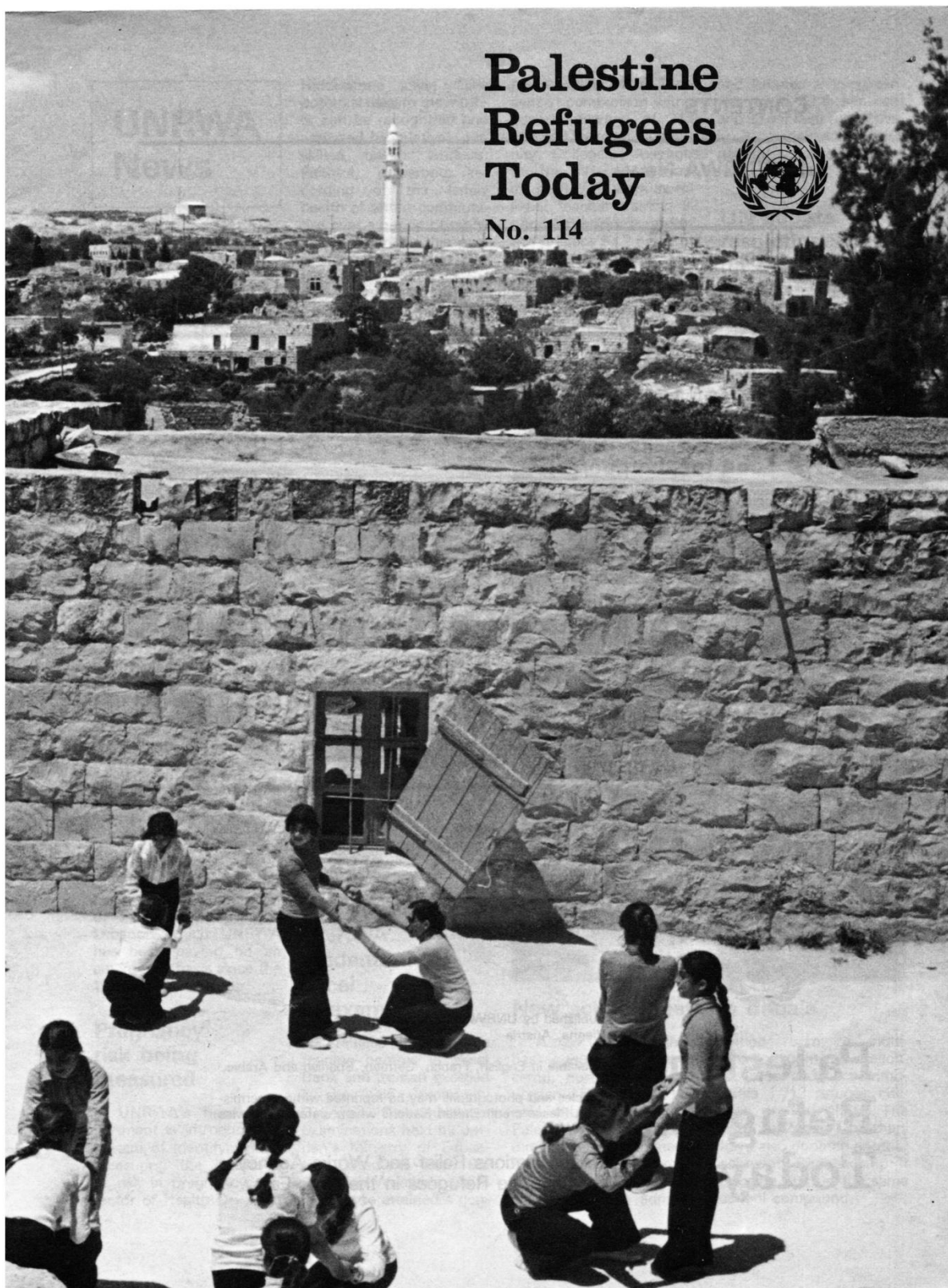
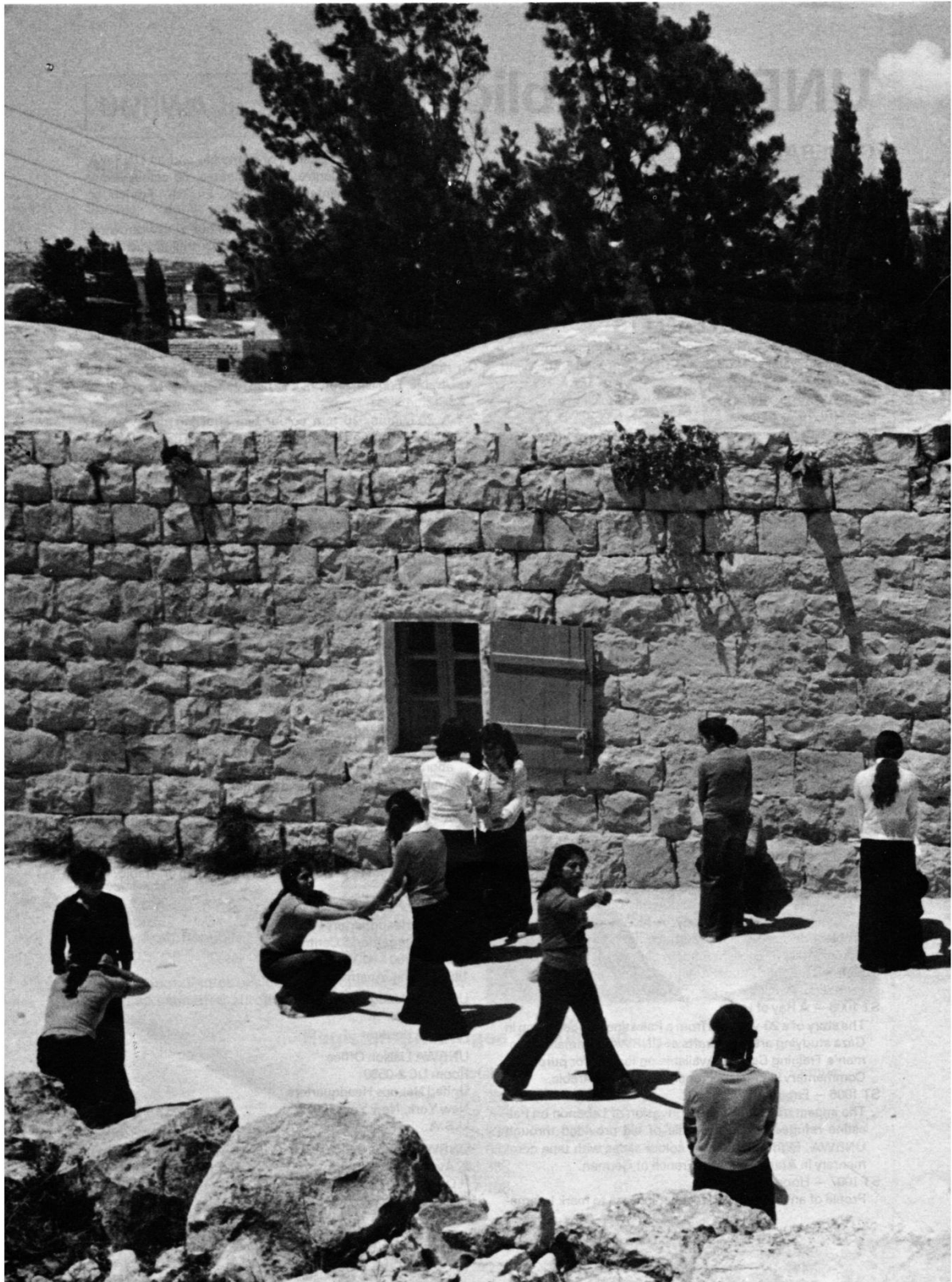


# Palestine Refugees Today

No. 114





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The Arab Gulf Fund for UN Development Programmes has donated \$ 1.4 million to UNRWA so that the Agency can build three new schools in the West Bank.

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### 4 Reaching for the top

A 32-year-old graduate of UNRWA's Amman Training Centre is the coach of a highly successful volleyball team from a refugee camp in Amman, Jordan.

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### 6 Food for the poorest

UNRWA provides food rations and other relief assistance to about 106,000 of the two million registered Palestine refugees. A recent shipment of flour for hardship cases arrived at the port of Aqaba, Jordan.

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### 7 A winner at something

UNRWA gives preferential admission to its vocational training centres to the handicapped and hardship cases. Three young men attending Wadi Seer training centre in Jordan are among the beneficiaries of this programme.

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### 8 UNRWA in figures

Many readers have asked for more statistics about UNRWA. Here's a page of facts and figures about schools, clinics and other Agency activities.

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**Cover photo:** Biddo school, West Bank, one of the three schools in West Bank being replaced by a grant AGFUND. See p. 3.



# Palestine Refugees Today

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

## UNRWA News

### Refugee homes flooded in Gaza

One doesn't often hear about floods in the Middle East but recently heavy rains in the Gaza Strip caused serious damage to homes in Khan Younis camp. Some refugee homes had over a metre of water in them.

UNRWA sanitation staff worked overtime to help their fellow refugees, and the Khan Younis municipality provided pumps and truckloads of sand to prevent further flooding in low-lying parts of the camp. UNRWA has provided cash grants to refugee families who sustained losses and \$ 30,000 has been allocated by UNRWA in Gaza to provide a long-term solution to drainage in Khan Younis camp.

### Finns donate to dialysis treatment

The Finnish Refugee Council has given UNRWA \$ 55,000 to help pay for haemodialysis treatment of Palestine refugees in Lebanon which UNRWA has been paying on an emergency basis since the 1982 war in Lebanon.

### Pregnancy risk being measured

UNRWA's health department is introducing a system of identifying and measuring the likelihood of risk in pregnancy. Director of Health Dr. John

Hiddlestone says, "The potential risks to the mother can be recognized and assessed by relatively unskilled health workers. Faithful, grassroots recording of the family health of entire communities over a period of many years has made this possible". This "risk approach" measures special vulnerabilities among groups and individuals which can put their health at risk, especially during pregnancy. Such measurements can then be used as a tool for improving or targeting preventive health-care programmes.

### 9,060 tons of flour donated

Because of the late delivery of flour from donors, UNRWA has recently experienced a severe shortage and in some areas had to cut back on distribution to hardship cases. To guard against future shortages, the Agency has asked donor nations for 10,000 tons and has received pledges of 9,060 tons: Australia 1,000 tons, Austria 2,000 tons, Federal Republic of Germany 1,460 tons, France 1,100 tons and Italy 3,500 tons.

### UNRWA students excel in exams

Trainees at UNRWA's training centres in West Bank and Jordan excelled in the 1985 Community College Comprehensive Examinations held by Jordan's Ministry of Education. Students from the Ramallah Women's Training Centre attained a gen-

eral average of 93.1 per cent in comparison with a general average of 71.9 attained by other Community Colleges. Averages for the different sections at the RWTC were as follows: teacher training 92 per cent, business and office practice 97.2 per cent, para-medical course 95.3 per cent, community professions 96.9 per cent.

Success ratings for 628 trainees from Wadi Seer

and Amman training centres were 82.8 per cent and 89 per cent respectively, in comparison with a general success rating of 74.2 per cent.

### UN adopts resolution on UNRWA

The United Nations General Assembly voted massively in favour of a



### New school opens in Baqa'a

A new UNRWA school has opened in Baqa'a camp, north of Amman, Jordan. The school was paid for by two brothers of Palestinian origin, Sheiks Ibrahim and Mohammed al Zaben. The new elementary school for boys has 17 classrooms, one adminis-

tration room, a multi-purpose room and a teachers' room and it accommodates 1,712 refugee children on two shifts. The two al-Zaben brothers have also donated another school for Baqa'a camp. It is being built in the same school compound.

## **UNRWA News (continued)**

U.S.-sponsored resolution on UNRWA during its 40th session. The resolution was adopted by 149 votes in favour with no votes against, and one abstention. The resolution reads in part:

The General Assembly notes with deep regret that repatriation or compensation of the refugees as provided for in paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 194 (III) has not been effected, that no substantial progress has been made in the programme endorsed by the Assembly in paragraph 2 of its resolution 513 (VI) of 26 January 1952 for the reintegration of refugees either by repatriation or resettlement and that, therefore, the situation of the refugees continues to be a matter of serious concern;

Expresses its thanks to the Commissioner-General and to all the staff of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, recognizing that the Agency is doing all it can within the limits of available resources, and also expresses its thanks to the specialized agencies and private organizations for their valuable work in assisting the refugees;

Expresses its deep appreciation to the former Commissioner-General, Mr. Olof Rydbeck, for his many years of effective service to the Agency and his dedication to the welfare of the refugees;

Reiterates its request that the headquarters of

the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East should be relocated to its former site within its area of operations as soon as practicable;

Directs attention to the continuing seriousness of the financial position of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, as outlined in the report of the Commissioner-General;

Notes with profound concern that, despite the commendable and successful efforts of the Commissioner-General to collect additional contributions, this increased level of income to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East is still insufficient to cover essential budget requirements in the present year and that, at currently foreseen levels of giving, deficits will recur each year;

Calls upon all Governments as a matter of urgency to make the most generous efforts possible to meet the anticipated needs of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, particularly in the light of the budgetary deficit projected in the report of the Commissioner-General, and therefore urges non-contributing Governments to contribute regularly and contributing Governments to consider increasing their regular contributions.

## **New source of funds for UNRWA schools**

Two days before Christmas 1985, just outside the town of Bethlehem, a group of men met in a rocky olive grove to begin transforming the site into an UNRWA school compound. At the same time, on a hillside 13 kilometres away on the other side of Jerusalem, bulldozers were digging the foundations of another new school for Palestine refugee children. By the end of 1986, construction of a third UNRWA school will be well under way in the West Bank, where refugee children are becoming the first beneficiaries of a welcome new source of financing opened up to UNRWA in 1985.



When ground was broken in December for new schools at Beit Jala, near Bethlehem, and Biddo, northwest of Jerusalem, barely six months had passed since UNRWA was designated a recipient of financial support from the Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organisations (AGFUND). In that time, land leases had been signed for the three West Bank school sites, site plans were prepared and soil tests conducted; working drawings had been completed by UNRWA's Technical Office in Vienna, and contractors selected by local tender, for the Biddo and Beit Jala schools. By the time, a year or so from now, that more than 1,000 refugee pupils move into those two new elementary and preparatory schools, the third school, for refugee children in the northern West Bank village of Rummaneh, will be nearing completion.

The AGFUND-financed UNRWA schools will forge a new link between the Palestine refugees and the Arabian Gulf states where for the past 30 years, so many Palestinians have made a significant contribution to the region's oil-fuelled economic development. Many of those Palestinians were graduates of UNRWA training centres, the first of them coming from Kalandia Vocational Training Centre, in the West Bank, in 1955.

Established in 1981 and presided over by Saudi Prince Talal Bin Abdul-Aziz, AGFUND disburses contributions from Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. So far, AGFUND has made \$ 1.4 million available to UNRWA for school construction.

The need for new schools is great. Enrolment in the Agency's elementary and preparatory (junior secondary) schools grows by about 2 per cent a year; it is now more than 350,000. In the current school year, UNRWA took in 4,800 pupils with no additional teaching staff. Three quarters of UNRWA schools are on double-shift, where two separate student bodies and teaching staffs share the use of one building in morning and afternoon shifts, six days a week. In some areas, the Agency is struggling to avoid "triple-shifting".

Nearly half of the 637 schools operated by UNRWA in the West

Bank, the Gaza Strip, Lebanon, Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic, are in unsuitable rented premises. Seldom designed for use as schools, these buildings are typically crowded, uncomfortable and run-down. Many of them have pupils who, like 65 per cent of the Palestine refugees served by UNRWA, live not in camps but in towns and villages, like Biddo, Beit Jala and Rummaneh.

In Biddo, for example, the present UNRWA girls' school is scattered among 17 rooms in five buildings over a kilometre apart. The rented buildings were designed as houses, and every available space, including hallways, kitchens and verandas, has been pressed into service. Some of the rooms are accessible only through another classroom. Some of the buildings are without toilets. The rooms are small (average area: 19 square metres) and cramped, with desks jammed together from wall to wall. Heating and ventilation are inadequate, and the rooms are cold in winter and hot in summer.

The new Biddo girls' school, being built on a 6,000-square-metre site at the entrance to the village, will have 10 standard-size classrooms (of 52 square metres each), a laboratory, a library and a multi-purpose room, plus two staff rooms. The site, leased from the

Jerusalem-based *Awkaf* (Islamic religious endowment trust), nestles in the Jerusalem hills, overlooking the Mediterranean coastal plain. From their playground next to the school, the students will be able to see areas near the coast from which their families had to flee in the 1948 Arab-Israeli conflict.

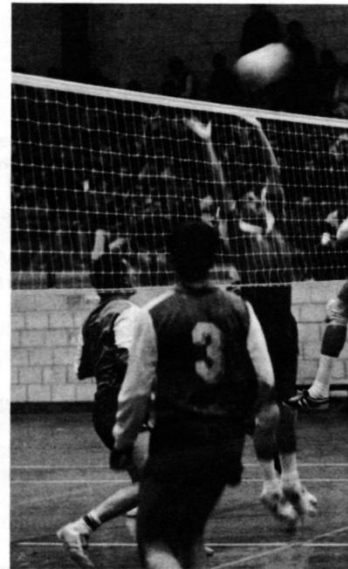
Some of the Biddo pupils are from the third generation to be schooled here by UNRWA. Their new school will be simple and functional, but the classrooms will be much more spacious and brighter than what they have now.

The Beit Jala school will also have 10 classrooms and will be similar in design to the one at Biddo. The 3,500-square-metre site, leased from the Arab Orthodox Church, is adjacent to the Aida refugee camp, and many of the pupils will come from there. The school will replace 10 run-down, rented rooms now used by the 385 pupils in the UNRWA elementary and preparatory boys' school in Beit Jala.

Education absorbs over 60 per cent of UNRWA's budget, but the Agency has never had enough money to build all the schools it needs. Its policy now is to fund school construction only from contributions for specific projects. The AGFUND assistance opens a new phase in UNRWA's service to Palestine refugees.



Biddo school

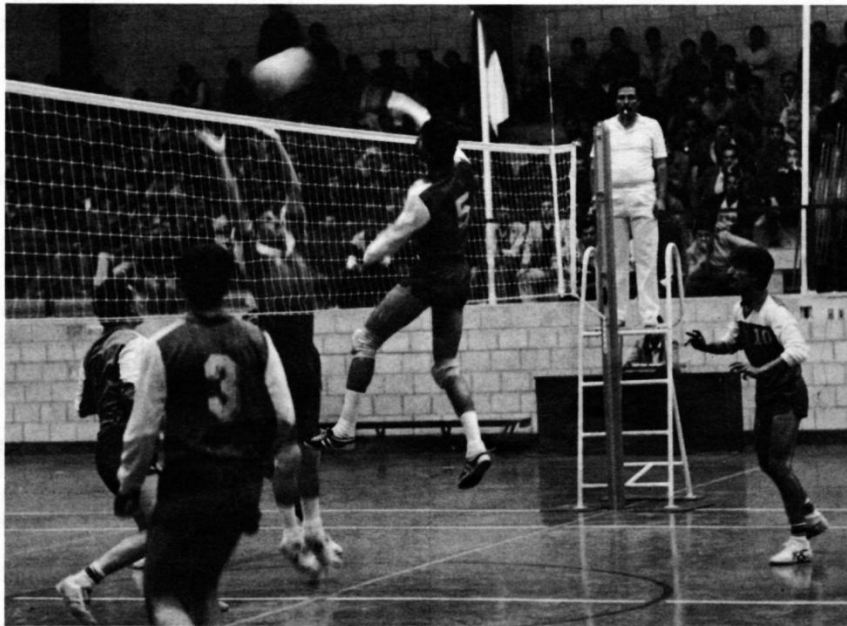


## Training, determ

A 32-year-old graduate of UNRV Moubarak, is a banker by day and vo from ATC in 1978 as a physical educ years later and now works at the h Jordan.

He was born and brought up in / of the city of Amman. Ten years ago ball team and today is coach of the teams in Jordan. He believes that sp always encouraging young men to Wahdat team to its high standing? "cy," says Moubarak.

**Photos:** The accompanying photos show Mc who is also a graduate of the Amman Training Moubarak's Wahdat team and a team from .

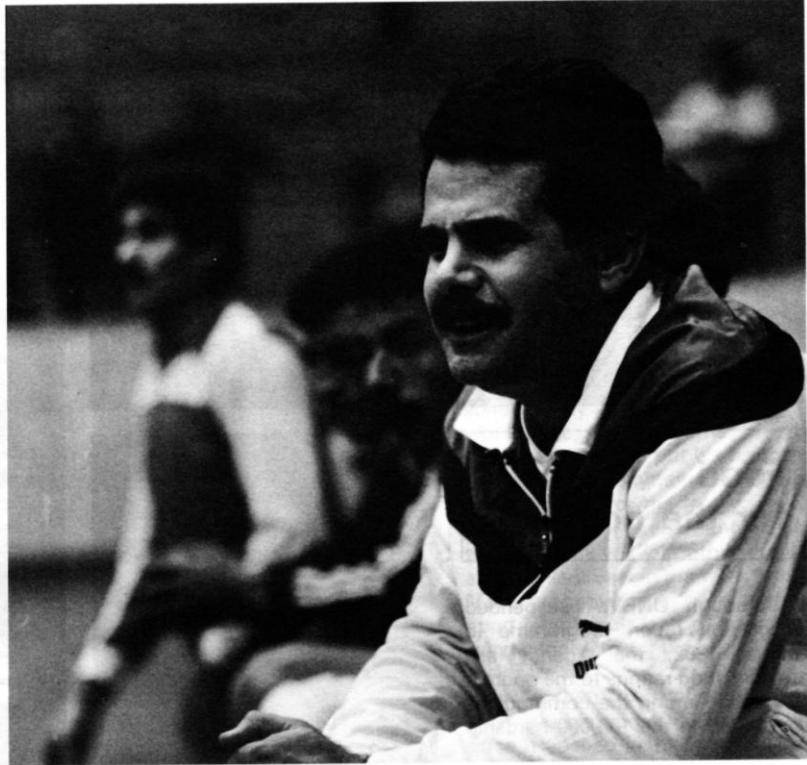


## Training, determination, consistency

A 32-year-old graduate of UNRWA's Amman Training Centre (ATC), Khalil Moubarak, is a banker by day and volleyball coach at night. Moubarak graduated from ATC in 1978 as a physical education teacher but switched to banking two years later and now works at the headquarters of the Arab Bank in Amman, Jordan.

He was born and brought up in Amman New Camp (Wahdat) which is part of the city of Amman. Ten years ago he played on the Jordanian national volleyball team and today is coach of the Wahdat team, one of the leading volleyball teams in Jordan. He believes that sport is a natural outlet for youngsters and is always encouraging young men to get involved in sports. What brought his Wahdat team to its high standing? "Hard training, determination and consistency," says Moubarak.

**Photos:** The accompanying photos show Moubarak at the Arab Bank along with Rabiha Koushan who is also a graduate of the Amman Training Centre. The volleyball match shown here is between Moubarak's Wahdat team and a team from Jebel el-Husseini camp, also in Amman.



## tion, consistency

Amman Training Centre (ATC), Khalil all coach at night. Moubarak graduated a teacher but switched to banking two quarters of the Arab Bank in Amman,

an New Camp (Wahdat) which is part layed on the Jordanian national volleyball team, one of the leading volleyball s a natural outlet for youngsters and is involved in sports. What brought his training, determination and consisen-

ik at the Arab Bank along with Rabiha Koushan tre. The volleyball match shown here is between el-Husseini camp, also in Amman.



## Food for the poorest

Although UNRWA suspended its general ration programme in August 1982, the Agency still provides food rations to the poorest refugees. Among the commodities distributed to the 106,000 hardship cases is flour.

Recently the Agency received a shipment of flour contributed by Japan. The Turkish ship first docked at Tartous, Syrian Arab Republic, to unload over 3,000 tons of flour for UNRWA operations in Syria and Lebanon, then went on to Aqaba to discharge a similar amount for the Jordan field. From Aqaba and Tartous, the flour is hauled to UNRWA warehouses in Damascus and Amman by hired trucks each carrying about 35 tons of flour. From there, the flour is sent to distribution centres throughout the area. These centres are usually located in refugee camps or near large concentrations of refugees outside camps.

Refugees considered as hardship cases include widows, orphans, the aged, the physically and mentally handicapped and the chronically ill. In addition to food (flour, sugar, cooking oil, tinned meat, tomato paste, burghol and skim milk powder), they receive blankets, clothing, token cash aid, cash grants for self-support projects, assistance in the repair of shelter and preferential access to vocational and teacher training provided by UNRWA.

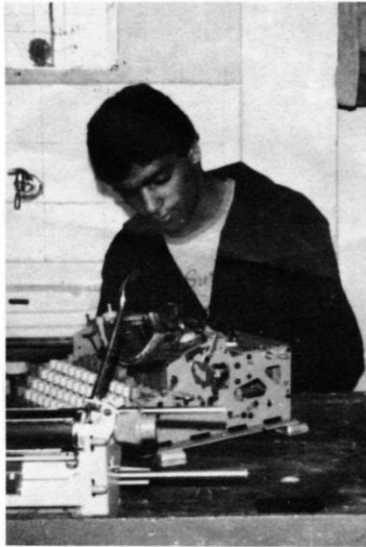


## A winner at something

"I'm happy to be a winner at something in my life," says 17-year-old Ahmad Said, a student at UNRWA's Wadi Seer Vocational Training Centre near Amman, Jordan.

Ahmad Said is among a number of students, either handicapped or considered as hardship cases, to whom UNRWA gives special preference for enrolment at its training centres. This is done despite applications that far outnumber places at UNRWA's eight vocational and teacher training centres. In the current year, for example, Wadi Seer had 1,500 applicants for 280 first-year places.

Ahmad has had a severe limp all his life which has always held him back. He wanted to be an auto mechanic but his handicap prevented this and he is now a student in the office machine mechanics course and is one of the best in his class.



Ahmad Said

Although he is not considered as one of UNRWA's 106,000 hardship cases, Ahmad comes from a very poor family. His father's income as a farm worker in the Jordan valley is only about \$ 125 a month.

Another student in the office machine mechanics course is Jamal



Jamal Wishah

Wishah, 16 years of age. "If I hadn't had the chance of coming to study here," he says, "I would probably be selling chewing gum on the streets."

Jamal had polio when he was one year old and is considered a hardship case. His 65-year-old father works in a vegetable shop earning about \$ 100 a month to support his family living in Baqa'a camp north of Amman. "We're lucky if we eat meat once a month", says Jamal. "Most days we live only on bread."

Jamal is the luckiest member of his family as he can stay at Wadi Seer where he is given good food and has a decent place to sleep. His family in Baqa'a lives in a two-room shelter. "It leaks in the winter and most rainy nights we sleep on water", says Jamal.

Because of lack of money in 1985, UNRWA had to restrict the number of students boarding at its training centres. Handicapped students, hardship cases and students from remote areas, however, can still live at the centres during the school year.

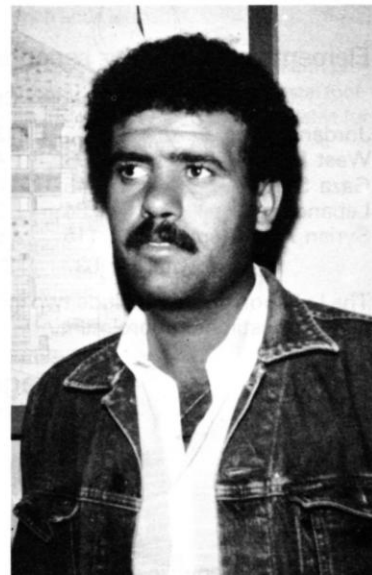
Twenty-one-year-old Nabil Bayyari is in the quantity surveyor's

course. From a hardship case family, Nabil is the eldest of five children and the family's main support. "Since my father died", says Nabil, "I have been working and studying at the same time in order to provide a living for my family." He still works after a day of classes at Wadi Seer.

Nabil hopes to be able to postpone his military service to earn some money after he graduates. He would like to use some of the money he earns to put his brothers through university and also help build a house for the family.

Soon these three young Palestine refugees will join other graduates of Wadi Seer in the work force. Most graduates are able to find good jobs which lead to improved living conditions for themselves and their families.

More than 7,800 young refugees have graduated from Wadi Seer since it opened in 1960. And Wadi Seer diplomas are well received in the job market because of the school's high standards. In the 1985 Jordan-wide examinations for post-secondary school trainees, Wadi Seer graduates had an average of 82.8 per cent—well above the rate for students from other institutions.



Nabil Bayyari

## UNRWA in figures

### RELIEF:

Special hardship cases	106,000
Youth activities centres	38
Women's activities centres	17
Sewing centres	33
Relief + registration staff	400

### HEALTH:

UNRWA health centres	98
Outpatients visits annually	4.5 million
Subsidised hospital beds for UNRWA patients	1,400
Feeding centres	94
Laboratories	27
Doctors, dentists + pharmacists	274
Nurses + midwives	542

### EDUCATION:

#### Vocational and teacher training:

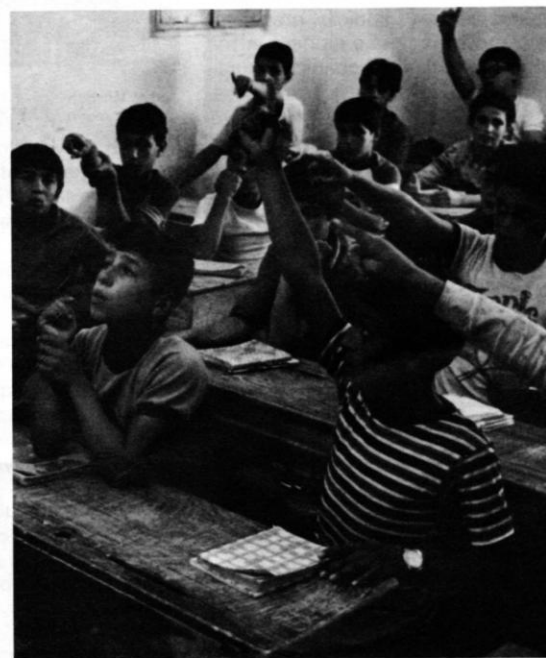
	Student places	Training centres
Jordan	1,409	2
West Bank	1,466	3
Gaza Strip	604	1
Lebanon	560	1
Syrian Arab Republic	744	1
	4,783	8

In Lebanon, the Sibli Training Centre did not open for the 1985/86 school year but instruction was given in Sidon and Beirut for some students.

#### Elementary and junior secondary education:

	Schools	Children	Teachers
Jordan	195	136,202	3,817
West Bank	98	40,344	1,297
Gaza Strip	145	86,923	2,280
Lebanon	84	35,164	1,201
Syrian Arab Republic	115	51,914	1,568
Total	637	350,547	10,163

The Lebanon figures exclude two inoperative schools, and give estimated enrolment.



### Registered Refugee Population

	Total	Camps	Refugees in Camps
Jordan	805,358	10	202,112
West Bank	359,769	19	91,901
Gaza Strip	429,936	8	238,381
Lebanon	265,662	14	137,174
Syrian Arab Republic	246,383	10	75,077
Total	2,107,108	61	744,645

# UNRWA Publications

## GENERAL

What is UNRWA? (PL 12)

Printed Leaflet (Arabic, English, French, German, Italian, 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

Palestine refugee children

Three black and white posters featuring refugee children at school, in a war-damaged clinic and in a camp street. Text in English, French, German or Spanish.

IYY Wallsheet (International Youth Year)

A full-colour, folded wallsheet showing UNRWA youth activities centres. Text in Arabic, English, French, German, Spanish or Swedish.

Women's Decade Wallsheet

A full-colour, folded wallsheet on Palestine refugee women. Text in Arabic, English, French, German, Spanish or Swedish.

UNRWA wallsheet

Full-colour wallsheet with map, facts and figures on UNRWA. English.

## AUDIO-VISUAL PRODUCTIONS

### Slide/tape presentations:

ST 1003 — Through the Eyes of Ibrahim, a 10-minute slide/tape presentation in 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. Available on loan or for purchase. Commentary in English, French, German or Arabic.

ST 1006 — Emergency

The impact of the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon on Palestine refugees. Also a profile of aid provided through UNRWA. Eight minutes, 77 colour slides with tape commentary in Arabic, English, French or German.

ST 1007 — Hope deferred

Profile of an unemployed teacher in Gaza to mark International Youth Year. Scenes of home life and an UNRWA Youth Activities Centre. Eight minutes, 66 colour slides with tape commentary in Arabic, English, French or German.

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

Caring

A young Palestine refugee returns as a counsellor to the camp for orphan children he attended as a child. 16 minutes, 16 mm, colour with optical sound. Commentary in Arabic, English, French, German, Japanese or Norwegian.

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. (Not suitable for children.)

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.

What Sort of Life?

A 25-minute, 16 mm colour film on Ein el Hilweh camp, Lebanon from the 1982 Israeli invasion through clearing operations and rebuilding of refugee housing. Commentary in Arabic, English, French and German.

Long Journey

A 12-minute, 16 mm colour film on UNRWA's health programme from 1950 to the present. Includes historical footage of original camps and UNRWA services. Available for loan or purchase in English, French, German or Arabic.

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