



PALESTINE REFUGEES TODAY

An UNRWA Newsletter

No. 18

July–August 1962

DIPLOMA TO
A BETTER LIFE



CONTENTS

Increased Governmental Support for UNRWA's Work	1
In Brief	3
Willard Jones retires Visitors Contributions	
Refugee Stamp Plan Report	7
First Graduation Ceremony at UNRWA Teacher Training Centre	8
A Warm Heart and a Cold Climate	10
Arab Contributions to Refugee Aid	11

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The cover illustration shows one of the first graduates from UNRWA's men's teacher training centre admiring his new diploma.

All photographs in this Newsletter, and other pictures of Arab refugees and of UNRWA's work, may be obtained from the Public Information Office, UNRWA, Museitbeh Quarter, Beirut, Lebanon.

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INCREASED GOVERNMENTAL SUPPORT FOR UNRWA'S WORK

An increasing number of governments are reaffirming their approval of UNRWA's work in the most practical way -- by increasing their contributions to the Agency.

In particular, many of the increased donations indicate support for UNRWA's expanded vocational training programme, for which much of the extra money is being used.

The cost of the vocational training programme is additional to the cost of providing relief services and basic education for the one million Palestine refugees. The increased contributions therefore are of vital importance in that they enable the vocational centres to operate at full strength, despite the overall budget deficit which the Agency faces.

Some of the increased contributions are in the form of larger annual donations, some are gifts in kind, such as foodstuffs and supplies, and recently some are in the form of technical assistance grants. These technical assistance grants reflect the fact that UNRWA's vocational training programme, in addition to providing opportunities for young refugees, turns out an important byproduct in the form of skills for development within the Middle East.

The Government of Switzerland, for instance, has contributed food supplies and made a significant technical assistance grant, both of which benefit the vocational training programme. The food, consisting of 300 tons of powdered whole milk and 14 tons of processed cheese, is valued by the Swiss Government at \$320,000. By agreement with the Government, funds previously budgeted by the Agency for purchasing milk and cheese will now be credited to the vocational training programme.

The Swiss technical assistance grant of \$80,000 is paying the cost of training 80 refugee youths during a two-year period at UNRWA's Wadi Seer Vocational Training Centre (see page 10). Both the contributions in kind and the technical assistance grant were made over and above the Swiss Government's regular annual donation of \$35,046.

The pledge by the United States Government of \$24,700,000 for the fiscal period 1 July 1961 to 30 June 1962 shows an increase over the preceding year of \$1.2 million. \$1.7 million of the total is specified for vocational training.

The Federal Republic of Germany more than doubled its regular annual contribution in 1962. The German Government gave \$625,000 as its contribution to UNRWA for 1962, compared with the 1961 donation of \$250,000.

The Netherlands Government's donation to the Agency for 1962 shows an increase of 60 per cent over its 1961 contribution. A cheque for the 1962 donation, 400,000 guilders (\$111,000), was presented last month by the Netherlands Ambassador to Lebanon, Dr. Adrian H. Philipse, to UNRWA Commissioner-General Dr. John H. Davis. The Netherlands Government donated 250,000 guilders (\$69,061) in 1961.

The Government of Finland, which has not been a regular contributor to UNRWA in the past, has indicated its interest in the Agency's vocational training programme by making a special contribution in 1962 of \$10,000 to the vocational training scholarship fund. The money will provide one year's training for 20 young refugees, and help UNRWA move towards its target of two thousand scholarships of \$500 each in 1962, and another two thousand in 1963.

Increases have also been pledged in 1962 by Ireland (\$20,000 compared with \$14,062 in 1961), Norway (\$49,000 compared with \$42,000 in 1961), and Denmark (\$25,340 compared with \$21,720 in 1961-62).

The substantial contribution of \$100,000 was made recently by the Ruler of Kuwait, Sheikh Abdallah Sabah, which is in addition to the Kuwait Government's regular 1962 contribution of \$120,000. The additional donation will be used to finance 200 vocational training scholarships for the 1962-1963 academic year.

A Swedish technical assistance mission, consisting of Dr. Arne Bjornberg, Secretary General of the Swedish Agency for International Assistance, and Mr. Einar Forsell, principal of the Vocational Schools of Stockholm, visited Lebanon and Jordan in April. As a result of their visit, a substantial technical assistance grant is expected from Sweden in the near future.

In brief, twenty per cent of the more than forty governments which contribute regularly to UNRWA have increased their donations for 1962. These increased contributions from governments, along with much needed donations from individuals and voluntary organizations, reflect growing interest in the Agency's work.

Despite these somewhat larger contributions and the fact that relief expenditures are being held to the 1960 level, the Agency still faces a difficult financial squeeze during 1962. This subject, among other things, will undoubtedly be reviewed by the U.N. General Assembly at the coming session when a decision will be taken with regard to the Agency's mandate, presently due to expire on 30 June 1963.

IN BRIEF

Willard Jones retires

Willard Jones, one of the first men to appeal to the world for aid for the Palestine refugees, has retired after 26 years of service in the Middle East. Mr. Jones, 68, retired from his post as executive secretary of the Near East Christian Council Committee for Refugee Work (NECCC) at the end of June. He had held the position

for the last nine years, as well as the post of secretary of the Central Coordinating Committee of Voluntary Agencies.

Soon after the 1948 conflict had resulted in the refugee crisis, Mr. Jones was among the first to cable to church and voluntary organizations in the United States for immediate aid.

As executive secretary of the NECCC, he directed one of the largest voluntary agencies giving assistance to the refugees. The NECCC is active in the fields of education, health, vocational training and social welfare. One of its main tasks is the distribution of used clothing to needy refugees.

Mr. Jones and his wife Christina came to the Middle East 40 years ago. He assumed the position of principal of the Friends School, in Ramallah, Jordan. After spending 14 years in the United States (1930-44) he returned to the same position, and became executive secretary of the NECCC in 1953. Mr. and Mrs. Jones are returning to their home in Iowa in the United States. Mr. Jones has been succeeded as executive secretary of the NECCC by Richard Butler.

Visitors



Mr. Leonard W. Brockington Q.C., Rector of Queens University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada, former president of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, and a well-known literary figure in Canada, spent 10 days touring UNRWA installations in the four host countries. While in Jordan, Mr. Brockington discussed the plight of the refugees with numerous officials, including King Hussein.

Dr. Elfan Rees, Secretary of the World Council of Churches' Commission on International Affairs, spent a week visiting UNRWA camps, schools and vocational training centres in Lebanon, Jordan and Gaza.

Dr. Ralph Bunche, Under-Secretary of the United Nations, who once served as Acting Mediator in the early years of the Palestine refugee crisis, inspected the Gaza Vocational Training Centre during a four-day visit to the Gaza Strip. The primary purpose of his trip was to inspect UN Emergency Force installations. The photo shows Dr. Bunche in the centre's sheetmetal workshop.



Mr. Don Peretz, author of "Israel and the Palestine Arabs", spent two weeks in the UNRWA area of operation gathering material for further writing.

Miss Margaret Brugler, co-director of the Church World Service's Christian Rural Overseas Programme, visited UNRWA camps and schools during a trip to inspect the CWS-CROP project at Jibrail, Lebanon.

Mrs. Sirpuhe Philibosian, vice-president of the United States Organization for Medical and Educational Needs, accompanied by Miss Victoria Rizk, paid visits to UNRWA installations in Lebanon, Syria and Jordan to study the Arab refugee situation on behalf of U.S. OMEN.

Dr. Demetrius Iatridis, Director of the Graduate School of Ekistics at Athens Technological Institute, visited the four host countries to gather information for the meeting on refugees and migration, to be held in connection with the forthcoming International Conference on Social Work in Brazil.

Mr. Andres Guldvik, Secretary-General of the Norwegian United Nations Association, inspected the Gaza Vocational Training Centre. Expansions to the centre are being financed by Norwegian donations.

Rev. William Simpson, General Secretary of the Council of Christians and Jews (U.K.) visited Lebanon and Jordan to see UNRWA installations.

Contributions

The Canadian Junior Red Cross has pledged \$50,000 to provide vocational training scholarships at UNRWA's Sibliin Vocational Training Centre in Lebanon -- which the Junior Red Cross helped to finance with a World Refugee Year contribution. The first instalment of \$25,000 will furnish scholarships for 50 trainees who will enter the centre when it is opened in September. A similar donation next year will pay for their second year. During World Refugee Year, the Junior Red Cross gave \$70,000 towards the construction of the Sibliin Centre, which was built almost entirely with Canadian donations.

A gift of \$10,000 from Mr. David Rockefeller, president of the Chase Manhattan Bank, New York, will provide vocational training scholarships for 20 young refugees in the architectural draughting courses at UNRWA's Kalandia Vocational Training Centre, near Jerusalem, Jordan. Mr. Rockefeller made the donation following a visit to the Middle East and to some UNRWA installations in April.

A donation of tool kits by CARE (Cooperative for American Relief Everywhere, Inc.) will be of double value: the tools will be used in UNRWA's vocational training centres, and the money saved by the donation will provide scholarships for 22 young refugees to attend the Gaza Vocational Training Centre. The tools are valued by CARE at \$20,000. Trainees receiving scholarships include the complete 16-member auto mechanic's class, and six boys in the fitter-machinist course.

The Canadian Save the Children Fund has approved a donation of \$11,000 to complete a clinic and maternity centre at Khan Younis, in the Gaza Strip. The clinic was started by a Christmas collection taken among officers and men of the Canadian contingent of the United Nations Emergency Force in Gaza. Another section was dedicated as a memorial to Alice Lalonde, a Canadian U.N. official who died in the plane crash that killed U.N. Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold.

The Oxford Committee for Famine Relief (OXFAM) has donated \$6,850 to help the establishment of a new pottery project at Jabalia camp, in the Gaza Strip. The money was presented by Mr. Leslie Blankensee, a representative of OXFAM who recently visited Gaza.

UNRWA invites further inquiries about the Vocational Training Scholarship programme, under which donors can sponsor individual refugee trainees. A \$500 scholarship pays for one year's training for a young refugee at one of the Agency's vocational training centres. In return, the donor is sent a picture and a brief biography of his "adopted" trainee.

REFUGEE STAMP PLAN REPORT

Stamp collectors and letter writers throughout the world indirectly gave almost \$400,000 to the Palestine refugees in 1960.

A joint report on the Refugee Stamp Plan, recently issued by Mr. Felix Schnyder, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and Dr. John H. Davis, Commissioner-General of UNRWA, states that UNRWA received \$274,519, and that \$122,390 was transferred directly to other organizations working for the Palestine refugees.

The Stamp Plan was conceived within the framework of World Refugee Year activities to draw public attention to the plight of refugees around the world, and as a novel method of raising money to help the refugees.

On 7 April 1960, 72 countries simultaneously issued specially-designed postage stamps drawing attention to refugees. This was the first such simultaneous issue in postal history. In addition, five countries issued special refugee postmarks.

Through the Stamp Plan, most of the participating nations made contributions towards refugee work, either by donating stamps to the United Nations for sale, or by cash donations resulting from domestic sales of the stamps or surcharges on them. In addition, worldwide attention was drawn to refugee problems by letters carrying the stamps to all corners of the earth.

The Stamp Plan was sponsored jointly by UNRWA and the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees. By agreement, a quarter of the total funds raised went to help Palestine refugees, and three-quarters was used in assistance to other refugees through the High Commissioner's Office.

Altogether, \$1,587,641 was raised through the Plan. It was allocated according to refugee areas as follows: Africa: \$500,000; the Americas: \$60,000; Asia (including \$396,910 for Palestine refugees): \$646,910; Europe: \$380,731.



FIRST GRADUATION CEREMONY AT UNRWA
TEACHER TRAINING CENTRE.

A shake of the hand . . . a paper scroll . . . and the beginning of a new life.

The 99 young refugees who in June became the first graduates from the UNRWA Men's Teacher Training Centre at Ramallah, Jordan, began preparing for their new life two years ago when they entered the newly-opened centre.

The two years of work culminated in the centre's first graduation ceremony, when each of the graduates received his diploma from the Jordanian

The Jordanian Minister of Education presents a diploma to one of the 99 graduates. Between them is the principal, Mr. S. Khalil.

Minister of Education, Sheikh Ibrahim Kattan.

Sheikh Kattan told the graduates and the 900 guests that the work of a teacher was amongst the noblest of professions. He asked the graduates to follow the motto of King Hussein: "Let us build this country and serve the nation."

The 99 graduates, although they are the first from the new centre, are not the first refugees trained by UNRWA to be teachers. For the Ramallah Centre was established on the experience gained from a pilot teacher-training project set up in Shufat, Jordan, in 1956.

The pilot project was closed in May 1957 because of lack of funds at that time. Twenty refugees completed their training while the Shufat centre was in operation.



In 1958, it was decided to establish a larger centre at Ramallah, in premises designed as a self-contained teacher training centre, not in rented accommodation as in Shufat.

The Ramallah centre opened in September 1960, when 99 trainees, the ones who graduated this June, entered their first year. Another 99 entered in 1961, and will graduate next year.

Generous World Refugee Year donations from Denmark have financed an addition to the centre which will increase the total enrolment to 300 this autumn, and to the full capacity of 400 in the autumn of 1963. When in full operation, 200 refugees will graduate each year.

The expansions made possible by the Danish contributions include a new classroom block, a dormitory to accommodate 200 trainees, an assembly hall/library, and a football field.

During their two years at the centre, the boys take subject courses, courses in educational theory, and receive practical teaching experience. The practice teaching is conducted in nine demonstration schools near the centre.

The young men who graduated in June face a bright future, as qualified teachers are in great demand throughout the Middle East, as they are all over the world. The training they have received at the Ramallah centre will stand them in good stead wherever they may choose to live.

Many of the new graduates will join the UNRWA school system, which has to keep pace with the expanding refugee population, and which is striving hard to improve the quality of its teachers. A steady flow of trained teachers from the two UNRWA teacher training centres (the men's centre, and a centre for girls, due to open in Ramallah in September) will help to raise the level of teaching, as do the summer courses and the in-service training offered to UNRWA teachers, most of whom are still poorly qualified academically.

To the 99 graduates, the diplomas signify the beginning of a new life -- a life of accomplishment and service, instead of a life of frustration.

A WARM HEART AND A COLD CLIMATE

Moussa Zaki Nofal knows Switzerland as a country with a cold climate and a warm heart.

He has seen pictures of Switzerland's snowy mountains in books and magazines, and has first-hand knowledge of the warm-hearted generosity of the Swiss.

For Moussa is one of the 80 young Palestine refugees who are receiving vocational training with the help of a technical assistance grant of \$80,000 from the Government of Switzerland.

The money will provide scholarships for the 80 young men to cover their entire two-year courses at UNRWA's Wadi Seer Vocational Training Centre, near Amman, Jordan. The trainees are in the electricians', telecommunications mechanics' and radio and TV mechanics' courses.

The Swiss Ambassador to Jordan, Mr. Guido Keel, recently unveiled five plaques at the centre, signifying that five complete classes of 16 boys each are sponsored by the Swiss grant.

"The trainees are deeply grateful for this gesture of solidarity which will give them a chance to lead useful and productive lives," read the plaques.

"Switzerland could not remain unmoved by the unhappy situation of the Palestine Arab refugees," the Swiss Ambassador told an audience which included the Jordanian Minister of Education and the Minister of Development and Reconstruction, the Commissioner-General of UNRWA, trainees, instructors and other invited guests.

"Its attention was drawn early to their needs, to the remarkable relief work carried out by UNRWA, and to the dynamic programme of vocational training which aims at providing young refugees with the possibility of completing their education and later on leading a worthwhile and productive life," said Mr. Keel.

The years ahead will be better years for Moussa. He will experience, for the first time, the self-respect of a skilled craftsman. He will come to know a better life, away from the refugee camps.

And he will, no doubt, look back and remember the blue and white plaque in his workshop at Wadi Seer, reminding him that his good fortune is due to the warm-hearted people of Switzerland.

ARAB CONTRIBUTIONS TO REFUGEE AID

It is a wide-spread misconception that the Palestine refugees are dependent solely on "foreign" aid, and that the Arab countries give little or nothing.

The facts and figures, as set out in a recent UNRWA publication, dispel this misconception.

The Arab countries have in fact provided about 11 per cent of all the aid given to the refugees since the beginning of the problem in 1948. The value of the aid from the Arab countries amounts to more than \$55,000,000, including aid given during this year. Even in terms of direct contributions to UNRWA the United Arab Republic is the fifth largest donor for the period 1950-1961 as a whole.

The figures are given in a pamphlet entitled "Summary Data on Assistance to the Palestine Refugees", which may be obtained from UNRWA by writing to the address given on the last page of this Newsletter.

Since the beginning of the refugee problem in 1948, the Arab "host" governments (Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and the United Arab Republic), other Arab governments, various Arab organizations, institutions and individuals have contributed significantly to the support of the refugees.

This support has been made through the UNRPR (United Nations Relief for Palestine Refugees, 1948-50) and UNRWA, and also by assistance to the refugees through other channels.

The bulk of the \$55,000,000 worth of aid given by Arab countries to the refugees has come in direct assistance, mostly from the host governments, including education, welfare, health services, shelter, security, administration and miscellaneous expenses. The four host countries spend about \$5,000,000 on such aid each year. At a conservative estimate, the host countries have contributed some \$38,000,000 in direct aid to the refugees in various goods and services from 1948 to 1961. The figure of \$55,000,000 for the total amount of aid from Arab countries includes \$5,000,000 in direct aid for the year 1961-62.

The aid given by Arab countries to the Palestine refugees from 1948-1961 is as follows :

Contributions from Arab
Host Governments

To UNRPR (1948-50)	\$	881,425
To UNRWA (1950-61)		6,550,905
Direct to Refugees ^x (1948-50)		7,724,082
Direct to Refugees ^x (1950-61)		30,644,433
	\$	45,800,845

Other Arab Governments

To UNRPR (Saudi Arabia)	\$	142,356
To UNRWA		971,742
Direct to Refugees ^x (1948-61)		728,570
	\$	1,842,668

Non-governmental organisations,
institutions, individuals

In cash, kind and services ^x (1948-61)	\$	2,020,715
<u>GRAND TOTAL</u>	\$	<u>49,664,228</u>

This grand total amounts to about 11 per cent of the total amount of aid given to the refugees from 1948 to 1961 for which there is record: \$452,856,000

^x Estimates of direct aid are based on data supplied by the governments, organizations and individuals concerned.

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) is a special, temporary, non-political body established by the General Assembly of the United Nations in December 1949. In co-operation with the host governments (Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic, and the United Arab Republic) it carries out its two-fold task: immediate: to provide food, health services, education, training and shelter for the refugees; long-term: to assist the refugees to become self-supporting.

UNRWA began work in May 1950 and its present mandate expires on 30 June 1963.

Further information may be obtained from:

UNRWA Liaison Office
Palais des Nations
Geneva
Switzerland

UNRWA Public Information Office
Museitbeh Quarter,
Beirut
Lebanon

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(For information purposes - Not an official record)