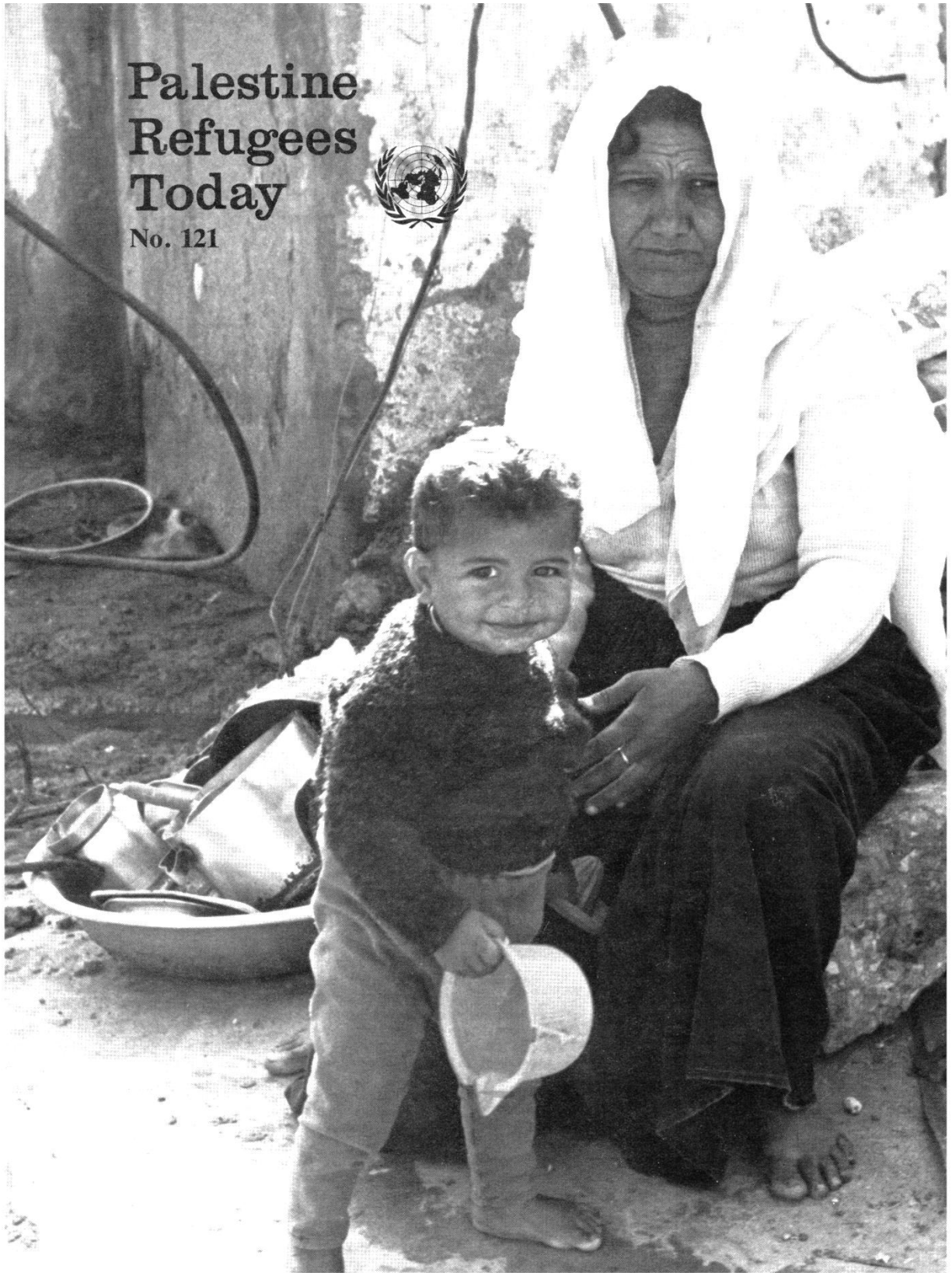


**Palestine  
Refugees  
Today**

No. 121



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**Cover photos:** Gaza Strip. In his past two annual reports, Commissioner-General Giorgio Giacomelli has pointed out the special problems and frustrations of Palestine refugees in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. See page 8 for highlights of the 1986-87 annual report.



# Palestine Refugees Today

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

## UNRWA News

### NECC funds specialist clinics

The Near East Council of Churches (NECC) is funding four specialist clinics at UNRWA's new Baqa'a camp health centre, Jordan. Qualified specialists and a practical nurse are being recruited in four areas of medicine: cardiovascular, ear-nose-throat, ophthalmology and dermatology.

NECC will finance the staffing and running costs of the specialist clinics at a cost of \$24,000 a year for three years. The NECC has also provided \$12,000 to equip the specialist clinics at Baqa'a and a dental unit at the Amman Polyclinic.

Another NECC contribution to the health and welfare of Palestine refugees in Jordan is one of \$13,000 a year for three years to connect the shelters of special-hardship-case families to municipal sewerage and water networks. The work has already started in Marka (Hitin) camp.

### Help Age assists in pilot project

Help Age International (HAI) has donated aids for the disabled to help set up a pilot project for care of elderly refugees in Baqa'a camp, Jordan.

The project plan was prepared jointly by UNRWA, the World Health Organization (WHO) and HAI. Its aim is to help and encourage refugees to remain active and healthy throughout old age. The project involves special training for volunteers,

family members and social workers in care of the elderly and the setting up of collection points for aids such as spectacles, hearing aids and wheelchairs.

London-based HAI has also offered a six-month training course in the UK on care of the aged for two nurses from the Jordan field.

### Japan donates second school

The Government of Japan is contributing \$500,000 for the construction of a new UNRWA girls' school in Jerash camp, Jordan. Last year Japan donated a similar amount for a boys' school in Jerash which is now under construction. When completed, the two schools will accommodate some 3,200 young refugees. In 1987, Japan contributed a total of \$10 million in cash to UNRWA plus food commodities.

### Australia increases contribution

The Australian Government is raising its contribution to UNRWA from 250,000 Australian dollars for 1987 to A\$ 1.2 million (U.S. \$ 876,000) for 1988. Of the 1988 amount, A\$ 700,000 will be for the General Fund and the remainder has been earmarked for building a new UNRWA school in the West Bank.

Meanwhile, AUST-CARE, the non-governmental Australian organisation for refugees, has given \$47,945 to cover the construction costs of a women's activities and sewing centre in Askar Camp near Nablus, West Bank.

### Summer camps held in Gaza

Some 600 refugee children, aged 9 to 12, at-

tended summer day camps organised for the first time in the eight refugee camps of the Gaza Strip. The camps, organised jointly by UNRWA and the YMCA/Gaza, were held at youth activities centres, except at Rafah where an UNRWA school was used.

Eighty young people, trained by the YMCA in camp leadership, supervised activities including indoor and outdoor games, basketball, volleyball and football competitions and Library reading programmes. The children visited historical and holy sites in the West Bank and local factories and other places of interest in Gaza.

The Gaza YMCA paid \$17,000 toward the running of the camps. The Community Development Foundation/Gaza (US Save the Children) donated \$3,000 and the World Alliance of YMCAs contributed \$8,000. UNRWA covered the remaining \$6,000 needed.

### Computer camp in Jordan

Orphaned Palestine refugee children were given a chance to learn about computers at the annual three-week summer camp held at UNRWA's Amman Training Centre in Jordan. Some 245 refugee boys and girls attended the camp, organised by the YMCA. Computing was on the programme for the first time. Other activities included scouting, calligraphy, hygiene, first aid and folklore performances.

### Dental services upgraded

UNRWA's Jordan field is expanding dental services in co-operation with the Near East Council of Churches (NECC) and with contributions of dental equipment from the British

and Canadian embassies in Amman. Under a three-year agreement, NECC is financing the operation of a mobile dental unit which will serve three UNRWA health points in the Jordan Valley at a cost of \$25,000 a year.

### Teddy Paczkowski

The YMCA (Young Men's Christian Association) has set up a fund in memory of the late Tadeusz Paczkowski who worked closely with UNRWA as former Middle East Director for Refugee Services at the World Alliance of YMCAs.

The fund is to be used for a publication about Palestine refugees and a history of the YMCA's work with them.

Mr. Paczkowski, known as "Teddy", died at his home in Paris in June 1987. He worked with UNRWA staff on many occasions - organising boys to help build refugee camps in Jordan in the 1960's and running leadership training camps in co-operation with the Agency.

Refugee leaders were trained to conduct their own activities programmes for young Palestine refugee men - a plan which continues today in many refugee camps.

Born in Warsaw, Poland, on 5 August 1912, Teddy Paczkowski left Poland in 1939 and later received medals for his war service from the French, British and Polish governments.

(Anyone wishing to contribute to the fund should address their donation to the "YMCA Tadeusz Paczkowski Memorial Fund", care of Frank C. Kiehne, Secretary for Refugees and Rehabilitation, World Alliance of YMCAs, 37 Quai Wilson, 1201 Geneva, Switzerland.)

## Siblin re-opens

During a year of much travail and tragedy in Lebanon, one bright portent of promise shone through in September 1987 when UNRWA Commissioner-General, Mr. Giorgio Giacomelli, re-opened the Siblin Training Centre. Already, 386 vocational trainees are hard at work on courses for 16 different trades.

The Siblin complex, located on a picturesque 125,000 m<sup>2</sup> hilltop site above the port city of Saida some 40 km south of Beirut, had been closed for four years, initially due to the Israeli invasion of June 1982, and later because of local hostilities.

The urgent need for vocational training, an imperative in which UNRWA was the Middle East pioneer, was reflected in the large numbers of applicants to Siblin, the biggest institution of its kind in Lebanon. From a field of more than 1,000 hopefuls 360 trainees, including 34 young women were selected; they were joined by 26 students who had completed their first year's training back in 1983.

A teaching staff of nearly 80 has been recruited, and that will be further augmented for the 1988-89 academic year when student numbers are expected to swell to more than 680. Under normal circumstances, only students from distant Tripoli or the Beqa'a Valley would board at Siblin, but this year the special problems facing trainees from south Beirut and Tyre have meant that some 250 are now living in the Siblin dormitories.

This "immense challenge" of re-opening Siblin, Mr. Giacomelli told students and guests at the opening ceremony symbolises UNRWA's determination to carry out its General Assembly mandate, to the extent that economic and other circumstances allow.

"We would not have considered doing so, had we not been convinced of the sincerity of all concerned to enable the centre to function without disturbances," the Commissioner-General added. "We are grateful for the many assurances from officials and popular groupings, that they will all assist in pre-



Commissioner-General Giacomelli cuts the UN cake at the opening of Siblin TC watched by Acting Principal Abdul Ghani Khalil and assisted by Sheikh Mahmoud Al-Ali, Mufti Al Jaffari of Saida.

venting any abuse of the centre, its premises and its operations, and will ensure the security and dignity of both staff and trainees."

To date some \$ 250,000 has been spent on Siblin, and the successful September conclusion of first-phase repairs and renovation was a remarkable tribute to the UNRWA staff and contractors who began work on the complex only in June. Further funding is still needed to fix the remaining premises in anticipation of next year's increase in student population.

The acting principal, Mr. Abdul Ghani Khalil, believes more will be required for the centre, as new courses are already being planned and equipment will need to be modernised if Siblin is to maintain its previous standards and produce graduates well-prepared for a changing world.

Established in 1961, the centre was aided initially by funding from Canada, Sweden and the Netherlands, and it provided courses of proven success in the electrical, mechanical, building, technical, teacher-training, business studies, public health and telecommunications fields. "Our priority this year was to get the centre functioning again with what was available," says Mr. Khalil. "But we must look to the

future if we are to continue to meet the needs of the large refugee youth population."

His theme was echoed by Mr. Giacomelli at the re-opening when he said that the problems in Lebanon over the past year had given greater emphasis to the importance of the Siblin Training Centre. "The centre is the source of the future of its students now, and of the future of students to follow in years to come," said the Commissioner-General.

An incident the day before the re-opening marred events somewhat when a bus taking trainees home crashed near the centre after brake failure. A mechanic fixing a car on the roadside was killed and one trainee and eight other persons were injured.

## Ramallah centre graduates 25<sup>th</sup> class

Ramallah Women's Training Centre (RWTC) recently celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a graduation ceremony for 273 trainees.

The first such training institution for women in the Arab world, RWTC has graduated 6,700 students since

it opened in 1962. Originally established with contributions from the United States government and from the British World Refugee Year Committee, the centre's running costs are now financed by the Danish government.

Some 600 guests attended the ceremony, held on a flag-bedecked playing ground at RWTC's hillside campus overlooking the West Bank town of Ramallah.

In a welcoming speech, the centre's principal, Mrs. Lamis Alami, traced the history of the centre and outlined the principles for which it was established. Student speaker Miss Salam Ali Wadi expressed the students' appreciation to UNRWA for providing this educational opportunity for refugee women free of charge. She pledged that the graduates would adhere to their oath to "faithfully serve the aspirations of our people".

West Bank Field Director Robert Hopkins then read a message from Commissioner-General Giorgio Giacomelli saying: "This is a very special occasion for UNRWA and for all those inside and outside the Palestine refugee community who have believed and continue to believe in what this centre stands for."

UNRWA headquarters Co-ordinator of Operations, Mr. Robert Gallagher, delivered a keynote speech on behalf of Mr. Giacomelli. Mr. Gallagher, who was West Bank Field Director in 1984-85, paid tribute to the graduates, urging them to put their talents and skills at the disposal of their entire communities, and to the staff of the centre, who he said must ensure that the education they gave met the needs of society.

The graduates, wearing dark-blue gowns specially made for the occasion by trainees in the centre's sewing section, then received their diplomas. Special awards were given to nine women graduating with distinction.

The largest number of graduates from any one section were the 36 from the secretarial and office management course. Other courses represented among the graduates were: teacher training in Arabic and English, Mathematics, Science and Elementary Education; technical courses for laboratory technicians, dressmaking and mass-production clothing and hairdressing and beauty culture.

## Special feeding projects show encouraging results

Special feeding projects have started in Jordan, Syria, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, marking a new step in an Agency plan to make sure that undernourished refugee children receive the food they need.

The projects are the second of their kind now operating in the four fields. The first started in the autumn of 1986 as pilot schemes to test the Agency's new plan. A similar project in Lebanon had to close after one month due to conditions there.

All the projects are aimed at ensuring that UNRWA's supplementary feeding programme reaches malnourished children and those at risk of malnutrition. Needy youngsters are being taken to the project centres daily for a nutritious meal which is designed to help them put on weight, grow, or to overcome anaemia, diarrhoea or dehydration.

In addition, their mothers are given health education so that they are better able to provide the youngsters with the correct food. When a child no longer needs to take part in the project, Agency staff follow-up his progress at home.

"The big success of the project is the tremendous change of attitude of the Mums," said UNRWA Director of Health Dr. John Hiddlestone.

The health department surveyed the new feeding project after six months and found that "it was, on the whole, successful; helped in discovering more malnourished and at-risk children; strengthened the team spirit among the staff; improved staff-mother relations; encouraged mothers to bring their children more regularly; and made mothers more receptive to health education."

When the survey was made, 577 children aged up to 3 years were taking part in the project - 303 of them were malnourished and 274 were considered to be at risk. On admission 31.7% of them had diarrhoea, 17.9% had vomiting attacks, 11.6% were dehydrated, 20.5% were wasted and 65% had anaemia.

Gain in weight was good in 13.7% of case, fair in 28.4% and poor in 57.9% - with the better results among the younger children. In-

crease in height was considered good in 19.6% of cases, fair in 30.6% and poor in 49.8%. Again, it was the younger children who showed the greatest improvement. Dr. Hiddlestone said the results were good, considering that the evaluation was done when the project had only been running six months.

UNRWA designed the project after a 1984 nutrition survey, backed by the World Health Organisation, found that UNRWA's supplementary feeding programme had helped to bring acute malnutrition to a low level in Jordan and the West Bank. But there was still a problem in Gaza and chronic malnutrition continued to be a problem in all UNRWA's fields. The survey also found that nutritional anaemia was still common among women and children.

Although UNRWA offers midday meals to all children under six years of age, the health department has found that use of the service is low among children aged up to three years and that many malnourished children do not come regularly to the feeding centres. The new feeding project aims to get round these problems.





## “Seed money” taking root

An UNRWA programme to help needy refugees become self-supporting by giving them “seed money” for their own enterprises is beginning to take root.

The programme began in 1983 with 12 self-support projects. Now there are more than 100 projects and some of the refugees running them have been taken off UNRWA’s welfare rolls because they no longer need financial help.

With cash grants from UNRWA, individual Palestine refugees have opened up small businesses such as a butcher shop and a kiosk selling stationery and sweets. Other refugees with special skills have opened up workshops to produce shoes, make neon signs or patch tires.

In 1986, with “seed money” of \$2,000 Mohammad Said Zu’bi established himself as a tinsmith in Irbid, Jordan, enabling him to provide a better life for his family of eight. A similar grant helped Mohammad Ahmad Sharaf, head of a family of 10 to set up a brickmaking factory in Irbid. Thanks to a \$7,353 UNRWA grant and assistance from several charitable societies in the Nablus area, West Bank, Safwat Khalil Ismail, the sole

breadwinner for 11, was able to build and stock a secondhand clothing store adjacent to his shelter. An input of \$5,000 enabled Mohammad Atiyeh Joudeh to expand and diversify the range of goods available at his grocery shop at Nuseirat Camp, Gaza, increasing his income to about \$600 a month, which is three times over the welfare threshold for a family of 10.

Today, most of these Palestine refugees are no longer on the Agency’s welfare rolls.

Their stories are all the more remarkable because these refugees used to be among the Special Hardship Cases (SHC) which make up five per cent of the refugee community. In September 1987, some 30,000 families of 121,912 persons were registered with the Agency as hardship cases and as such were eligible for limited welfare help and food rations. In contrast, the majority of the 2.2 million registered refugees are largely self-supporting, receiving only education and health services from UNRWA.

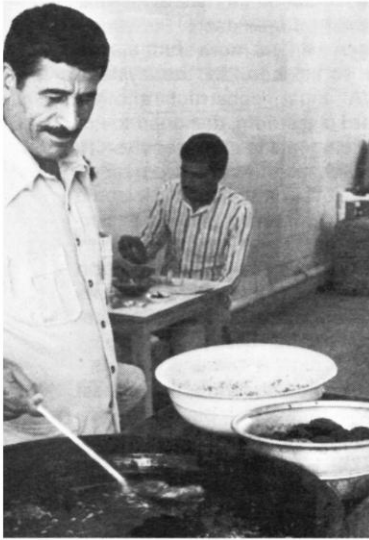
The SHC group includes individuals who are unable to seek employment due to a physical disability or personal circumstances: the aged, the disabled, widows and orphans and the chronically ill. Marwan, the tailor, is deaf and dumb; Mohammad, the tinsmith, is chronically ill; Safwat, the second-hand clothing vendor, is paralyzed in his left leg. Despite their individual disabilities, UNRWA gave them the

means to help themselves but only through their own hard work and determination have they succeeded. Often earnings increased only very gradually as sharp inflation eroded customers’ buying power.

## Shattered hopes in Lebanon

Lebanon is the only UNRWA field where the self-support programme suffered setbacks due to security disturbances. Since May 1985, fighting around refugee camps in Lebanon has claimed many lives and caused much destruction. The fighting has shattered hopes for self-help projects underway in the Tyre and Beirut areas. The tragic saga was always the same: projects got off to a good start, earnings were at a good level, then the next report showed that shops and homes were partially or completely destroyed in the fighting and refugees displaced. In some camps the Agency was unable to obtain any news about projects, due to the emergency situation.

Kamal Haj Musa’s self support project is a typical example. Kamal, though paralyzed, was very enthusiastic about opening a tinsmith shop at Shatila camp in Beirut. UNRWA provided him with “seed money” of \$900. In February 1985, the project was running smoothly. However, during fighting in May and June, his house and shop were dam-



aged. Due to sporadic fighting, Kamal began restlessly shifting between Shatila and Rashidieh camp near Tyre. Finally, he took up residence in Rashidieh. After moving all retrievable project equipment to Rashidieh camp, Kamal started up his project for a second time. Unfortunately, fighting resumed in the south and Rashidieh has been cut off from the outside world for months.

Extremely high inflation is another obstacle to project success in Lebanon. In 1983, it took about four Lebanese pounds to buy \$1. In late 1987, it took over 500 Lebanese pounds. Despite repeated frustrations and economic problems, welfare staff again started up carefully selected new projects but only in areas not affected by fighting.

### Keys to success

In the other fields of the Agency's area of operation, Gaza, West Bank, Jordan and Syria, great care is taken to avoid unnecessary risks of failure. Only a few projects have failed – most of them because the refugees involved had fallen sick or died.

Mr. Bernard Mossaz, Chief Relief Services Division says the programme has a high success rate because the projects UNRWA backs were chosen and monitored carefully. Self-support projects are also adequately capitalized to ensure a livelihood or income supplement for refugees with potential for success.

However, Mr. Mossaz cautions, a

100 per cent success rate is not possible since the projects involve destitute refugees with disabilities or difficult personal circumstances.

An outside consultant, John McKenzie reported in 1985, based on his first-hand experiences in Gaza and the West Bank, that the majority of SHC refugees are not able to engage in self-supporting jobs due to their disabilities. However, he added that on the Agency's rolls "there are bound to be a certain, even if a small, number of people capable of helping themselves. These will be people who have previously had trades and skills but who have had to rely on UNRWA because of hardship. They would welcome the opportunity of being able to revive their skills – and would much prefer to be self-supporting than to take assistance from the Agency."

The lives of some 100 refugee families have been transformed by the programme.

Jamal Darwish Zumlut living in Gaza is an Agency welfare case now self-employed. Jamal is chronically ill and is unable to work at a regular job requiring much physical effort. In October 1986, he received a \$6,810 grant from UNRWA to open up a video and tape cassette shop. Six months later the monthly income averaged \$500 – more than double the welfare threshold. He has increased his stock by 50 percent. He has even branched out into children's toys and has also renovated his shop and shelter.

Hasan Muhasin, paralysed in both legs since he was four months old, is one of the pioneers of UNRWA's self-support programme. He can walk only with crutches. With Agency assistance, he opened up a watch repair shop in the sprawling Baqa'a camp, Jordan. He is also earning extra money by renting out his own home made coloured lights for weddings and parties. Before setting up the project he used to live with his father but since 1984 he has been living independently with his wife and children. He says that today he and his family are well-fed and well-dressed and no longer dependent on welfare assistance.

One disabled refugee applying to run a project said the scheme would help him by raising his family's standard of living and changing people's attitudes towards the handicapped. It would also give him the chance to control his own future.

With the self-support programme for SHC refugees off to a good start, there are plans to introduce a parallel scheme to help combat the high rates of unemployment and the sharp inflation affecting the general refugee population. This involves an income-generating loan scheme to operate through local banks and credit institutions. Loans would be made to project beneficiaries from funds provided by the UK organization Co-operation for Development (CD) as well as other non-governmental organizations and administered in co-ordination with UNRWA.

## Continued neglect of buildings could lower quality of services

UNRWA is facing another major challenge. The Agency has to reach a level of financial stability which allows it not only to continue its services to refugees without interruption but also to rebuild collapsing clinics and classrooms.

Construction was neglected while the Agency struggled to stand on its legs financially in recent years. But with finances looking healthier, UNRWA can now turn to the problem of repairing or rebuilding premises which are up to 40 years old.

Commissioner General Giorgio Giacomelli brought this latest challenge to the attention of the General Assembly's Special Political Committee meeting in New York. At the the 42<sup>nd</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly, he said, UNRWA's funds are "totally inadequate to cover our increasing urgent construction needs."

"For far too long, under the pressure of continuing financial difficulties, we have been obliged to neglect construction." He warned that this could not continue without lowering the quality of the services the Agency provided.

"We may have to take precious money from our working capital to pay for the most badly needed buildings. Otherwise we will face a situation where some of our staff have no premises in which to work and provide services."

"This is the culmination of years of austerity in which construction and maintenance were postponed year after year for lack of funds, although we knew that the final bill would grow, and would not go away. Now we have that bill, and we need \$ 50 million over the next three/four years to deal with critical construction needs: \$ 38 million for the education programme, \$ 8.4 million for relief services and \$ 3.5 million for health," he said.

After stringent austerity measures in 1985 and 1986, UNRWA was able to restore a small amount of working capital – but only enough to cover just over a month's operating costs. Then in 1986 to 1987 UNRWA budgeted \$ 16.4 million for con-

struction projects. Only about \$ 4.6 million was received, leaving a gap of over \$ 11 million. Up to 1990, the Agency sees a need for more than \$ 50 million to be invested in its ageing buildings.

### 724 buildings

Since starting work in 1950, UNRWA has constructed or acquired 724 buildings which are still in use: 416 school buildings, 98 health centres, 90 food distribution centres, 64 warehouses and 56 sewing centres and women's activities centres.

The \$ 50 million needed over the next four years is for priority construction and repairs – not for frills. Spending this amount of money would help UNRWA to save money in the long term – since the newer, more efficient facilities would be cheaper to run. Staff could also be employed more efficiently.

If the backlog of construction needs is not met, there will be higher costs in terms of rents and extra maintenance costs.

UNRWA has appealed to donors to give extra help in addition to their regular contributions so that the Agency can get on with building and rebuilding throughout its five fields of operation.

Some of UNRWA's construction needs are long standing. For example, many of the provisional facilities to which UNRWA resorted in the immediate post-1949 period have become quite expensive to maintain and operate, and yet provide conditions which fall below currently accepted standards within the respective host countries. Also in urgent need of replacement are the prefabricated structures which were set up in the aftermath of the 1967 war, as well as many other structures which UNRWA has constructed or refurbished over nearly 40 years.

Other construction needs result from population growth and the continuing need to maintain acceptable standards. UNRWA has found it necessary to concentrate its limited construction funds on additional

facilities to accommodate a growing number of refugee users. For example, whenever 100 more students are added somewhere in the system, UNRWA must construct another standard classroom, designed to enable 50 students to attend each shift. New health facilities are also needed to relieve over crowding and in some cases to upgrade the level of services.

UNRWA's current construction needs extend into all three sectors of its programme activities: education, health and relief services.

**Education:** In education, the highest priority is to avert tripple-shifting, to replace inadequate rented premises and other structures which can no longer be repaired, and to raise existing UNRWA schools to an acceptable standard. Many UNRWA schools must be expanded in order to avert a choice between triple-shifting or excessively large class sizes. The 27 per cent of UNRWA schools in rented facilities impose an added financial burden, because of rental payments and the need for additional teachers to make use of classrooms which are much too small to accommodate a standard class size of 46–50 students.

In the West Bank, in contrast, a new school at Biddo has been built with a donation from Agfund. The

### 1987–1990 construction programme

By Field	
Gaza Strip	\$ 12,600,415
West Bank	\$ 12,817,613
Jordan	\$ 10,867,303
Syria	\$ 7,611,675
Lebanon	\$ 6,132,654
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 50,089,660</b>
By Year	
1987	\$ 7,689,684
1988	\$ 13,995,978
1989	\$ 13,223,419
1990	\$ 15,180,799
By Programme	
Education	\$ 38,136,444
Health	\$ 3,512,768
Relief	\$ 8,440,448

result is a **saving of about \$ 50,000 a year** in terms of rent, reduced staff costs and lower maintenance costs plus the benefit of a better learning environment.

**Health:** The natural increase of the refugee population, and the need to expand the range of primary health care activities provided to Palestine refugees also puts great pressure on the Agency's health services. Every year UNRWA must expand or update a number of its health facilities, provide additional new facilities and replace unsuitable old premises. There is, for example, a great need to construct maternal and child health sub-centres to relieve the congestion in the main clinics of the more crowded refugee camps.

A good example of planning for health services is the extensive network in Baqa'a camp in Jordan. The prefabricated structures which were set up in 1967 as temporary health facilities proved to be inadequate for

the growing needs of a camp population which stood at 57,000 in 1987.

The comprehensive plan to expand and upgrade health services in Baqa'a camp demonstrates UNRWA's ability to combine the efforts of many donors, including governments (for example, a new health centre funded by the Canadian government was completed in August 1987), other United Nations agencies (radiographic machines provided by the World Health Organization), intergovernmental organizations (a maternal and child health sub-centre donated by Agfund), and non-governmental organizations (a child health clinic and nutrition rehabilitation clinic contributed by the Norwegian Refugee Council), as part of a co-ordinated primary health care approach which is supported by community participation.

**Relief:** UNRWA provides a wide range of welfare, training and recreational services through camp of-

fices, distribution centres, and centres for carpentry, sewing, women's and youth activities.

Many of these buildings provide inadequate accommodation and must be replaced, and more such facilities are required to keep pace with a growing population and steadily worsening economic circumstances.

Work on constructing two combined sewing/women's activities centres will soon begin in Jabalia and Khan Younis camps in the Gaza Strip, which respectively have about 12,000 and 8,000 women residents between 16-50 years of age. These centres will replace inadequate, dilapidated premises at a cost of approximately \$36,000 each. Each centre will provide a sewing and embroidery course for 30 young women per year, as well as a wide range of social and economic activities.

## Population Shifts

Population shifts among other refugee communities have made it necessary to plan for delivery of the full range of services in locations where this was not previously needed.

Muzeireeb, the largest of a cluster of refugee communities which have been established in an agricultural region to the west of Dera'a in southwestern Syria, provides but one example of a community which currently needs additional facilities. The modest UNRWA health point, served regularly by a health team from Dera'a camp health centre, is based in a small, run-down rented building and can no longer meet the needs of an expanding population.

A planned new facility, including both a health centre and feeding sub-centre, will relieve overcrowding and improve the standard of health care, for example by enabling a dental team stationed in Dera'a to attend to a large number of oral conditions that previously required the use of dental equipment at Dera'a health centre.

The next priority project for Muzeireeb is to replace the totally unsatisfactory rented premises that currently accommodate 14 small classrooms, which are used on a double-shift basis for 833 primary school pupils.



## Short-term position improves

UNRWA needs a broader and more dependable financial base, although donor generosity and staff austerity measures have improved the short-term position, according to the Agency's Commissioner General, Giorgio Giacomelli in his annual report to the United Nations General Assembly in New York. The report covers the period 1 July 1986 – 30 June 1987.

First-hand knowledge by donors, mainly governments, of UNRWA operations had been improved and their response to appeals was greatly appreciated, Mr. Giacomelli went on, but there were no grounds for Agency complacency. Small but regular increases in donations would help cope with the natural annual increase in the population served and, in this respect, the Arab League's call for greater levels of contribution by its member States was encouraging.

### Seven staff killed

In Lebanon, seven staff members were killed during the year; scores of refugees were wounded and hundreds kidnapped. At the peak of fighting during the winter of 1986–87, UNRWA was dealing with nearly 50,000 displaced refugees. Hundreds of the buildings and homes in the Beirut camps of Burj el-Barajneh and Shatila had been destroyed by systematic shelling, the Commissioner-General reported, and a major repair programme was urgently needed.

In the Israeli-occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, economic conditions had continued to deteriorate; refugee unrest and the responses of the occupying authorities had caused disruption of UNRWA's education services, although good examination results in UNRWA schools remained an encouraging factor.

A grossly unfair and distorted view of UNRWA still existed in some quarters, Mr. Giacomelli noted, and this gave an impression that the Agency doled out food to refugees who sat idly in camps. In fact, only five percent of the refugee population now receive direct relief assist-

ance; the great bulk of UNRWA's resources are devoted to education and training as well as providing effective medical and welfare services for a refugee population that was largely self-supporting.

### Education

During the year under review, UNRWA had provided education for some 349,000 Palestine refugee children in its 635 schools. Those in Jordan and Syria had been able to operate normally. In the occupied territories, disruptions had been overcome by means of additional teaching periods.

Even in troubled Lebanon, the Commissioner-General added, 65 of the 82 Agency schools were operational by last June. In all areas, apart from Lebanon, UNRWA students had performed as well as or better than those from government schools in their State examinations.

The health care programme, primarily community health-oriented, continued to provide a combination of curative and preventive care, with environmental health services in the camps and nutritional and supplementary feeding for vulnerable population groups. In four of the five Agency fields, the refugee population had already bettered the World Health Organization (WHO) target for developing countries of fewer than 50 deaths per thousand live births.

UNRWA relief services included the special hardship programme which during the year helped nearly 118,000 refugees eligible for food, blankets, some cash assistance, grants for self-support projects, aid to repair or construct shelters and preferential access to vocational and teacher training.

This was in addition to a general welfare programme comprising case-work, women's activities, adult training courses, education and training for the disabled, the promotion of income-generating projects, emergency assistance and pre-school facilities. In 1986, Mr. Giacomelli pointed out, more than 4,500 young Palestine refugees took part in sporting and cultural

activities provided by the Agency in 42 centres.

**Lebanon:** In the introduction to his report, Mr. Giacomelli said he had expressed concern for the sufferings of all the people of Lebanon but emphasized that UNRWA's mandate was limited to assisting Palestine refugees. He said "the best way to overcome the present difficult situation would be to associate other organizations in an operation that would reach all groups in Lebanon. I am confident that steps to provide co-ordinated assistance to all those in need in Lebanon will not only facilitate UNRWA's operations but will help to ease tensions and assist in the restoration of peace and security in that troubled land."

**Occupied Territories:** The Commissioner-General said he was "encouraged" by the increase in international interest in promoting economic development. "The decision by the EC to open its markets to products from the occupied territories was a positive one, but much remains to be done before West Bank and Gaza Strip producers can take full advantage of it. UNDP and other organs of the United Nations system have also initiated a number of additional developmental projects."

In both the occupied territories there is still heavy pressure on the Agency's services. More refugees are using UNRWA health services and an increasing number are claiming assistance as special hardship cases, a demand the Agency is unable to meet.

### Contributions

"I am grateful to those major donors whose increased contributions have helped us to bring expenditure and income into better balance. So that we can continue to stabilise the financial situation I would urge them to provide for small, regular increases so that we can maintain our programmes and avoid the disruptive stop-go measures imposed by previous economy campaigns," Mr. Giacomelli said in his report.

He also called on governments whose contributions are symbolic to consider assuming a larger share of the cost of "this internationally agreed operation."

# HOW TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT UNRWA . . .

BELOW, AN ABRIDGED CATALOGUE OF UNRWA PRINTED AND AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIALS. PRINTED PUBLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE; FILMS, SLIDE/CASSETTE PROGRAMMES AND SLIDE SETS MAY BE BORROWED OR PURCHASED (PRICES AND FURTHER INFORMATION ARE IN THE COMPLETE CATALOGUE). SEND ORDERS (OR REQUESTS FOR DETAILS) TO: **UNRWA PUBLIC INFORMATION DIVISION, P. O. BOX 700, VIENNA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE, A-1400 VIENNA, AUSTRIA.**

Languages used are Arabic (A), English (E), French (F), German (G), Italian (I), Japanese (J), Norwegian (N), Spanish (Sp), and Swedish (Sw).

## Regular Publications

### **Palestine Refugees Today**

Quarterly newsletter covering news and human-interest stories of UNRWA operations, with occasional photo essays. E, A, F, G, Sp.

### **UNRWA News**

Fortnightly bulletin on current events in the area of operations. E, A.

### **UNRWA Report**

Quarterly briefing paper for governments, legislators and NGOs. E, A, F.

## Occasional Publications

### **Guide to UNRWA**

A 16-page mimeographed booklet describing UNRWA's work in its five fields and its headquarters operation with organization charts. English only.

### **Survey**

Describes UNRWA operations with black and white photographs and brief historical background. Reprinted 1986. E, A, F, G, Sp.

### **Brief History: 1950-1982**

292-page narrative of UNRWA history and its change of emphasis over 32 years from relief to education. Includes resolutions on UNRWA's mandate adopted by the UN General Assembly. 1982. E.

### **PB 9 UNRWA: Past, Present and Future**

A paperback narrative published in May 1986, based on a briefing document prepared for a conference of major donors, bringing the **Brief History** up to date. Deals also with historical background to the founding of UNRWA and its development over 36 years. E, F, A.

## Leaflets

### **UNRWA - What is it?**

Basic facts about UNRWA. Two-colour with black and white illustrations. E, A, F, G, I, Sp.

### **Palestine Refugees**

Basic facts about Palestine refugees in UNRWA's five fields. Two-colour with black and white illustrations. A, E, F, G, S.

## Posters, Wallsheets

**PX 27: UNRWA.** Full-color wallsheet with photos showing UNRWA's education and health services and the relief/welfare aid that it has been rendering to refugees in hardship and those displaced by fighting in Lebanon. Includes a map of UNRWA's area of operations, and 1986 statistics. E only.

**PX 28: Shelter.** Colour poster marking the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. E, A, F, G, Sp.

**PX 29: Education.** Colour poster on UNRWA's education programme. E, A, F, G, Sp.

**PX 30: Vocational Training for Refugee Women.** Colour poster on vocational training courses for young refugee women. E, A, F, G, Sp.

**Map of UNRWA's Area of Operations.** Includes statistics on refugee locations. E, A.

## Films

**Prelude to Peace** A, E, F, G, I, J, N; a 16 mm, 19-minute colour film tracing the history of the Palestine problem throughout the 20th Century. Includes historical footage and coverage of UNRWA's work with Palestine refugees.

**Palestine Refugees Today** E, A, F, G, J; 16 mm, 14 min, colour

Introduction to UNRWA's services to the Palestine refugees. The film shows UNRWA relief, education and health programmes at work in all five fields, and surveys the life of Palestine refugees in today's Middle East.

**Caring** E, A, F, G, J, N; 16 mm, 16 min, colour

The story of an underprivileged Palestine refugee who put himself through school and is now helping orphaned refugees as a service to the community. 1985.

**Long Journey** E, A, F, G; 16 mm, 14 min, colour

This film highlights UNRWA's work in providing medical services to the Palestine refugees from their first exodus until the present time.

**Education for Palestine Refugee Women** E, A, F, G; 16 mm, 8½ min, colour

Features Maha, a girl of 20, studying to become an architectural draughtsman (traditionally an occupation for men in the Middle East) at UNRWA's Wadi Seer Vocational Training Centre in Jordan.

## Slide/Tape Programmes

**ST 3: Through the Eyes of Ibrahim** E, F, G, Sw; 80 35 mm slides, cassette (10 min), teaching notes, maps and poster.

The programme follows a typical refugee schoolboy in class and in his family's modest house at Marka, Jordan.

**ST 4: The Palestinian Odyssey** E, A, F, G; 65 35 mm slides, cassette (8 min)

Traces the Arab-Israeli conflict in Palestine from 1897 to the present. The programme documents United Nations involvement and its efforts to solve the conflict as well as its services to Palestine refugees.

THE ABOVE PROGRAMMES ARE SUITABLE FOR AUTOMATIC SOUND/SLIDE PROJECTOR OR FOR ANY MANUAL PROJECTOR AND A NORMAL CASSETTE PLAYER.

## Slide Sets

### **Palestine Dresses**

27 35 mm slides of Palestine dresses from various districts. Descriptive notes in E, A, F, G.

### **Palestine Refugees**

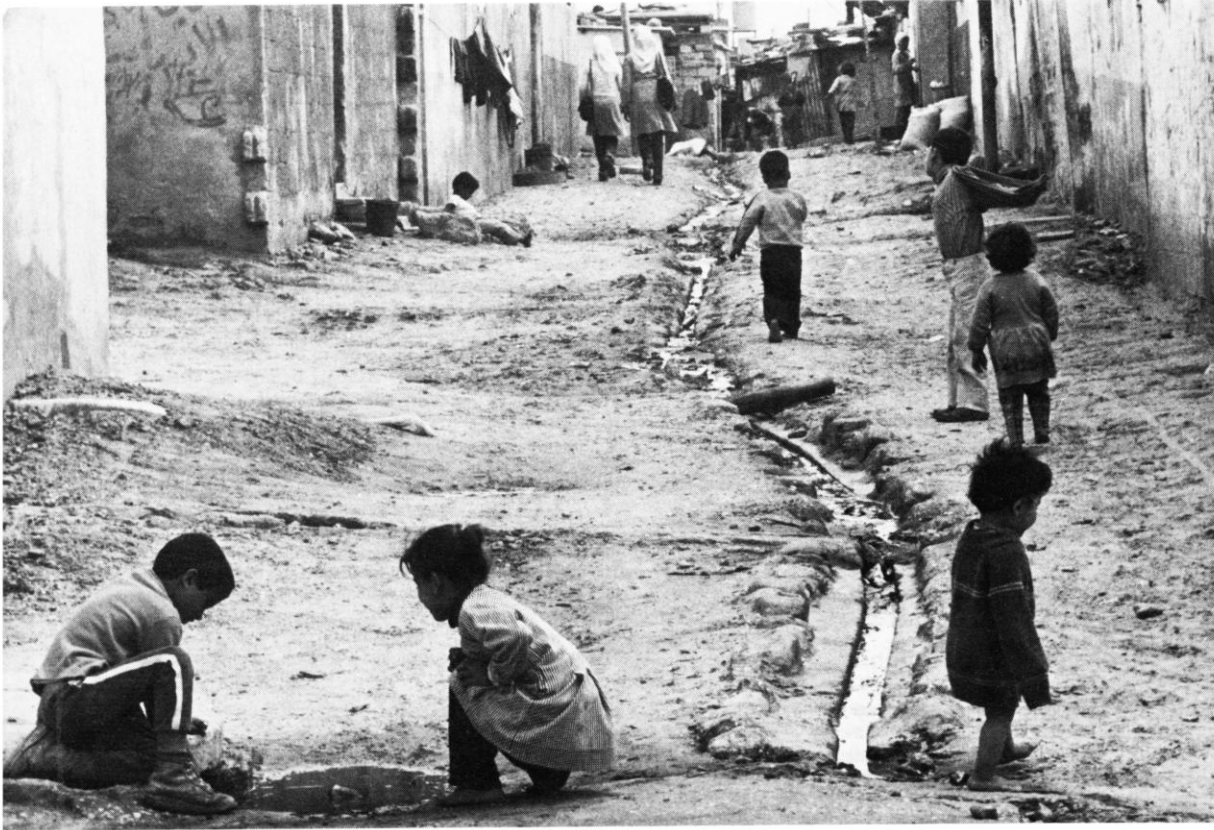
20 35 mm slides covering UNRWA services provided to Palestine refugees. Descriptive notes in English.

ALL 16 mm FILMS, SLIDE SETS AND SLIDE/TAPE PRESENTATIONS CAN BE SUPPLIED ON VIDEO TAPE. DETAILS IN AUDIO-VISUAL CATALOGUE.

## Catalogues

**Complete Catalogue of Printed Publications** Up-to-date catalogue of printed materials available free of charge.

**Complete Catalogue of Audio-Visual Materials** Up-to-date catalogue of films, slide/cassette programmes, slide sets, posters, video tapes; with prices and order form.



**Palestine Refugees Today**

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