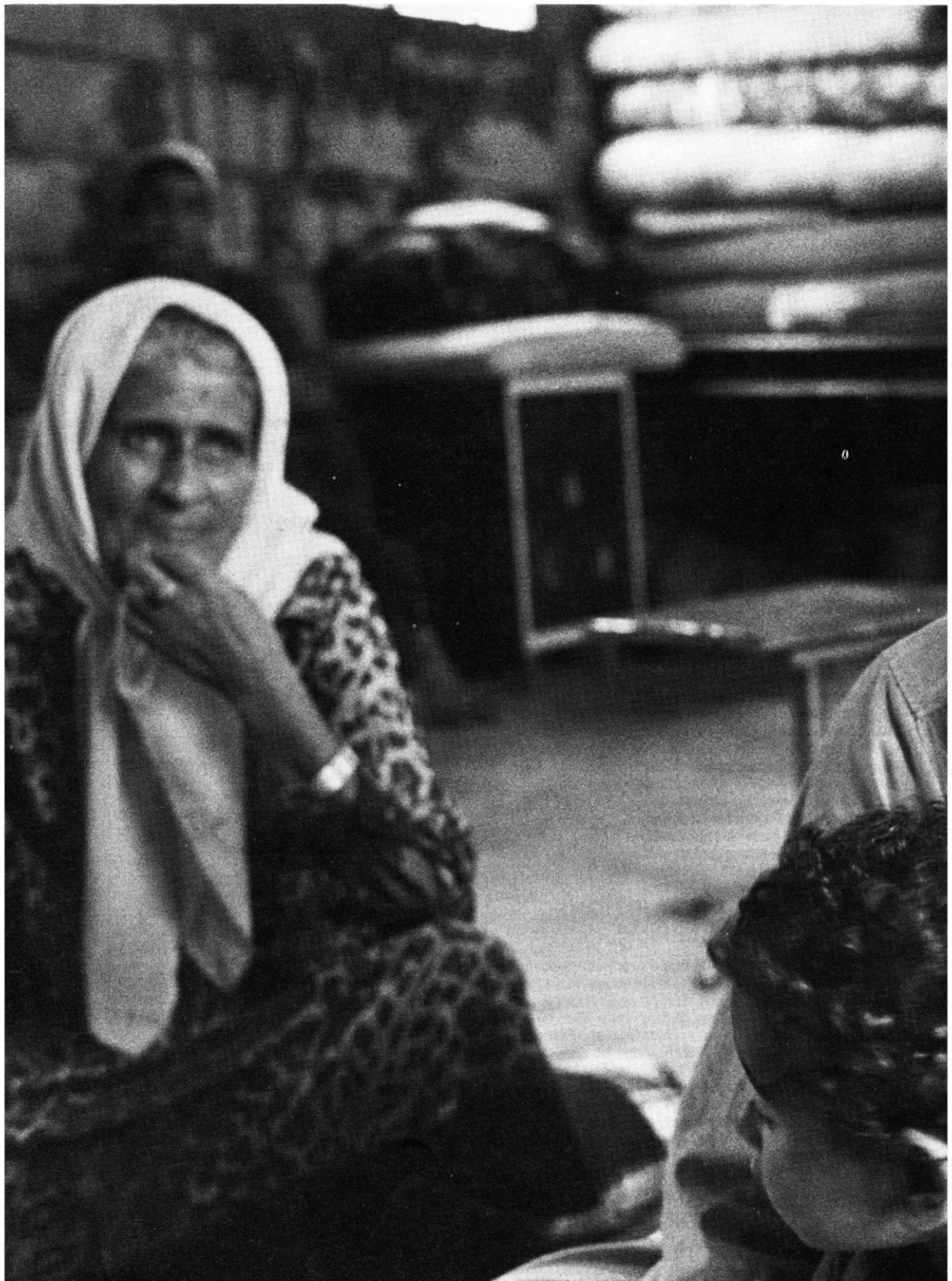


**Palestine
Refugees
Today**

No. 104





**1 Lebanon
Update**

The safety of Palestine refugees living in Lebanon has been a major anxiety; a \$ 13 million appeal for the next phase of reconstruction has been made and Siblin Training Centre students help in repairs.

**2 Keeping up
morale**

Diana Lacey has been working with UNRWA in south Lebanon since the summer of 1982 in restoring health services for refugees. She discusses her role and the problems.

**4 Palestinian
artist**

Salah Al Attrash is a teacher but painting is his major interest. A photo story shows his life in Jerusalem.

**6 Improving
health
services**

UNRWA is expanding its dental care for refugees and introducing a new school health programme this autumn. The emphasis is on prevention.

Cover photo: He has rebuilt his home from the bombed out ruins of Ein el Hilweh in the summer of 1982 but his future remains uncertain. The wives and children of two sons in Ansar prison camp and the rest of his family share this small dwelling – a total of 18 persons. His wife is unwell, needing a disc operation and he has no steady job, earning a little by selling second-hand furniture.



Newsletter No. 104
October 1983

Published by UNRWA Headquarters,
Vienna Austria

Available in English, French, German, Japanese, Spanish and Arabic.

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United Nations Relief and Works Agency
for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

Palestine Refugees Today

Lebanon Update

Security of Palestine refugees in Lebanon has continued to be one of UNRWA's major concerns.

Following an upsurge of incidents, including several refugee deaths and attacks on UNRWA staff members, Commissioner-General Olof Rydbeck again called on Israel as the occupying power in south Lebanon to ensure the safety of refugees in the area under its control. During the month of June, Mr. Rydbeck made two such appeals.

In late July, Mr. Rydbeck issued a statement pointing out the danger to refugees in the Beqa'a Valley and Tripoli areas of Lebanon. This was as a result of factional clashes in the Beqa'a area and reports of additional military forces building up in and around refugee camps near Tripoli. If clashes occurred, said Mr. Rydbeck, casualties among civilians would be inevitable.

There are more than 30,000 Palestine refugees registered with the Agency in Tripoli and 9,800 in the Beqa'a Valley, plus several thousand refugees who fled from south Lebanon in the summer of 1982 to these areas.

Assistance to refugees

During the month of June, emergency food rations were issued by UNRWA to 161,700 registered re-

fugees and to 7,180 unregistered refugees in Lebanon and to 7,800 displaced refugees who fled in 1982 to the Syrian Arab Republic. Some 15,000 refugees in the Beqa'a and Tripoli areas continued to receive normal rations.

Although most UNRWA operations were able to continue during the recent fighting in Lebanon, some were disrupted and road contact between Beirut and Sidon was cut. On 4 September, a car bomb explosion severely damaged an UNRWA school near Burj el Barajneh camp in Beirut and on 6 September, the Lebanon Field Office suffered minor damage from shelling.

\$ 13 million needed for next phase of reconstruction

UNRWA has appealed for \$ 13 million to rebuild destroyed Agency schools, clinics and offices; reconstruct refugee camp roads and drains; and provide cash grants to allow 3,200 destitute families to repair or rebuild their homes.

This phase of reconstruction follows UNRWA's \$ 52 million emergency relief programme in Lebanon which began in June 1982. Under the pro-

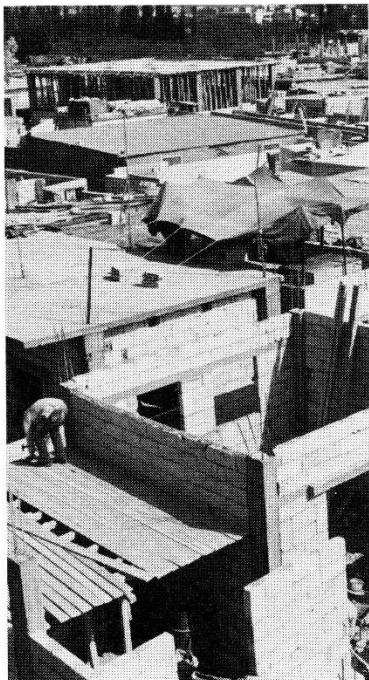
gramme, over 180,000 Palestine refugees have been given food and medical care, more than 11,000 families have been given cash grants for their immediate housing needs, and damage to some UNRWA installations has been repaired.

Of the \$ 13 million in the new appeal, \$ 5.75 million will be for cash grants to families living in or close to camps in the Beirut, Sidon and Tyre area. In Wavell camp (Beqa'a valley) to which many refugees fled last summer, there is no additional land available. Therefore UNRWA is planning to build extensions to existing buildings at a cost of \$ 1.31 million. Almost \$ 4 million will go to rebuilding and reequipping two clinics, two feeding centres, four schools and six other UNRWA installations destroyed in the summer of 1982. The remainder of the fund will be used to rebuild roads, paths and surface water drains in Sidon and Tyre camps and Wavell camp and the repair of electricity networks in all areas including Beirut camps.

UNRWA has also appealed to non-governmental organizations and several governments for supplies or cash to continue a programme of emergency aid to destitute refugees who will need food and welfare assistance at least for the rest of this year and through the coming winter. Many of these refugees belong to families with no male breadwinner or no employment possibilities.

The current appeal does not include funds for the possible future reconstruction of Nabatieh camp and other reconstruction of camp infrastructure.

At the time of going to press, dona-







tions to the new appeal had been received from the Federal Republic of Germany (\$ 80,000); Switzerland (\$ 187,000); and the United Kingdom (\$ 764,500).

Siblin Students help at Ein el-Hilweh

Reconstruction of Ein el-Hilweh camp in Sidon has been a high priority for UNRWA ever since the camp sustained extensive damage last summer. This reconstruction programme relies heavily on contributions from many sources – governments, NGO's, and the refugees themselves.

A prime example of voluntary work by refugees lies in a series of repair projects at Ein el-Hilweh carried out by students from UNRWA's nearby Siblin Training Centre, under the direction of the Middle East Council of Churches' Emergency Relief and Reconstruction Department (MECC).

Plumbing students recently installed water pipes and improved sanitation facilities throughout the camp, making it possible for the camp's kindergarten and the UNRWA welfare centre to run more smoothly. Eighteen public health students assisted UNRWA personnel by visiting refugees' homes and collecting information on immunization and sanitary conditions. Welding students constructed an iron gate for the camp's kindergarten, while also laying tiles and a concrete floor in part of the UNRWA welfare centre. Carpentry students helped build the new UNRWA sewing centre.

This MECC programme proved beneficial both to the camp and to the Siblin students. MECC tried to match the interests of the students with the projects needed in the camp. This resulted in valuable practical experience for the Siblin students.

Siblin also received a solar water heater from MECC, given in appreciation of Siblin's participation in the voluntary work project. The centre plans to take full advantage of this new resource by studying the system thoroughly and then producing similar systems for sale.

Keeping up morale

Sidon, Lebanon. 7.15 a. m. UNRWA's south Lebanon office starts another day. First, the news of the past night. From Wadi Zein, a few kilometres north of the office, word arrives that Palestinian families were harassed by uniformed men who ordered them to leave. The families had been living in Wadi Zein for several years.

"The situation is dangerous. Better not send the mobile clinic there today." The decision taken, Diana Lacey hurries off to the UNRWA clinic in Sidon to inform the medical staff of her decision.

"It's like this every day. There's always a problem somewhere. The most important part of my work now is to organize the routine, to know the needs of the Agency clinics, and to keep up a climate of confidence. This daily personal contact is of prime importance. It keeps up morale. But the situation was much different when I first arrived in Lebanon."

In July 1982, Diana Lacey first encountered south Lebanon, having been sent there by the U. K. Save the Children Fund to work with UNRWA's emergency medical services. A graduate nurse, she had worked in Uganda during the famine of 1980-81. In Lebanon, she has to deal with war and its consequences.

"For a 27-year old from West Sussex, it is hard to imagine what war is like. But I wanted to help people. When I arrived, the refugees were suffering from the shock of the bombing. They were broken, disoriented. They were very concerned about their own destiny and the fate of their families, some of whom were interned or had disappeared.

"The Sidon clinic had no medical supplies and was occupied by refugees. Medical staff could barely deal with the situation. Many men were absent. Until then, the women had depended on the men to take action. Suddenly, someone else had to organize the work and make decisions.

Compared to that time, the situation is almost normal."

As she does every day, Diana goes to Ein el-Hilweh camp on the edge of Sidon. She drives to the camp on a road still rutted with shell holes, commenting: "It's a good way to feel the atmosphere."

The UNRWA clinic in the camp is painted white with blue shutters, the only patch of colour in that drab scene. The clinic was partially destroyed last summer; only supporting columns and stairways remained. Now rebuilt, it deals with enormous problems: 400 patients a day, 10-12,000 children a month. The most serious cases are sent to local hospitals.

"What occurs most frequently today is that patients come in with physical problems which have essentially psychological causes. It is quite obvious in the case of mothers who bring in healthy children, whose 'illnesses' are simply the fears of the mother projected on the child – fears brought on by living without husbands and of raising children without fathers.

"Even if they have found a place to live, their anxiety continues because of their lack of income and because of the daily, insidious forms of harassment. All of this creates a difficult situation. It is impossible to bear psychologically. Can you imagine what it is like, without having lived as they do?"

The Ein el Hilweh clinic is only a quick stop in Diana's programme. Today she must go to Nabatieh, about 30 kilometres southeast. The road winds among the hills. Here and there are groves of lemons or oranges. A number of militia or Israeli checkpoints cause the inevitable traffic bottlenecks. In the sky a formation of jets slices through the air.

Three times a week, UNRWA sends a medical team to the town of Nabatieh. On other days, one nurse looks after things. Diana's visit gives Abu Soliman, the mukhtar of the local Palestinian community, a



chance to bring her up to date on recent news and to inform her about the continuing needs of the refugees. These needs at Nabatieh are great. Since the bombings in 1974 which destroyed the camp, there has been no UNRWA school. The only children being educated are from families who can afford to pay fees at the government school. There is no supplementary feeding centre. Things in Nabatieh have been temporary for years, awaiting the rebuilding of the camp. But when?

"Here are the keys. I found a place for a school," says Abu Fadil, son-in-law of the mukhtar. He describes the premises and then goes on to talk about the problems of refugees, such as those faced by the young woman waiting in the hall to see the doctor. She has five children. Her husband was killed during the war in 1982. He also mentions the case of a girl blinded during the bombing, who desperately hopes to regain her sight.

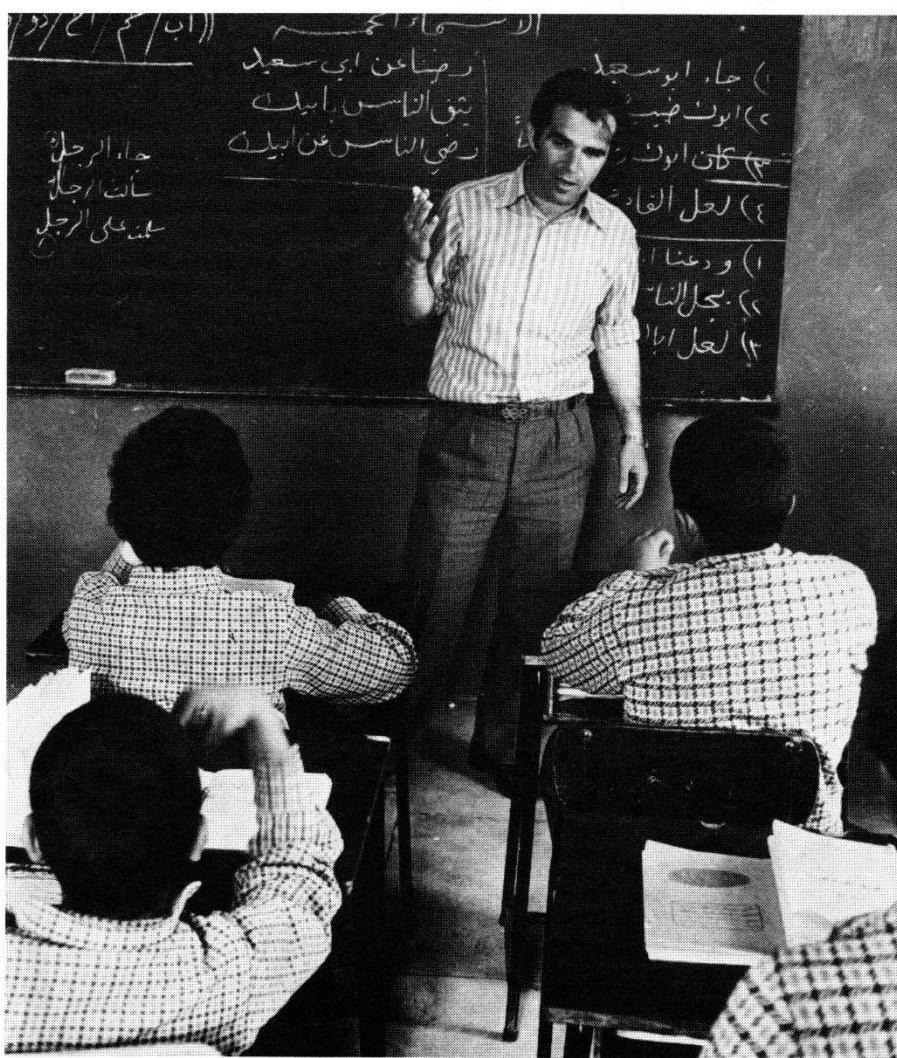
Diana jots down notes in the notebook resting on her knee. Besides co-ordinating the work of the clinics, she transmits messages, listens to peoples' problems, and tries to find solutions.

"I've travelled throughout the area since my arrival. I know the people. They trust me and I do everything I can for them. That's an essential part of my work now."

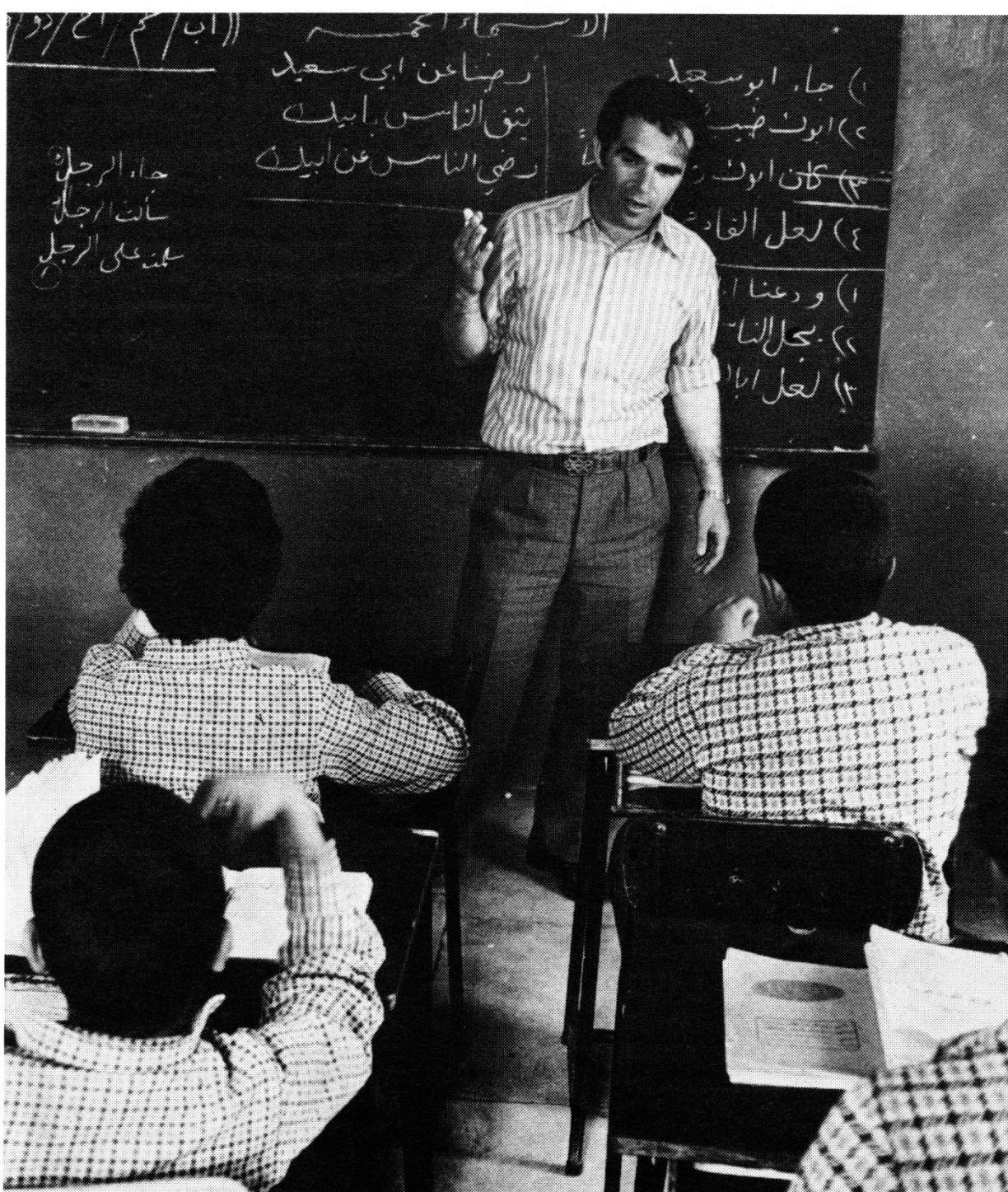














Fascinated by art

Salah Al Attrash was born in 1945 near Bab Al Tadid, one of the gates to old Jerusalem. Later the family moved to a house in the Jewish quarter of the old city. But in 1967 another Arab-Israeli war broke out. As a result, Israel occupied the West Bank of the Jordan river and gained control over east Jerusalem, which was formerly under Jordanian authority. Thousands of Palestinians were displaced from their homes, including Salah's.

As a child, Salah was fascinated by art. At home he started drawing and painting with simple colours, crayon and charcoal. Every penny he had was spent buying art supplies. But his family did not understand his artistic feeling. They wanted him to become a doctor or an engineer. At school, although art was considered a recreational activity, some of Salah's teachers noticed his talent.

In 1965, Salah left for Cairo to study at the Academy of Fine Arts, but the few vacant places at the academy were far too expensive for him. Not encouraged by his family and lacking the money necessary to follow his dream, Salah finally entered the Institute for Islamic Religion and Arabic Language.

But even while studying something totally different from all he had been dreaming of, his interest in art did not fade. He met an Egyptian art professor, who became his friend and teacher.

In 1971, Salah returned to Jerusalem and was married. He and his wife now have three children – two girls and a boy. The family lives in a house outside the old city walls, facing Temple Mount and the Dome of the Rock.

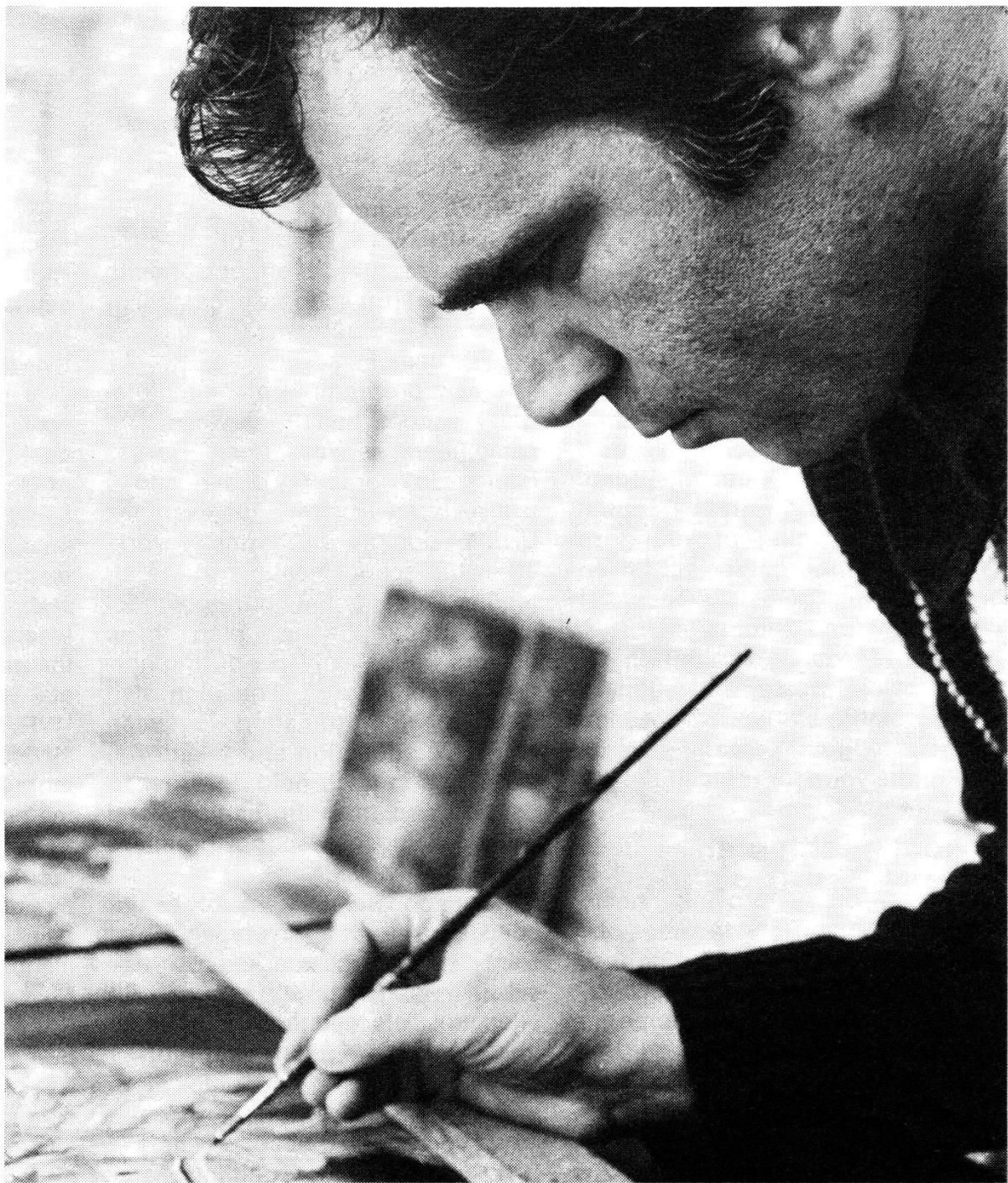
Salah and his family are among the two-thirds of the Palestine refugees registered with UNRWA who do not live in camps.

Since 1973, Salah has been working as a teacher at the Holy Land Christian Mission school in Bethlehem. He earns enough money to support his wife and children. But he has not abandoned his passion, and spends most of his spare time painting. His works have been regularly exhibited and sold.

Jerusalem and its old city are the main source of his inspiration. "Jerusalem is home. I love it but it has so many problems that no one seems to care about. I want to draw attention to these problems," explains Salah.







UNRWA improves health service

Like most aspects of UNRWA's work, UNRWA's health programme operates under severe financial constraints. Yet, while money remains tight, the number of refugees needing health services grows constantly, due to natural population increase.

UNRWA is responding to this problem with plans to improve the Agency's dental programme and its school health programme. These plans are going into effect this autumn.

Two World Health Organization consultants spent two weeks studying UNRWA's dental programme in the field. They noted that due to a lack of resources, the programme has been forced to limit itself primarily to tooth extraction. Preventive dental care has received little emphasis.

UNRWA's new dental programme, which will be phased in over three years, has three major components: new dental teams for each field, each consisting of a dental surgeon and a nurse, along with the required equipment; training of young refugees as dental hygienists, in co-ordination with UNRWA's education department; and training of UNRWA health and education staff in the basics of oral health education, so that the staff members can pass on this knowledge of preventive dental care to the younger refugees.

School health plan

Emphasis on improving health standards among children has also led to the development of a new school health programme. UNRWA focuses its health programme on school-age children because they make up 25 per cent of the refugee population and because they are most likely to accept the preventive health care principles which the



UNRWA programme stresses. In the past, UNRWA's health programme has been carried out either by health centre staff (for schools in camps) or by school health teams (for schools outside camps).

The new programme plans to integrate school health services and camp health services, in an effort to improve the continuity of care and to use resources better. For example, UNRWA doctors who formerly worked in the school health centres attend to students only during school hours. Under the new plan, these doctors will be available during normal working hours. The plan also calls for co-ordination between UNRWA's education and health departments in each field, in order to develop and maintain sanitary and water facilities on school premises more effectively.

Finally, the plan will make health education a part of everyday life at school. One teacher at each school will be trained by UNRWA as a health educator. This teacher's responsibility lies in encouraging other teachers to make students more aware of basic health needs. Health education will also become a part of UNRWA's teacher training pro-

gramme. The plan further recommends the creation of school health rooms and improvement of school sanitation and water systems.

UNRWA health officials estimate that the dental plan, over its three-year period of implementation, will cost \$ 480,000. The only recurrent cost beyond this will be the salaries of the dental teams. The new school health programme will require the immediate creation of four new medical posts, hiring of support staff, and in-service training for teachers. The total additional cost of the school health plan is estimated at \$ 100,000 per year.

UNRWA's goal is to improve health standards and utilise resources more efficiently and effectively. Yet the plans will provide other benefits as well. The dental hygienist training programme, which will be created as a result of the new dental plan, may be expanded in light of the high demand for dental hygienists in the Near East, especially in the Gulf States. In addition, the school health programme aims at broadening the role of the school within the refugee community, reinforcing its position as a source of education and a focus of community feeling and concern.

Refugee women sell embroidery

In two rooms at UNRWA's Lebanon Field Office, there is a shop full of articles made by Palestine refugee women. The programme was started in February 1983 by a group of women, mainly wives of U.N. officials, who collect, exhibit and sell the products.

Along the walls, there are shelves with aprons, dresses, skirts, pot holders, place mats, tablecloths and pillow covers. Most of them are hand-embroidered with traditional Palestinian designs on Irish linen or gingham.

Designs, colours and models are chosen by Maria Defrates, the wife of John Defrates, Director of UNRWA Affairs, Lebanon. Mrs. Defrates orders the goods from three groups of refugees: 20 women in Sidon, and six women and 30 school-girls in Burj el-Barajneh refugee camp, Beirut. They are given the materials and paid according to the amount of work they do.

Why such a project? "The reason was the absence of the men in many families," says Mrs. Defrates. "Some of them had to leave Lebanon, others were detained by the Israelis in Ansar prison camp. UNRWA provides food, health care and schooling for the children, but the families need a little cash. As there were few able-bodied men, it was important to find some work the women could do in their own homes and in their own time, without leaving their children." One of the women working in Sidon is Ikhlas Dahshe, who lived in the Sabra area of Beirut until a year ago.

She is the mother of three children, the oldest four years of age. Her husband has left Lebanon. Her father earns 115 Lebanese pounds monthly (about \$ 30) and has a family of 14 to support. Ikhlas has been doing embroidery for five years now and works seven hours a day, in spite of all her other household work.

Her neighbour, Safa' Qudzi, is 24 years old and has four children between the ages of three and eight. Her husband was detained in Ansar.



She has been embroidering for two years and works at it for five hours a day.

Another is Randa Dahabri, 18 years old, with a baby. Her husband was also detained in Ansar. She started doing embroidery five years ago, when she was a school-girl, and works four hours every day.

A woman sewing for a full day can earn 500 Lebanese pounds (\$ 120) per month. (A typist gets about 1,000 Lebanese pounds - \$ 240 - per month.)

This sort of programme is vital now as there are restrictions on employment for Palestinians. There are legal restrictions concerning work permits and a certain unwillingness to give jobs to Palestinians. One possible solution is self-employment in the camps, in workshops that make products that can be readily sold. But in order to determine what to produce, the market has to be thoroughly studied.

In the meantime, embroidery is one of the few things that can be done by refugee women to earn some cash for their families. Of course, the number of women employed is still small, but the programme started only a few months ago and the assistance for each family is considerable.

"But, if sales continue to increase, more and more girls and women can take part in our programme," says Mrs. Defrates.

Disabled refugee hired

A blind Palestine refugee has been hired as the telephone operator for UNRWA's Field Office in Lebanon. Mr. Aref Mohammed Assa'd was trained at UNRWA's expense at the Lebanese Evangelical School. This was the first appointment of its kind by the Agency.

Study under way

Such a study is to be carried out by a consultant from the Norwegian People's Relief Association, backed by the Norwegian Trade Unions, which has a representative in Lebanon. He is trying to identify income-generating projects, but will take some time to pinpoint the kind of work that can be carried out successfully by refugees.

School donated

A 20-room school plus necessary facilities has been given to UNRWA by Sheikh Mohammad Anis el Zaben, a Palestinian living in Saudi Arabia. UNRWA is providing a plot of land for the school in Baqa'a camp, Jordan and the Agency's Technical Office will draw up plans and supervise construction.



News about UNRWA

UNRWA-NGO Conference

Representatives from 25 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and UNRWA staff met recently in Vienna in hopes of better co-ordinating the efforts of UNRWA and the voluntary agencies and of creating a closer relationship between NGOs and UNRWA.

The conference was sponsored jointly by the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) and UNRWA. The idea of such a meeting was initiated by the ICVA.

The conference included NGOs from Denmark, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Lebanon, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States. Most of the time was spent with participants divided into three working groups discussing potential

areas of UNRWA-NGO co-operation: assistance programmes, protection of refugees, and support activities (e.g. fund raising and public information), then made reports to the group as a whole.

The meeting marked the first time that UNRWA and NGOs had met in such a large forum to exchange views and to discuss mutual problems. The meeting was described by ICVA Governing Board Chairman Robert Quinlan as „extremely fruitful“, and the participants expressed their interest in convening similar meetings on an annual basis.

Despite this, the YMCA went ahead. In August 1981, four day camps were started in schools put at the YMCA's disposal by UNRWA. The acceptance of the idea allowed the project to be continued the next year. In August 1982, there were 22 centres with 500 children open every afternoon in all eight refugee camps in the Gaza Strip.

In the courtyard of one of the centres, a group of girls learn the fundamentals of volleyball. In rooms off the courtyard, there are art materials covering the tables. The children are applying a new technique they have just learned from their young instructor. In other rooms, there is music instruction.

All of the day-camp co-ordinators and their assistants are now local residents. In 1981, European volunteers worked in the day camps.

The camp co-ordinators tried to organise a variety of activities, adapted to the refugee children and their environment. For this reason, courses in personal hygiene were included. A little further along is the day camp for boys. Here, there are few indoor activities. The accent is on sports: football, volleyball, gymnastics.

At the end of the day, the instructors assemble the children in the courtyard. After impromptu presentations and the distribution of some candy, everyone goes home to the neighbouring camp.

Greeting cards and 1984 calendar now available

Three full-colour greeting cards with "Season's greetings" in English, French and Arabic are available from UNRWA Public Information. Photos are of Bethlehem, the Dome of the Rock (Jerusalem) and a glazed earthenware panel made by a West Bank artist. Ten cards with envelopes are \$ 2.

The 1984 UNRWA Calendar has scenes of Palestine refugee life, crafts and historical sites of the Near East. Available at \$ 2 per copy.

To order, contact: UNRWA Public Information, Vienna International Centre, Box 700, A-1400 Vienna, Austria.

YMCA organises day camps

Sand drifts across the narrow, unpaved roads. A bus with the YMCA insignia on its door litters along with difficulty. In the distance, the sea sparkles, bathing the golden beaches of the Mediterranean coast. Tourists looking for vacation pleasures are in the wrong place. This bus is passing through one of the eight camps for Palestine refugees in the Gaza Strip, a narrow, overpopulated strip of land occupied by Israel since 1967. Gaza has one of the highest population densities in the world, over 1,250 persons per square kilometre.

It is the month of August. School is out. But for Palestine refugee children, vacation is no different from the rest of the year. In 1981, the YMCA decided to organise day camps here. The objective was to provide recreational activities that would allow the children to express themselves and permit them to learn how to live as a community. In principle, they are similar to day camps anywhere in the world. But in Gaza, there was a possible problem. Would families still living in a very traditional way accept such an idea?

New UNRWA posters

Full-colour posters depicting life inside a refugee shelter at Ein el Hilweh camp, Lebanon and a tented school have been published. Text in Arabic, English, French, German, or Spanish. Available from UNRWA Public Information.

UNRWA Publications

GENERAL

What is UNRWA? (PL 12)

Printed Leaflet (Arabic, English, French, German, Spanish).

Map of UNRWA's area of operations

with refugee location data (Arabic, English).

Survey (PB 1002)

Brochure of facts and figures (Arabic, English, French, German and Spanish).

PROGRAMME LEAFLETS

Education (PL 13 – Arabic, English, French and German).

Vocational Training (PL 14 – Arabic, English, French and German).

Health (PL 15 – Arabic, English, French and German).

Relief (PL 16 – Arabic, English, French and German).

Palestine Refugees in Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic, Jordan, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

A series of five leaflets covering UNRWA's five fields of operation (English and Arabic).

POSTERS

UNRWA and Children

A set of three black and white posters on Palestine refugee children. Titles in English, French or German.

Family Album

Shows the lives of three young Palestine refugees from birth to today. Black and White. Text in English, French or German.

Faces in the Crowd

A colour poster showing faces of Palestine refugees with text in English, French, German or Spanish.

Palestine Refugees in Camps

A colour poster showing refugee camp life with text in English, French or German.

Thirty Thousand Refugees

Black and White poster of Ein el-Hilweh camp, Lebanon after demolished buildings cleared. Text in Arabic, English, French, German or Spanish.

AUDIO-VISUAL PRODUCTIONS

Slide/tape presentations:

ST 1002 – a seven-minute slide/tape production showing UNRWA's activities for Palestine refugees. Commentary in Arabic, English, French or German.

ST 1003 – Through the Eyes of Ibrahim, a 10-minute slide/tape presentation in Arabic, English, French, German or Swedish. Kit with map, posters and teaching notes included. Available on loan or purchase at \$ 45 per set.

ST 1004 – Palestinian Odyssey. A history of the Palestine problem from the early 20th century to the present. Commentary in English, French, German or Arabic. Complete with English booklet with text and reproductions of each slide. Available on loan or for purchase.

ST 1005 – A Ray of Hope

The story of a 20-year-old from a Palestine refugee camp in Gaza studying arts and crafts at UNRWA's Ramallah Women's Training Centre. Through her course work and class field trips, traditional Palestinian design, needlework, pottery and other crafts are shown. Also includes scenes from her home in Gaza and life at the training centre. Available on loan or for purchase. Commentary in English, French, German or Arabic.

Palestine Dresses – A set of 27 colour slides showing Palestine dresses from various regions. Included is a descriptive note in Arabic, English, French or German.

FILMS:

My Name is Fadwa

A 15-minute, 16 mm colour film on a deaf Palestine refugee child. Available for loan or purchase in English, French, German or Italian.

My Father's Land

A half-hour, 16 mm film on the Gaza blind school for Palestine refugee children. Available for purchase or loan in English, French or German.

Born Homeless

A 20-minute, 16 mm colour film showing the work of UNRWA through a refugee family in Baqa'a camp, Jordan. Available for purchase or loan in Arabic, English, French or German.

Lebanon 1982

A 15-minute, 16 mm colour film on the 1982 Lebanon emergency. Available for purchase (\$ 165) or loan. Also available on video cassette at about \$ 35 – please specify type of video system required. English commentary only.

Shelter

A 12-minute, 16 mm colour film on Lebanon showing restoration of UNRWA services after the 1982 war and provision of shelter for bombed-out refugees. Available for loan or purchase and on video cassette (as above, Lebanon 1982). Commentary in Arabic, English, French, German and Spanish.

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