



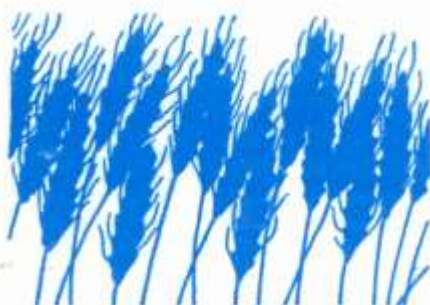
# PALESTINE REFUGEES TODAY

*An UNRWA Newsletter*

No. 24      MARCH 1963



UNRWA and  
the FREEDOM  
from HUNGER  
CAMPAIGN



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The cover picture shows three of the five courses in UNRWA training centres which fall within the terms of the Freedom From Hunger Campaign: auto mechanics, agricultural training and home economics.

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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UNRWA  
AND THE  
FREEDOM FROM  
HUNGER CAMPAIGN

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I. THE PROJECTS

It has been estimated that more than half of the world's population go to bed hungry every night of their lives.

Eradication of hunger in the developing countries of the world is the aim of the Freedom From Hunger Campaign, launched on 1 July 1960 by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

UNRWA's participation in the Freedom From Hunger Campaign (FFHC) is enabling some of the more fortunate countries of the world to channel a portion of their aid to the Middle East, through assistance to Palestine refugee young adults.

The Campaign, which will continue over a period of five years, is enlisting the aid of governments, of non-governmental organizations, of industry and commerce, and of individual citizens throughout the world in the fight against hunger.

The basic aim of the FFHC is to provide the training, the technical knowledge and the equipment that will result in substantial and lasting increases in food production in the countries now oppressed by hunger.

Through its vocational training programme, UNRWA is presently equipping young refugee men and women with skills that will enable them to lead useful and productive lives -- and skills that are urgently needed throughout the Middle East. Some courses within the Agency's vocational training programme fall within the terms of the Freedom From Hunger

Campaign, and have been officially endorsed by the Director-General of FAO, Mr. R. B. Sen.

UNRWA FFEC Projects.

As part of its expanded vocational training programme, UNRWA is presently developing the facilities of its Agricultural Training Centre at Beit Hanoun in the Gaza Strip.

At this centre, the Agency conducts a three-year course designed to produce skilled workers in agriculture and related enterprises. The young refugees are taught the theories and practice of modern agriculture, including horticulture, animal and poultry husbandry, dairy farming, physics and agricultural chemistry. The centre has a capacity of 75 trainees, with 25 in each year of the course.

BELOW: Practical and theoretical experience  
are combined at the Beit Hanoun Centre.



At present the centre is non-residential. But with the completion of the additional dormitories and other facilities now under construction, the second and third years of the course will be residential, allowing the trainees to assume responsibilities on an around the clock basis, which is essential to good farm training.

On completion of their training, the graduates of the Beit Hanoun centre will be able to make a positive contribution towards increasing agricultural efficiency wherever they may ultimately live.

Vocational courses aid agriculture.

Among the trades taught at UNRWA's vocational training centres, three are particularly essential to the developing agricultural economy: blacksmith/welding, diesel plant site mechanics and auto mechanics.

Blacksmiths have always been one of the farmer's greatest allies, for practically all farm implements and tools require continual repair and maintenance by blacksmiths. Today, the skills of the old "smithy" are combined with the knowledge of modern welding techniques, making the blacksmith/welder an even more important man in the agricultural economy.

Trainees in the two-year blacksmith/welding course are taught both gas and electric arc welding, in addition to forging. Tools for soil preparation, such as ploughs, harrows and cultivators, all subject to great wear, can be given new wearing surfaces, and thus prolonged usefulness, by these modern welding techniques.

The maintenance of heavy mechanized equipment is the job of the diesel plant site mechanic -- a job that is becoming increasingly important as more modern agricultural techniques are introduced to the Middle East. UNRWA runs diesel plant site mechanics courses at four of



Diesel Plant Site Mechanics at work  
at UNRWA's Kalandia Training Centre

its centres; the trainees are taught how to operate, repair and maintain on site heavy diesel equipment, such as generators and bulldozers.

Perhaps more important, diesel plant site mechanics are needed to handle pumps and compressors on irrigation and drainage projects. Several graduates from the diesel plant site mechanics course at UNRWA's Kalandia Vocational Training Centre (Jordan) are already employed on the 123,000-acre Yarmouk development scheme in Jordan, which will open up a vast area of formerly barren land for agriculture.

Auto mechanics aid the farmer.

No less important to the farming community is the auto mechanic, who specializes in lighter machinery than the diesel plant site mechanic. Agricultural development and farm mechanization go hand in hand, and practically all mechanized farm equipment is dependent on either a petrol or a diesel engine. The engines, in turn, are dependent on skilled mechanics to keep them in good repair.



The young refugees who graduate from the two-year auto mechanics courses given in five UNRWA training centres are capable of carrying out the repair and maintenance of tractors and power-driven equipment used in planting, cultivating, harvesting and irrigation.

Equally important is the auto-mechanic's role in maintaining the flow of farm produce to the market, the factory or the mill. For in the Middle East, transport from the producer to the consumer is almost entirely dependent upon motor vehicles.

#### Better use of food resources

Freedom from hunger depends not only on increased production of food, but also on better use of available food resources. Ideally, every wife should have some knowledge of the elements of nutrition, and the best methods of preparing and preserving food.

At UNRWA's Girls' Training Centre in Ramallah, Jordan, refugee girls are receiving, for the first time, specialized training in home economics and institutional management. Graduates from the two-year home economics course can remain for a third year to complete the institutional management course, in which they learn how to manage the household side of large institutions.

The curriculum in the home economics course includes nutrition and the study of food values, menu planning, marketing and selection of foods, and cooking for small and large numbers. Under the direction of an internationally-recruited home economics specialist, the training is geared to the probable conditions the girls will encounter in later life. They cook on everything from a simple primus stove to a modern electric stove, and emphasis is laid on the preparation of traditional Arab dishes at the lowest cost and in the most nutritious way.

The skill and the knowledge acquired by the young refugees in the five courses which fall within the terms of the Freedom from Hunger

Campaign will be of double value. The training will enable the graduates to lead useful and productive lives wherever they may live, and it will enable them to make a valuable contribution to the development of the Middle East.

Their knowledge and skill will be powerful weapons in the struggle towards freedom from hunger.

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II. THE  
COST,  
THE PLEDGES  
AND THE  
NEED

Freedom From Hunger Campaign Committees, notably in the United Kingdom and New Zealand, have already pledged support for those aspects of UNRWA's vocational training programme that fall within the terms of the Campaign.

Their aid will be channelled to the Middle East -- and to the refugees -- through the Agency's Vocational Training Scholarship Programme.

The Cost.

A \$500 (£180) scholarship provides one year of training for a refugee at either the girls' centre or the men's vocational training centres. Each scholarship pays for tuition, the use of the centre's facilities, uniforms, a little pocket money, and full board and lodging,



for the centres are residential. By being residential, the centres can give more intensive training, thus enabling the trainees to complete in two years a course that would take three years elsewhere; in addition, the centres can accept young refugees from a wide area.

Most courses last two years. Classes consist of 16 young men in the auto mechanics and diesel plant site mechanics courses, 12 in the blacksmith/welders course, and 20 girls in the home economics course.

Scholarships at the Beit Hanoun Agricultural Training Centre are \$200 (£70) for the first, non-residential, year, and \$250 (£125) for each of the second and third years. There are 25 trainees in each year of the course.

#### The Pledges.

Pledges or contributions have already been received from a number of FFHC sources:

The Coventry (UK) FFHC Committee has agreed to provide scholarships for 32 trainees for their entire two-year diesel plant site mechanics courses at Kalandia (Jordan) and Sibliin (Lebanon) Vocational Training Centres.

The New Zealand Council of Organizations for Relief Overseas (CORSO) has pledged \$15,000 to sponsor 25 young refugees for their three-year (1962-65) course at the Beit Hanoun Agricultural Training Centre.

The Middlesbrough (UK) FFHC Committee will provide two-year scholarships for the entire class of 16 trainees in the diesel plant site mechanics course at Wadi-Seer (Jordan) Vocational Training Centre.

The Eastbourne (UK) FFHC Committee has agreed to sponsor the 1961-64 class of trainees at the Beit Hanoun centre.

The United Kingdom Save the Children Fund has used FFHC funds

to provide two-year scholarships for the 20 girls in the 1962-64 home economics class at the Ramallah girls' centre.

The United Auto Workers (USA and Canada) have sponsored 20 refugees in the auto mechanics course for one year. CARE (Cooperative for American Remittances Everywhere, Inc.) has also provided one-year scholarships for a class of 16 auto mechanics trainees.

The United Nations Association of the United Kingdom has sponsored 12 boys in the blacksmith/welders course and 16 in the auto mechanics course with FFHC funds. The scholarships are for one year.

Additional scholarships have also been given by the United States Committee for Refugees and the American Friends of the Middle East.

#### The Need.

The pledges and contributions already received under the Freedom From Hunger Campaign total approximately \$145,000. This is a splendid beginning to the Campaign.

But the need is still considerable. During the period of the Freedom From Hunger Campaign still remaining, three complete enrolments of trainees need scholarships: those who entered the centres in 1961 and will graduate in 1963; those who entered in 1962 (1964 graduates), and those entering in 1963 (1965 graduates).

To provide scholarships for all the trainees in the five courses which fall within the terms of the Freedom From Hunger Campaign, UNRWA still needs approximately \$370,000 (£132,000).

IN BRIEF

Visitors

Dr. Bernhard Ohse visited the Middle East on behalf of Bread For The World (Federal Republic of Germany). He travelled to Lebanon, Jordan, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Gaza Strip, where he saw UNRWA camps and training centres.

Mr. Enzo Friso, Beirut representative of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), paid a visit to the Agency's Siblin Vocational Training Centre in Lebanon. He was accompanied by Mrs. Marcelle Nassar, also of the ICFTU.

Mr. William Brady, Chairman of the Board of the Corn Products Company, New York, and Mrs. Brady visited the Siblin Vocational Training Centre during a brief stop in Lebanon.

Mr. Egerton Catchpool and Mr. Harold Lamb, spent four days in the Gaza Strip, seeing UNRWA's operations in the Strip and on private business. Mr. Catchpool and Mr. Lamb, both British Friends, also visited the Siblin Vocational Training Centre.

Mr. P. R. Lindhorst, Consul-General of the Republic of South Africa in Beirut, paid a visit to the Siblin Vocational Training Centre.

Mr. E. Elliot Palmer, a former United States ambassador and member of the Palestine Conciliation Commission, also visited the Siblin Centre.

UNRWA to be discussed at Seminar

UNRWA's vocational training programme, and in particular the Girls' Training Centre at Ramallah, will be the chief subject of discussion when the Ontario (Canada) Federation of Business and Professional Women meet for their United Nations Seminar on 23 March. Along with other members of the International Federation of Business and Professional Women, they have already done much to help the girls at the centre. Seventeen girls in the IFBPW class have already been

sponsored: seven by the Canadian Federation; six by the United Kingdom Federation; one by the Swiss Federation; one by Miss Elisabeth Feller, Chairman of the IFBPW's Committee on Rehabilitation and Refugee Relief; one by Miss Nancy Perry of the United Kingdom, and one girl holds a scholarship donated by the IFBPW Congress in Oslo last year.

#### Donations

The Oxford Committee for Famine Relief (Oxfam) in the United Kingdom has donated £13,000 (\$37,500 approx) through the Agency's Vocational Training Scholarship Programme. The contribution will provide 75 scholarships of \$500 each, every one of which will pay for one year's training for a young refugee in one of UNRWA's nine training centres. Oxfam donated 66 scholarships last year.

The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) has paid for one year's training for six trainees in the electricians' course at UNRWA's Damascus Vocational Training Centre with its donation of \$3,000. The contribution was presented to Dr. John H. Davis, Commissioner-General of UNRWA, by Mr. Enzo Friso, Beirut Representative of the ICFTU. The ICFTU donated \$1,000 last year.

Vocational Training Scholarships for refugee girls at UNRWA's Training Centre for Girls at Ramallah, Jordan, continue to come in from Zonta International, which has adopted support of the centre as its international project. A total of 28 scholarships has been donated by Zonta so far, including 24 from Zonta (USA) and four from Zonta (Northern).

War on Want (UK) has contributed £1,000 (\$2,800), which has provided five scholarships. Three of these will allow three young refugees sponsored during the current academic year by War on Want to complete their training next year.

The Christian Women's Fellowship of the National City Christian Church, of Washington, D.C. (U.S.A.), has donated \$1,045 to provide scholarships for two refugee girls now in their second year of the teacher-training course at the Ramallah girls' centre, Jordan. The two girls were also sponsored in their first year by the Christian Women's Fellowship.

#### UNRWA TO RELEASE NEW DOCUMENTARY FILM

A new documentary film about the work of the Agency, entitled "Your Friend, Omar", will soon be released by UNRWA.

The film tells, in the words of a young refugee writing to a pen-friend overseas, of the uncertain future faced by most refugee youngsters, who are unable to find employment when they leave school.

The young letter-writer, Omar, describes his school days in the camp, and his futile quest for work on leaving school. Omar is one of the lucky few, for he is accepted at one of UNRWA's vocational training centres, and he tells his pen-friend of the work and the play that make up his days at the centre. The film, which contrasts the opportunities offered by UNRWA's vocational training programme with the frustrations of unemployment and camp life, ends as Omar closes his letter: "Your Friend, Omar."

The film, shot mainly in UNRWA refugee camps around Jericho and at Kalandia Vocational Training Centre near Jerusalem, Jordan, is in 16 mm., black and white, and runs for 30 minutes. It will be available with an English-language commentary by mid-April, and in French and German later in the year.

Inquiries for the rental or purchase of "Your Friend, Omar" should be addressed to:

UNRWA Public Information Office, Museitbeh Quarter, Beirut, Lebanon.

UNRWA Liaison Office in Europe, Palais Wilson, Geneva, Switzerland.

UNRWA Liaison Office, United Nations, New York, U.S.A.

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#### HUGLO'S TWO SCHOOLS

The little island of Huglo, just off the coast of Norway, has about 200 inhabitants, one shop, and two schools.

One school is situated in the centre of the island, and has about 30 pupils.

The other school is almost 3,000 miles away, and is attended



Above: Two girls at Sabra School make use of the kitchen equipment bought with the gift from Huglo.

by 377 young Palestine refugee girls.

The 30 Norwegian boys and girls at Huglo's little school have come to regard UNRWA's Sabra School in Beirut as "their" school since they "adopted" it more than a year ago.

During the past year, letters, photographs, books, drawings and gifts have been flowing back and forth between Huglo and Beirut. Now each pupil at Huglo school has a personal pen-friend in Sabra school, and Sabra students have a "Huglo Corner" on their bulletin board, with a display of pictures, maps and letters from Norway.

The correspondence between the two schools began in 1961 at the suggestion of the principal of Huglo school, Kristian Venas, who had first-hand knowledge of the Palestine refugee problem from a visit to the Middle East. With the first batch of letters and drawings from Huglo came a gift of \$40 in UNESCO Gift Coupons.

The money was used by the principal of Sabra school, Miss Mary Nasr, to buy much-needed domestic science equipment, including pots, pans and other cooking implements which UNRWA, with its limited budget, was not able to supply. In return, the girls sent letters to each of the Huglo students, drawings of their school, photographs of the new equipment in use, and a large picture, painted at the school, showing dancers in traditional costume dancing the dabke, a Lebanese folk-dance.

#### Tri-lingual letters

At first, the correspondence between the children was conducted in three languages. The refugee girls wrote in Arabic, their teachers translated it into English, and on a third line, the teachers at Huglo translated into Norwegian. However, it was soon discovered that the children in both schools knew enough English to write directly to each other.



A second gift, a UNESCO Gift Coupon for \$80, enabled Miss Nasr to buy a sewing machine for the use of the refugee girls, who learn to operate it in their home economics classes.

In their letters, the children at Huglo explained how they raise the money: "United Nations Nights" are held periodically at the school, when the children put on a little show, and lotteries are organized. Almost everyone on the little island attends, and the proceeds are sent to Sabra school.

In December, 1962, the girls at Sabra sent another parcel of letters and pictures, together with an embroidered Damascus table cloth as a gift for Huglo school.

The bond between the two schools continues to grow stronger. Through it, the girls at Sabra are learning more about Norway and its way of life, and the pupils at Huglo are beginning to understand what it means to be a refugee.

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: first: to provide food, health and welfare services, and shelter for the refugees; second: to provide education and training to refugee children and young adults including general education, vocational and teacher training, and university scholarships.

UNRWA began work in May 1950 and its mandate expires on 30 June 1965.

Further information may be obtained from :

UNRWA Liaison Office  
Palais Wilson,  
Geneva,  
Switzerland

UNRWA Public Information Office  
Museitbeh Quarter,  
Beirut,  
Lebanon

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(For information purposes - Not an official record)