for the sick, hardship assistance to those in special need and education and vocational training for their children.

As the refugees depend on UNRWA, so the Agency depends in turn on the generosity of the international community, for the work of UNRWA is financed entirely by voluntary contributions. Governments provide the bulk of the income, but UNRWA also relies greatly on donations from voluntary organizations and individuals. Special fund-raising campaigns have also been invaluable. World Refugee Year funds, for instance, enabled UNRWA to expand greatly its vocational training programme.

Now, however, UNRWA finds itself in a critical financial situation. The needs of the refugees, many of them urgent, remain as great as ever. Vocational training centres established with special donations must now be operated from UNRWA's regular funds. Education must be given each year to an increasing number of children. Health facilities, many of them set up in temporary premises a decade ago, urgently need replacing. New shelters are needed for refugees presently living in deplorable conditions. But without sufficient funds, these needs cannot be met.

This edition of the UNRWA Newsletter lists some of the projects for which funds are urgently needed. Without special contributions few of these projects can be undertaken. Voluntary organizations and individuals have in the past rendered invaluable help to the refugees by "adopting" specific projects such as these. It is our hope that such assistance will continue, enabling UNRWA to execute these projects to assist needy Arab refugees.

Laurence Michelmore

UNRWA AND THE PALESTINE REFUGEES

As a result of the conflict in the Holy Land in 1948, hundreds of thousands of Arabs fled from the territory that is now Israel and became refugees. Most of them found shelter in the neighbouring countries of Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic, and in the Gaza Strip, the so-called "host" countries.

When they fled in 1948, most of the refugees believed that they would soon be able to return to their homes. Many took with them only the clothes on their backs and a few treasured belongings. But they never returned. Over the years, their numbers have grown by natural increase, and today there are more than 1,300,000 refugees registered with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), the agency created by the United Nations General Assembly to channel assistance to the refugees.

For the past 18 years, most of the refugees and their children, who are also regarded as refugees, have depended for the necessities of life on international charity, administered since 1950 by UNRWA.

Sixty-nine per cent of the refugees receive basic food rations from UNRWA, providing only a minimum diet; supplementary feeding is given to many children and others vulnerable to malnutrition. More than half a million of the refugees are sheltered in UNRWA's 54 refugee camps. Special assistance is given to those in extreme hardship, including some handicapped refugees. A health service has prevented serious epidemics and provides basic medical care for the refugees.

With half of the refugees below the

age of 18, education is vital, for it is their lifeline to a future of usefulness and self-respect. In cooperation with UNESCO, UNRWA presently provides general education for more than 230,000 refugee children, offers university scholarships to a few of the most gifted, and gives vocational training to a number of young men and women.

The assistance that UNRWA provides is, with the exception of education, at a bare minimum. This is evident from the fact that the entire range of aid is provided at an average cost of about 10 cents (or 9d.) per refugee per day - roughly five cents for relief services, four cents for education and one cent for health services.

The pattern and level of the Agency's services have been set first by the concept of minimal, temporary relief, such as was given to the refugees in the emergency immediately following their exodus from Palestine, and later by the limited funds available to UNRWA. As the Commissioner-General has reported to the United Nations General Assembly: "It should not be presumed that the existing UNRWA services correspond to and cover all the real needs of the refugees. Inevitably, there are many services and forms of assistance which UNRWA could usefully have provided for the benefit of the refugees but which it has been unable to undertake owing to lack of funds; and of the services it does provide, there are many which, for financial reasons, the Agency has been compelled to restrict to a minimal level."

The Commissioner-General added: "It is clear that a large part of the refugee community is still living today in dire poverty, often under pathetic and in some cases appalling conditions."



On the following pages are described a number of specific projects for which UNRWA urgently needs funds. The list is by no means exhaustive, and only gives details of what UNRWA considers as priority projects. If funds are not forthcoming, UNRWA may not be able to carry out these projects. It is hoped that these project descriptions, with the cost figures, will assist voluntary organizations and individuals concerned over the plight of the Palestine refugees in determining how help can most effectively be given. In each case, UNRWA will furnish regular progress reports and photographs to donors "adopting" individual projects. Further information on these and on other projects may be obtained from the addresses on the last page of this Newsletter.

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

Education is a vital aspect of UNRWA's assistance to the refugees, for on it rests the young generation's main hope for the future. The Agency's education programme, conducted jointly with UNESCO, included the operation of 431 schools during the 1965-66 academic year, with an enrolment of some 170,000 students. Every year, the number of children seeking education increases, and the Agency is hard-pressed to find room for them all.

In the past UNRWA has built 240 primary schools, but a lack of funds has prevented much school construction in recent years. To accommodate the increasing enrolment, UNRWA has had to resort to "double-shifting" for certain grades, and to operating schools in rented premises. These premises are often unsuitable for use as schools, and usually result in overcrowded classrooms and inadequate facilities. The renting of premises is also uneconomical in the long run.

UNRWA is therefore seeking funds to build new schools, which will both cut costs and improve the education offered to refugee children. Like the existing UNRWA-UNESCO schools, the new buildings would be designed and built to provide adequate facilities and accommodation at the minimum cost, using locally available material as far as possible.

Many new schools are needed. Two examples, both to move children from rented premises, are given below:

1. Tiberias Boys' School, in Quneitre, southern Syria. If funds are available, UNRWA will build a new school with nine classrooms, and two administrative and two handicraft rooms, to accommodate 450 refugee boys.

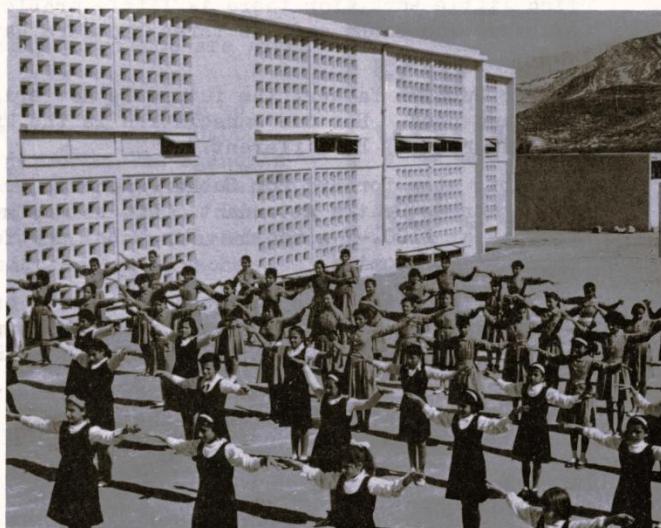
THE COST \$21,000 (£7,500)

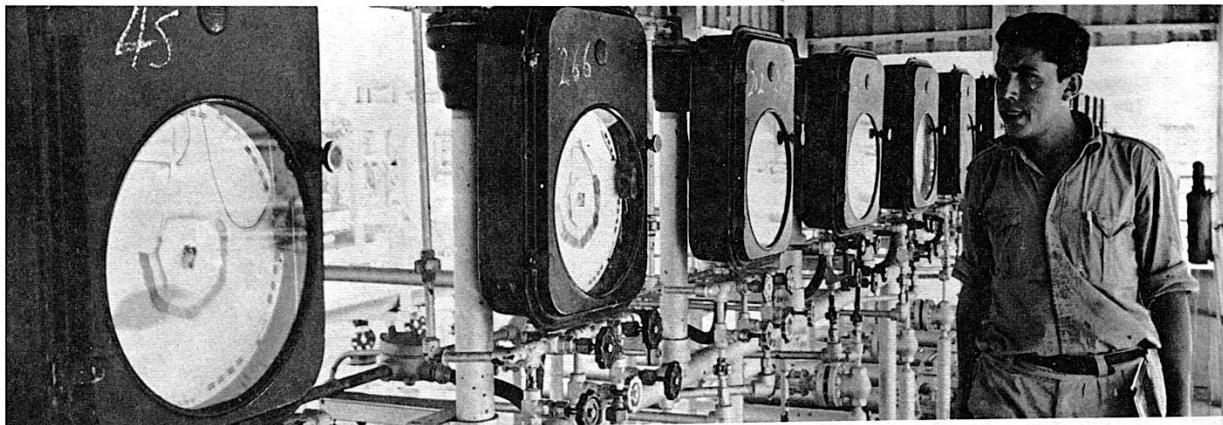
2. Yarmouk Girls' School, also in Quneitre. The proposed new school for 200 refugee girls will include five classrooms and one administrative room.

THE COST \$11,000 (£3,900)



Although most UNRWA-UNESCO schools provide adequate accommodation and facilities, there are still many overcrowded classrooms, such as the one pictured above in the Gaza Strip. RIGHT: A new school built by UNRWA near Tripoli, Lebanon. Though modern in design, UNRWA's new schools are built as economically as possible.





PASSPORT TO THE FUTURE

The burning desert of Kuwait, one of the hottest regions on earth, is a far cry from the cool hills surrounding the little town of Bethlehem in Jordan.

But it is a welcome change for Subhi Mohaizin. For the thousands of Palestine refugees in Bethlehem itself and in the nearby refugee camp that Subhi left behind, life holds little but poverty and frustration. The desert, on the other hand, holds oil and opportunity.

Subhi, 24, works for the Kuwait Oil Company at one of its gathering centres, to which crude oil and natural gas are pumped from surrounding wells. It is part of Subhi's job to check the vital gauges that record the flow and pressure of the oil and gas.

Subhi is working to build the foundations of not one, but two new lives. For he has a deal with his younger brother, Mahmoud. Every month, Subhi sends half of his monthly salary of 47 Kuwaiti Dinars (about \$130.- or £47.-) to Mahmoud, to finance his university studies in Yugoslavia. In five years, Mahmoud will graduate. Then it will be Subhi's turn to go to university, with Mahmoud's help. Subhi hopes to be an engineer and would like to study at the University of Cairo.

Subhi also sends money to his family, who still live in the little hut in UNRWA's Deheisheh refugee camp near Bethlehem -- the camp that has been "home" to Subhi for almost as long as he can remember. He was only six when his family fled from the fighting in Palestine, leaving behind their home and the small farm that had provided their livelihood. Since then, Subhi's father has been able to find little work, for there is little arable land in Jordan. The family has existed, and Subhi and his three brothers have been brought up, only with UNRWA's aid.

For Subhi's father, the future is not bright, for he faces continued unemployment and need. His one consolation is the knowledge that for two of his sons the future will be different.

A big step forward for Subhi came this autumn. He was promoted from trainee to Gathering Centre Attendant. His salary more than doubled to 100 dinars (\$280.- or £100.-) a month. For Subhi and for his brother Mahmoud, the future holds great promise.

Subhi Mohaizin owes his good fortune to one thing: the training he received at an UNRWA vocational training centre. He graduated from Wadi Seer Vocational Training Centre in Jordan in 1962 as a skilled diesel plant site mechanic.

As for hundreds of young refugee men and women, the UNRWA vocational training diploma is Subhi's passport to the future.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

The story of Subhi Mohaizin reflects the significance of UNRWA's vocational training programme. Subhi knows what it means to have the opportunity to learn a trade, to work and to earn a living with his own hands. And so do many other young refugees:

- In the vital oil industry in the Persian Gulf, many hundreds of UNRWA graduates are at work: welders, machinists, radio mechanics, clerks, carpenters and other skilled craftsmen.
- Mary Awad, an attractive young typist, works at the Head Office in Beirut of one of the largest Arab banks - one of the many graduates of UNRWA's Ramallah Women's Training Centre.
- Many UNRWA graduates have made valuable contributions to important development projects in the Arab world. Khalil Homsi, for instance, was one of a number of graduates who worked on Jordan's East Ghor Canal irrigation project.

Each year about 1,500 refugees graduate from UNRWA's 10 training centres equipped with skills needed in the Arab world. Some 7,500 young men and women have passed through the training centres since the first centre opened in 1954. So much needed are trained workers in some fields that a number of classes have been engaged even before completing their courses. One class of instrument mechanics received their diplomas and was flown down to the Gulf by an oil company shortly afterwards.

Many of these young refugees owe their new lives not only to UNRWA's training programme, but also to organizations and individuals who have "adopted" them during the period of their training. The adoption is made through UNRWA's Vocational Training Scholarship Programme, under which entire classes or individual trainees may be sponsored by donors who provide scholarships. In the present critical financial situation, UNRWA and the young refugees desperately need further support in the form of scholarships. Full details on the scholarship programme are given on page 11.

UNRWA puts great emphasis on vocational training to ensure a chance in life for at least some of the 30,000 young refugees who become adults each year. The Agency's 10 centres offer a variety of courses, ranging from welding and radio mechanics to draughting and office work. The largest centre is for girls, giving training in courses such as office work, dressmaking, hairdressing, teacher training and kindergarten teaching.

The value of the training programme is best illustrated by the graduates themselves

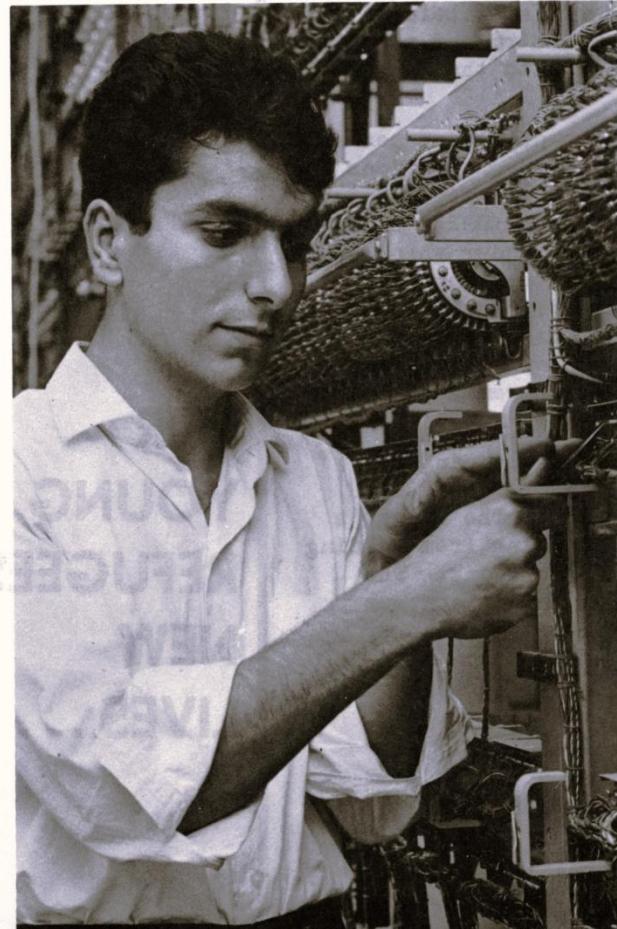
FOR
YOUNG
REFUGEES,
NEW
LIVES . . .



— DAVID GOLDBECK
PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID GOLDBECK

GEORGE SAAD

George Saad completed the telecommunications course at UNRWA's Wadi Seer Vocational Training Centre in Jordan in 1964. The small picture shows him as a student at the centre. Following graduation, he was hired by the Jordanian Government to work in the new automatic telephone exchange in Jerusalem (below).





LIBEBEH NASHASHIBI

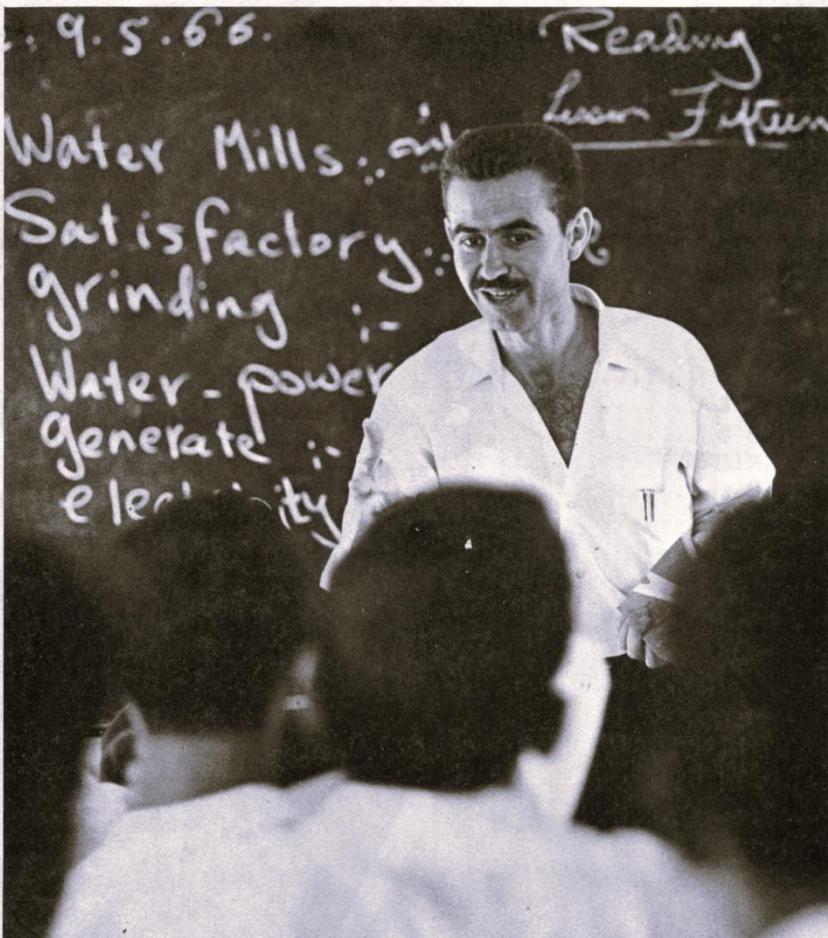
Libebeh Nashashibi is one of three graduates of UNRWA's Ramallah Women's Training Centre who work in the computer control section of the Kuwait Oil Company. A fourth refugee girl in the same office was trained in the YMCA training school in Jordan. The three Ramallah graduates all followed the secretarial course. The bottom picture shows Libebeh in a typing class while still at Ramallah.



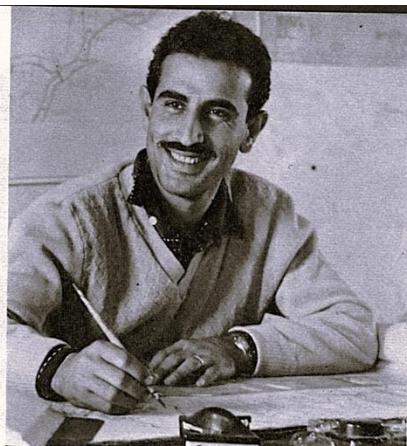
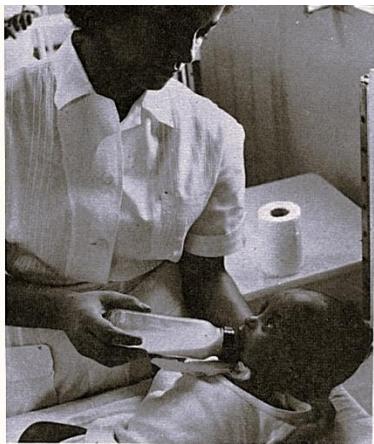


AHMED DAHSHEH

Ahmed Dahsheh was one of the first graduates from UNRWA's Siblin Technical and Teacher Training Institute in Lebanon in 1965. He is seen above with some of his fellow-graduates from the teacher-training course shortly after receiving his diploma at the graduation ceremony. Ahmed now works as a teacher in a Government school in Bahrain in the Persian Gulf (below). From his salary, he sends money regularly to help his family, who live near Sidon.



AND THERE ARE OTHERS . . .



UNRWA GRADUATES AT WORK

Graduates of UNRWA's training centres are putting their skills to use throughout the Arab world. Those pictured here are working in Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon and Qatar. Below: a graduate in Sweden during a year of on-the-job training.



THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

Many hundreds of young refugee men and women have been able to receive training only with the help of donors who have provided scholarships to finance their training. Governments, voluntary organizations and individuals have responded generously. But the need for further contributions to the scholarship programme is ever-present, for each year there are new trainees to be "adopted" as they enrol in the training centres.

Most of the courses are of two years' duration. The amount of a two-year scholarship is \$1,000 (£360) or \$500 (£180) per trainee per year. This covers instruction, classroom and workshop supplies, board and lodging and other incidental expenses.

A photograph and personal particulars of each "adopted" trainee are sent to his or her sponsor, who also receives periodic progress reports and, following graduation, information about the employment obtained. Where entire classes are sponsored, plaques are placed prominently in the classroom or workshop, so that both trainees and visitors to the centre may be informed of the name of the donor.

THE COST TO SPONSOR:

ONE TRAINEE FOR ONE YEAR	\$ 500 (£ 180)
ONE TRAINEE FOR TWO YEARS	\$ 1,000 (£ 360)
A CLASS OF 12 FOR ONE YEAR	\$ 6,000 (£2,140)
A CLASS OF 12 FOR TWO YEARS	\$12,000 (£4,280)
A CLASS OF 16 FOR ONE YEAR	\$ 8,000 (£2,880)
A CLASS OF 16 FOR TWO YEARS	\$16,000 (£5,760)
A CLASS OF 26 FOR ONE YEAR	\$13,000 (£4,640)
A CLASS OF 26 FOR TWO YEARS	\$26,000 (£9,280)

UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS

UNRWA has for some years given scholarships to gifted refugee students to enable them to attend Middle East universities. However, this has done little to alleviate the Agency's shortage of qualified preparatory school teachers, because most graduates are in the fields of medicine or engineering, and the majority have sought employment outside the Agency in areas where salaries are higher.

If funds become available, UNRWA now proposes to link its university scholarship programme more closely to its need for teachers by offering "closed" scholarships, the recipients of which would follow courses qualifying them as teachers, and would be obliged to work for UNRWA for a stated period after graduation. These "closed" scholarships would be of two kinds:

1. Three or four-year courses leading to a B.Sc. degree in mathematics or science, combined with teacher training. Provided suitable candidates are found, half of these scholarships would be awarded to girls.

THE COST FOR A COMPLETE COURSE \$2,750 (£980)

2. One-year post-graduate scholarships leading to a diploma or post-graduate certificate in education. Open to young men and women.

THE COST FOR EACH STUDENT \$750 (£270)

It is hoped that funds will be available to provide a number of scholarships in each category.

THE TOTAL COST OF 10 SCHOLARSHIPS IN EACH CATEGORY... \$35,000 (£12,500)

HOME ECONOMICS TRAINING

The teaching of home management and child care was introduced in UNRWA girls' schools in the Gaza Strip in 1964, thanks to a special donation from the Government of Sweden. At each of the 16 preparatory schools for girls, special units were constructed and equipped, each comprising two rooms for sewing, cooking and other instruction, and one storage room. The tuition includes home economics, sewing, cooking, nutrition, biology, hygiene and child care. Some 8,000 refugee girls are receiving this instruction during the present academic year.

To accommodate the increasing enrolment, another 10 home economics units are now needed.

THE COST OF CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT FOR ONE UNIT \$5,000 (£1,785)

THE COST OF CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT FOR 10 UNITS \$50,000 (£17,850)

Halima Hallak (centre) is one of the 8,000 refugee girls in the Gaza Strip benefiting from UNRWA's home economics programme. Halima, 13 years old, is seen in the picture in a cooking class in the home economics unit at UNRWA's school in Jabalia refugee camp. Halima and her classmates are taught the elements of nutrition, and learn to prepare nourishing meals by making the best use of available foods. Halima's mother, has already learned a thing or two from her daughter.



NEW HEALTH CENTRES

In the state of emergency that existed at the beginning of the refugee problem in 1948, health centres were established wherever space was available. Many were set up in disused premises or in hastily-built mud-brick buildings. UNRWA has replaced some of these unsatisfactory clinics as funds have permitted, but in a number of refugee camps, doctors and nurses are still trying to treat refugee patients in clinics that are dark, crowded, with leaking roofs and difficult to keep adequately clean. To maintain even basic medical services, the replacement of these old buildings is essential. Most urgently in need of replacement are these three clinics:

1. The health centre in Karameh refugee camp, an isolated camp on the bank of the River Jordan. The centre, which services 21,000 refugees in the camp and 8,000 living in nearby villages, is presently housed in an old building that is too small, unsuitable in design for use as a health centre, and is difficult to maintain and keep clean. A new building is needed to house the general clinic, where sick refugees receive medical treatment, and the maternal and child health clinic, which provides regular check-ups and routine immunizations for pregnant women, and new mothers and their children.

THE COST \$21,000 (£7,500)

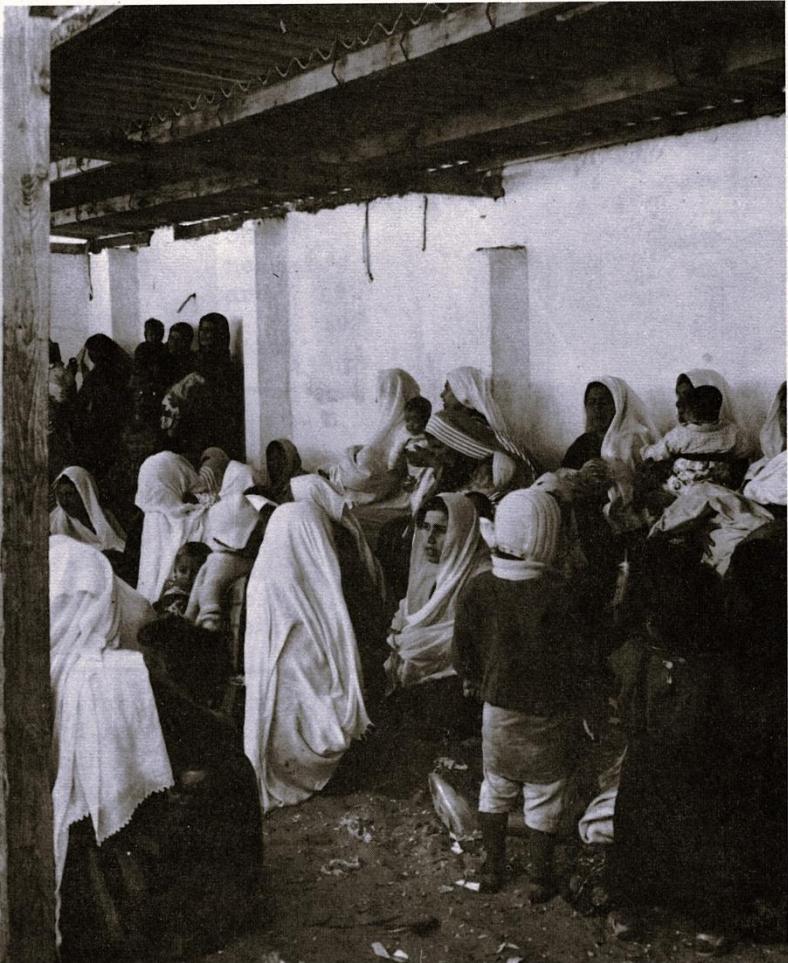
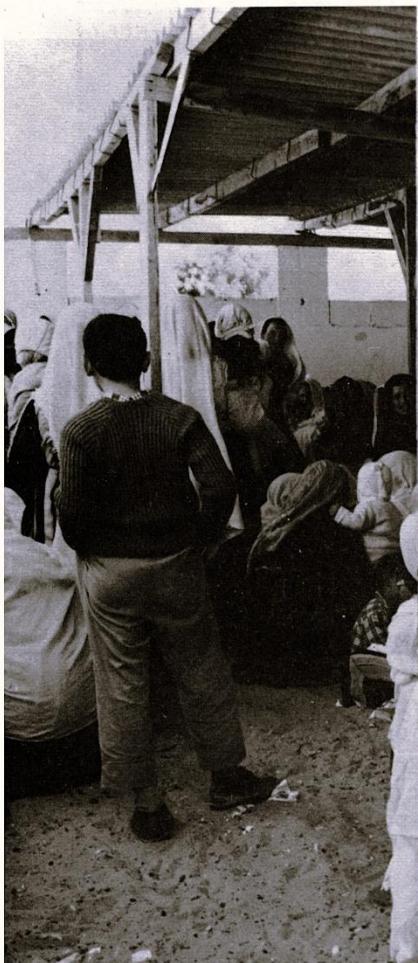
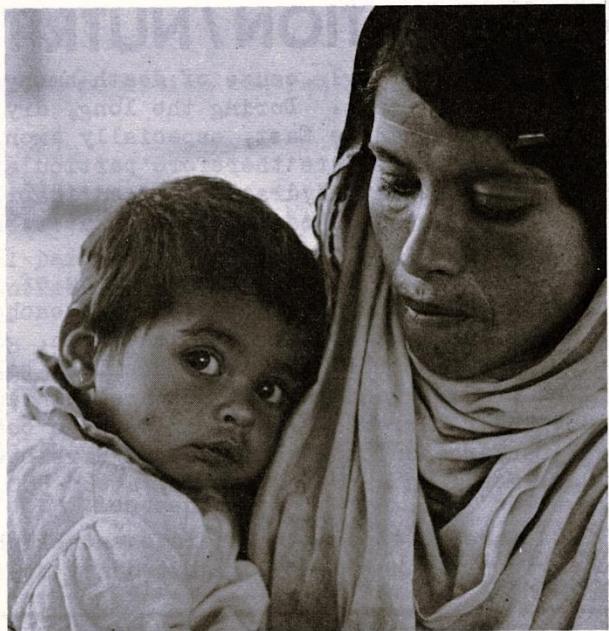
2. The health centre at Jalazone camp, Jordan, serves 10,000 refugees, half of them in the camp and half in the surrounding area. Like the Karameh clinic, it includes a general medical clinic and a maternal and child health clinic. The present clinic was built 13 years ago, and is now too small and in too bad condition to provide adequate care. New premises are needed to house the clinic.

THE COST \$9,000 (£3,210)

3. The health centre in Rafah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip serves 45,000 refugees in the camp — the largest organized refugee camp in the world — and another 10,000 living outside. In addition to a general clinic and maternal and child health section, it includes a 14-bed maternity ward. The present clinic is housed in a pre-fabricated building. The roof, in spite of constant mending, is almost beyond repair and leaks badly. The building as a whole is too small and too dark, particularly the delivery room and the maternal and child health section. A new health centre is desperately needed.

THE COST \$44,000 (£15,710)

Health care is vital, for there is an ever-present danger of epidemics in the crowded refugee camps. UNRWA's health programme is conducted mainly through clinics and mobile health teams that provide services in more than 120 locations. RIGHT: A refugee mother brings her baby to a clinic for a regular check-up. However, many of the clinics, particularly the older ones, are in urgent need of replacement. The picture below shows refugee women and children squatting in the sand waiting their turn at an UNRWA clinic in the Gaza Strip, for the small waiting-room cannot accommodate all those that come.





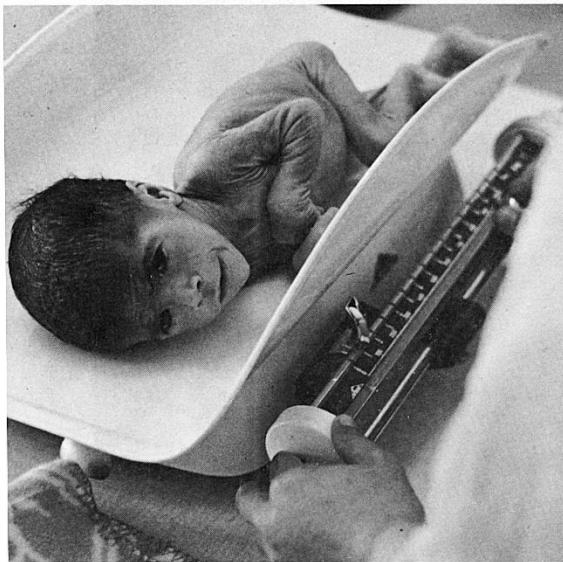
REHYDRATION/NUTRITION CENTRES

The greatest single cause of death among refugee infants is gastro-enteritis and related ailments. During the long, dry summers, gastro-enteritis is common throughout the Middle East, especially among the poorer sections of the community. The refugees are therefore particularly vulnerable. Severe diarrhea and vomiting result in dehydration and an inability to retain any food or fluids. The result if serious cases are untreated: severe malnutrition and often death.

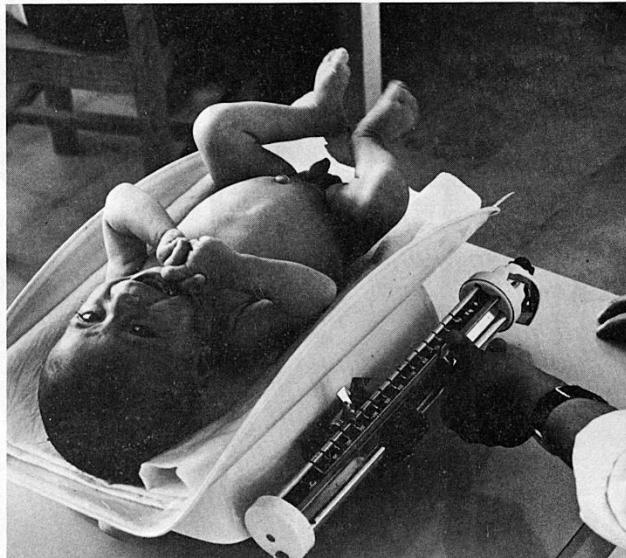
In 1961, UNRWA introduced a new form of treatment, in which the babies are brought to a simple out-patient centre each day to receive drugs to overcome the infection, and a salt solution which, given in very small doses, helps to restore the disturbed fluid and chemical balance of the baby. A special menu is also provided and the mothers are both advised on home treatment and taught to prevent recurrence. The results have been so encouraging that a number of other rehydration/nutrition centres have been established and are saving many young lives. In a 20-bed centre, about 500 cases can be treated in a year.

Funds are now needed to operate established centres, to replace one unsatisfactory centre and to establish two new centres.

BEFORE TREATMENT



AND AFTER



These two photographs were taken five months apart. They show Muhammed Suliman Ali, a refugee baby whose family live in the Gaza Strip, on admission to the UNRWA rehydration/nutrition centre (left) and on discharge. When he was admitted, Muhammed was seven months old, and weighed just over four pounds -- less than at birth. When discharged, he weighed more than 12 pounds.

Operation of established centres.

The cost of operating the rehydration/nutrition centres varies from area to area, but average expenses are:

TO OPERATE A FIVE-BED CENTRE FOR ONE YEAR	\$1,300 (£465)
TO OPERATE A TEN-BED CENTRE FOR ONE YEAR	\$4,400 (£1,570)
TO OPERATE A TWENTY-BED CENTRE FOR ONE YEAR	\$5,700 (£2,035)

(Five-bed centres form an integral part of existing health units, and use the unit's staff. Ten and 20-bed centres require additional staff and are thus seemingly more expensive to operate).

Replacement of an unsatisfactory centre.

The present rehydration/nutrition centre in Yarmouk (Syria) is located in three small rooms of the Agency's health centre. The accommodation is unsatisfactory and the rooms are needed by the health centre. Funds permitting, UNRWA proposes to build a new rehydration/nutrition centre.

THE COST OF CONSTRUCTION	\$6,000 (£2,140)
THE COST OF ONE YEAR'S OPERATION	\$3,500 (£1,250)

Establishment of new centres.

1. A rehydration/nutrition centre is urgently needed in Jebel Hussein refugee camp (population 20,000) near Amman, the capital of Jordan. The children's wards in local hospitals are already full. The establishment of a 10-bed centre would ease the pressure on the hospitals and ensure faster treatment of sick infants.

THE COST OF CONSTRUCTION	\$6,500 (£2,320)
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2. In Nuweimeh refugee camp in the Jordan Valley (the lowest spot on the surface of the earth, at more than 1,000 feet below sea level), the heat is intense in the summer and autumn, and consequently the incidence of gastro-enteritis is high. A 10-bed centre is needed to serve the camp (population 8,000) and the 4,000 refugees living nearby.

THE COST OF CONSTRUCTION	\$6,500 (£2,320)
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FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THESE OR OTHER PROJECTS
MAY BE OBTAINED FROM:

UNRWA Liaison Office,
United Nations,
New York, N.Y.,
United States.

UNRWA Headquarters,
Museitbeh Quarter,
Beirut,
Lebanon.

NOTE: Two editions of the UNRWA Newsletter are printed, one in New York and the other in Beirut. To make the numbering of the two editions uniform, this issue is called No. 50. There was no No. 49 in the New York edition.

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