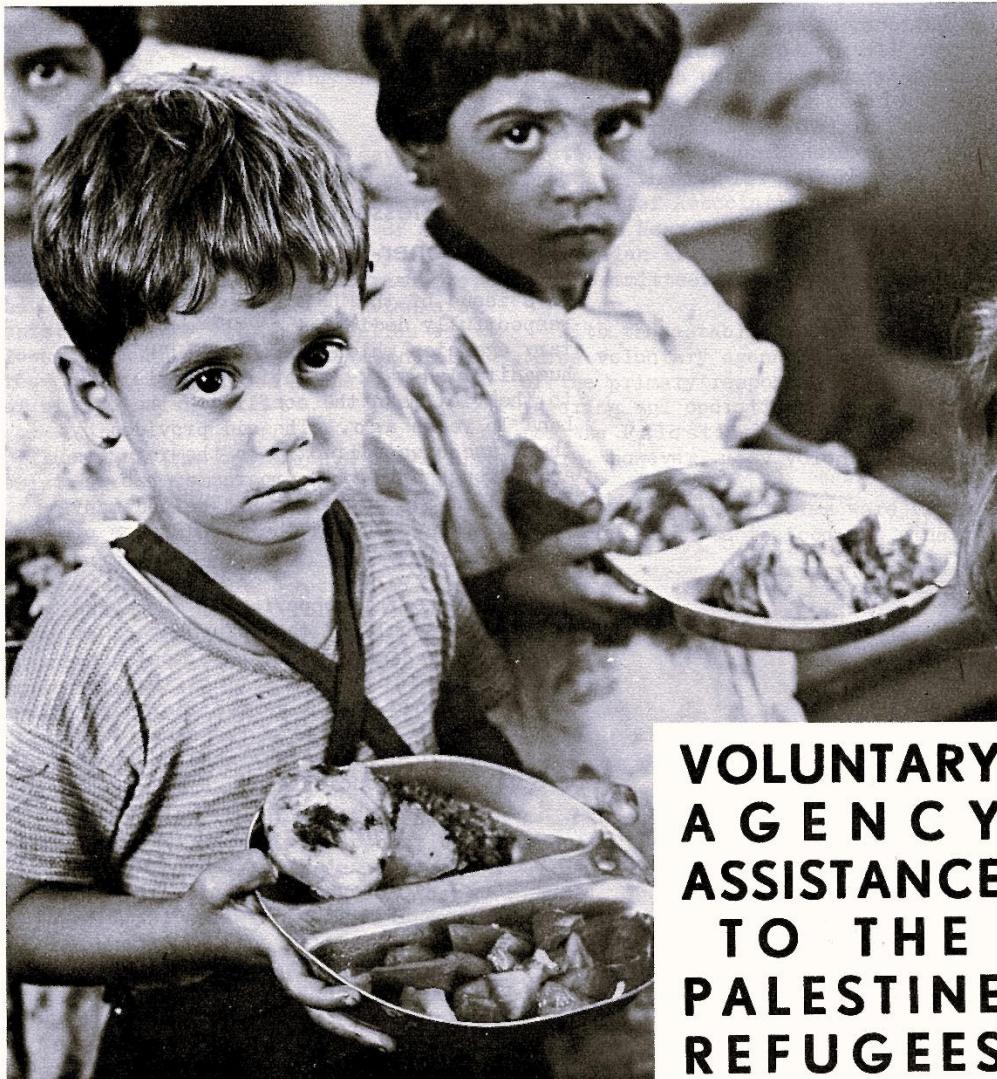




# PALESTINE REFUGEES TODAY

An **UNRWA Newsletter**

No. 37 November 1964



**VOLUNTARY  
A G E N C Y  
ASSISTANCE  
TO THE  
PALESTINE  
REFUGEES**

Litho in U.N.  
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# **VOLUNTARY AGENCY ASSISTANCE TO THE PALESTINE REFUGEES**

## **A Message from the Commissioner-General of UNRWA**

This issue of the UNRWA Newsletter is respectfully dedicated to the many voluntary agencies which share with UNRWA the humanitarian task of providing assistance to the victims of the conflict in the Holy Land 16 years ago. The aid provided by these agencies, directly to the refugees and through UNRWA's programme, has relieved much suffering and helped many young refugees to lay the foundations of a brighter future.

I gladly take this opportunity of paying tribute, on behalf of the refugees and of UNRWA, to the agencies for this most generous assistance, and I trust that the refugees in need will derive increasing benefit in the future from the close working relationships established between many of these agencies and UNRWA.

*Laurence Michelmore*

## INTRODUCTION

As a result of the conflict in Palestine in 1948, hundreds of thousands of Arab refugees poured into Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and the Gaza Strip.

In most cases they arrived with only the clothes on their backs. Many found shelter in caves, deserted buildings or makeshift camps. Their conditions were indescribably wretched. There was an urgent need for food, clothing, shelter and medical care.

The Arab "host" countries gave what assistance they could, but a disaster of major proportions was averted only because of the immediate response of various voluntary agencies to an appeal for emergency aid by Count Folke Bernadotte, the United Nations Mediator. Blankets, tents, food, and medical supplies were flown in to relieve the most urgent distress, saving many lives in the hard winter of 1948.

Thus began the operation of providing assistance to the Palestine refugees.

Today, the majority of the Palestine refugees are still in need of aid. Voluntary agencies, first to respond to their needs, still play a vital role in the provision of assistance. The total value of assistance given to the refugees by voluntary agencies since 1948 amounts to more than \$20 million.

### Voluntary Agencies Shoulder the Burden.

From the beginning of the refugee problem in 1948 until UNRWA began operations in May 1950, voluntary agencies bore the primary burden of assisting the refugees. After the first emergency relief operation, the United Nations Relief for Palestine Refugees (UNRPR) was established in late 1948 by the United Nations General Assembly to coordinate the relief programme and to act as a channel for

funds, which subsequently totalled more than \$30 million. However, the operational responsibilities were assigned to three voluntary agencies: the International Committee of the Red Cross, the League of Red Cross Societies, and the American Friends Service Committee.

UNRPR and these agencies received substantial assistance from all over the world through other voluntary agencies, including various Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the Lutheran World Federation, the Church Missionary Society, the Save the Children Fund, the Middle East Relief Association, the YMCA, the YWCA, the Near East Foundation, the British Syrian Mission and the Mennonite Central Committee.

With the establishment of UNRWA, the three voluntary agencies were relieved of the primary responsibility of administering and operating programmes of aid for the Palestine refugees. Over the years, however, many voluntary agencies

1948: voluntary agencies were first on the scene with tents, food and other aid





continued to provide help for the refugees, as they still do today.

Voluntary Agencies Share the Burden.

The voluntary agencies presently giving assistance to the victims of the conflict in Palestine in most cases either operate their own programmes of aid in the field or render assistance through the programmes of UNRWA or of other voluntary agencies; some agencies do both. The refugees and others in need of aid derive incalculable benefit from these forms of assistance. They and UNRWA owe a great debt of gratitude to the many voluntary agencies which share the burden of providing this essential relief.

This issue of the UNRWA Newsletter attempts primarily to depict the work of those agencies that are active in the field. It also reports briefly on the assistance channelled by other agencies through UNRWA.

The voluntary agencies play a three-fold role. First, the contributions from voluntary agencies to UNRWA enable the Agency to maintain a broader range of assistance than would otherwise be possible. An increasingly critical financial situation has forced UNRWA to concentrate its efforts and its regular funds on those aspects of assistance that are most essential: relief (including basic rations, supplementary feeding, shelter, and clothing), medical services, education and vocational training, and certain welfare projects. However, voluntary agency support has made it possible for UNRWA to maintain other programmes that would otherwise have been curtailed. UNRWA relies entirely on voluntary agencies for donations of used clothing to distribute to needy refugees; the youth leadership training programme is directed and assisted financially by a voluntary agency; many of UNRWA's installations, including clinics, training centres, re-hydration centres, and sewing centres

have been built, improved, or enlarged with the help of voluntary agencies. The need for this generous support and close cooperation will continue or even increase in the future.

Second, many voluntary agencies give direct assistance to refugees. UNRWA's programmes are severely limited by available funds and cannot hope to cover all the needs of all the refugees, especially in the fields of social welfare and vocational training. The relief programmes of voluntary agencies help to fulfil these needs.

Third, the voluntary agencies fulfil an extremely important function in providing assistance for the so-called economic refugees--those who are not refugees according to UNRWA's definition of the term but who have lost their livelihood as a result of the Palestine conflict. They include most of the original residents of the Gaza Strip who in 1948 found themselves sealed inside the Strip, cut off from their lands and markets and inundated with tens of thousands of refugees. The economy of the area collapsed completely, and many of the indigenous residents became and are still as much in need as the refugees.

The residents of many of the frontier villages in Jordan are equally in need. When the armistice demarcation line was drawn around the new State of Israel in 1949, it severed a number of villages from their fields, olive groves and orchards. Without their only means of livelihood, many villagers are destitute.

Even more critical is the plight of certain bedouin tribes, particularly the Azazmeh tribe in Jordan and the Sinai Peninsula, who were cut off from their traditional grazing grounds in 1948 and who have lost almost all of their livestock, with the result that they are now in a state of dire poverty. Estimated at more than 350,000, these groups have

been obliged to claim relief from the international community. However, the General Assembly of the United Nations has not regarded UNRWA as the appropriate vehicle of assistance and in a resolution adopted in December 1955 appealed to private organizations to assist these "other claimants for relief." Voluntary agencies responded to this appeal and over the years have provided invaluable assistance to economic refugees. In many cases, however, their need remains great.

#### The Agencies, the ICVA and UNRWA.

Many of the voluntary agencies assisting the Palestine refugees, either through their own programmes or through UNRWA, are members of the International Council of

Voluntary Agencies (ICVA), a coordinating council comprising more than 70 member agencies. In 1963 the ICVA was awarded the highest honour in the field of refugee work--the Nansen Medal--in recognition of the member agencies' work in aid of refugees throughout the world.

The ICVA expressed its concern over the plight of the Palestine refugees in a resolution passed at its General Conference in Geneva in 1963. The resolution stated that the Conference "views with full appreciation the work now being done by UNRWA," called on members to improve their programmes of assistance to the refugees and urged governments to ensure the relief work "be continued as long as the conditions require."

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#### VOLUNTARY AGENCIES ACTIVE IN THE FIELD

##### The American Friends of the Middle East

The American Friends of the Middle East (AFME) is primarily a service organization and therefore rarely makes direct contributions in terms of food or money. However, the AFME has been instrumental in arranging for many Arab students to study in the United States, among them many refugees. A donation from the AFME provided scholarships to enable two young refugees to complete their courses at an UNRWA vocational training centre last year.

The AFME is also active in the field of cultural exchanges, endeavouring to draw the attention of Americans to the problems of the Middle East.

##### Catholic Relief Services

Catholic Relief Services of the National Catholic Welfare Conference (CRS-NCWC) is the overseas aid agency of the Catholic Bishops and people of the United States. Since its establishment in 1919, the Agency has been assisting the victims of war and natural disaster, regardless of race or creed, by providing food, clothing, medical and other relief supplies.

CRS-NCWC is active in Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic, where it aids both refugees and frontier villagers, and in the United Arab Republic. The relief programme includes the operation of feeding centres, milk centres, assistance in the field of social welfare and the provision of supplies to hospitals, clinics, training centres and other institutions.

#### The Commonwealth Save the Children Fund

The Commonwealth Save the Children Fund (SCF) gives assistance to needy children in Jordan through clinics and feeding centres established in some 25 villages and desert centres. These clinics are visited weekly by a SCF doctor who treats sick children brought to the clinic. An infant welfare nurse also makes weekly visits to advise mothers on the upbringing of their children and to give assistance on feeding problems.

Each clinic has a resident medical orderly who gives daily treatments as ordered by the doctor and provides a daily hot meal to supplement the diet of those children considered to be in need of additional nourishment. At many centres, all children in the area are given a daily cup of milk and a vitamin pill.

The SCF's assistance is made available to children regardless of refugee status. Among the most needy are the children of villages living along the frontier in the north of Jordan and the Azazmeh bedouin children living on the eastern shores of the Dead Sea.

#### Cooperative for American Relief Everywhere

The Cooperative for American Relief Everywhere, Inc., better-known as CARE, gives person-to-person aid by assembling needed supplies--food, textiles, educational, health, vocational or agricultural equipment--and delivering them to needy individuals, groups or institutions.

CARE is active in Jordan and the Gaza Strip, aiding both refugees and non-refugees through its own programmes of assistance and through UNRWA. In the Gaza Strip, CARE makes regular distributions of flour and milk powder to many of the estimated 80,000 "economic" refugees and has also made donations to improve the power and water supplies in Gaza Town.

CARE's assistance through UNRWA has included the provision of almost 500 tool kits for graduates from UNRWA vocational training centres to enable them to practice their trade, cloth to provide school uniforms, sports and physical education equipment for UNRWA schools and youth activities centres, playground equipment for children's play centres, sewing and knitting machines for use in UNRWA sewing centres, and voca-



Above: a CARE donation provided equipment for UNRWA training centres.

tional training scholarships for young refugees attending UNRWA training centres. A donation of automobile engines and other auto mechanics training equipment for use in the Agency's training centres will soon be shipped to the Middle East through CARE.

The Lutheran World Federation

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) was one of the first voluntary agencies to respond to the urgent need for assistance in 1948. Today the LWF, through its department of world service, provides medical care, vocational training and material aid to thousands of persons each year, both through its own and through UNRWA's programmes.

The LWF's medical programme includes the operation of a hospital in Jordan and 14 clinics in Jordan and Syria. The Augusta Victoria Hospital, on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem, has a total capacity of 182 beds, of which 150 are reserved for refugees. UNRWA provides about 80 per cent of the operating costs. The 11 static and three mobile clinics operated by the LWF serve areas where no other regular medical services are available and receive some 240,000 visits each year. The mobile clinics serve 24 frontier villages along the Jordan-Israel border.

The LWF's modern vocational training centre just outside Jerusalem, Jordan, opened in October 1964, will accommodate 120 young men, many of them refugees. The centre, which was designed by Professor Sten Samuelson of Sweden, offers three-year courses in auto mechanics, carpentry and metal work. A handicraft centre for blind boys gives instruction in brush making and related crafts. A nursing school with a capacity of 60 trainees is operated in connection with the Augusta Victoria Hospital. A substantial donation is also made towards the operation of a nursing school in Homs, Syria. Since 1961 the LWF has donated \$10,000 to UNRWA to provide scholarships for 20 refugee boys to attend UNRWA vocational training centres.

Since 1948 the LWF has distributed food and clothing to many frontier villagers and other needy persons in Jordan. At present, 25,000 persons, mostly in frontier villages, receive food through the LWF, and a hot meal or milk is served daily to the children in seven schools. The LWF also plays an important role in UNRWA's used clothing programme. By arrangement with UNRWA, the LWF provided clothing and shoes for 200,000 refugees in Jordan and 34,000 in Syria in 1963; 40,000 children in UNRWA schools also received a new garment, and another 3,500 needy persons in Jordan were given clothing.

The Mennonite Central Committee

The Mennonite Central Committee, representing Mennonite Churches in Canada and the United States, concentrates its programme of assistance in the Jericho area, where there is a heavy concentration of refugees and great need.

The Committee distributes used clothing in cooperation with UNRWA and operates a centre at which expectant mothers can sew layettes. Each new mother

attending the centre is also given a layette. At UNRWA's Ein Sultan refugee camp near Jericho, the Committee offers a course to young girls in which they are taught the basic skills of sewing and homemaking.

Mennonite boarding schools in Hebron and Beit Jala, Jordan, give education to qualified youngsters who could not otherwise afford such education. Each student becomes the financial responsibility of a Mennonite home in North America.

The Near East Council of Churches Committee for Refugee Work

Formerly known as the Near East Christian Council Committee for Refugee Work, the NECCCRW was established in 1951 as the channel through which the major Protestant denominations and Orthodox churches provide aid for the Palestine refugees. The NECCCRW gives assistance both to refugees within UNRWA's mandate and to many "economic" refugees.

The NECCCRW operates in the Gaza Strip, in Lebanon through the Joint Christian Committee and in Jordan directly and through the International Church Committee.

Acting on the premise that before you can help a man to walk you must first help him to stand, the NECCCRW has since the beginning provided certain basic relief services, including food, clothing and medical services. While continuing to meet these basic needs, increasing emphasis is now being placed on forms of assistance that encourage the recipients to help themselves.

The NECCCRW has granted rehabilitation loans to more than 1,500 skilled refugees, enabling them to re-establish themselves in business. Similar loans have enabled some 150 families to build new homes. Vocational training is offered to a number of young men in Lebanon in metal work, carpentry, radio and TV repairing and shoe-making; courses in sewing, dressmaking and knitting have been organized for young women.

A development programme for frontier villages in Jordan encourages the residents to improve their communities by building roads, schools, clinics and playgrounds; the villagers provide up to 40 per cent of the cost themselves. Low cost seedlings and livestock are made available to frontier village farmers.

In the field of basic relief, the NECCCRW maintains 15 clinics, provides daily hot meals for more than 12,000 children and pre-school infants in frontier villages, distributes used clothing to 170,000 refugees in cooperation with UNRWA, gives basic food rations to some 66,000 frontier villagers and other needy persons and maintains a staff of welfare workers in 14 area offices to aid cases of particular hardship.

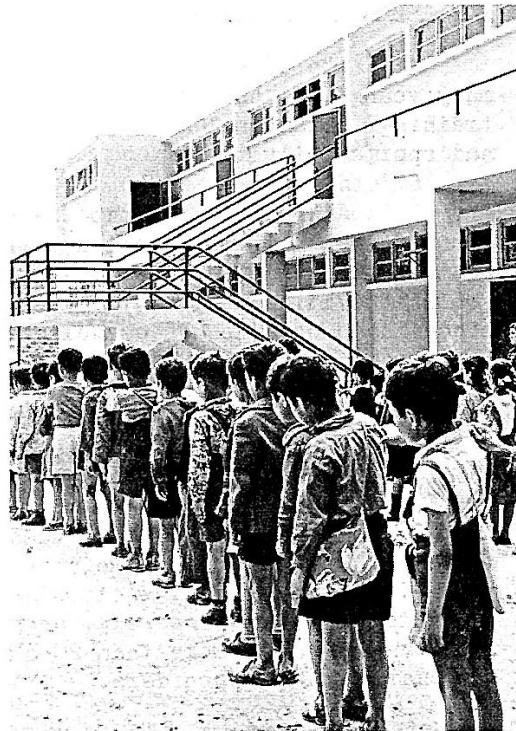
The Pontifical Mission for Palestine

In 1949 the present Pope, Paul VI, assisted in founding the Pontifi-

cal Mission, the Vatican agency appointed by the then Pope, Pius XII, to provide relief for the Palestine refugees.

The Pontifical Mission works in cooperation with UNRWA and with other voluntary agencies in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and the Gaza Strip. While especially concerned with the spiritual and moral needs of the Christian refugees, the Pontifical Mission also gives material assistance to the needy, irrespective of race or creed, by providing clothing, blankets, food, medical care, education and vocational training.

In addition to supporting already existing schools, orphanages, clinics, homes for the aged and hospitals, the Pontifical Mission operates schools in two Christian camps in Lebanon and has built churches and provided priests to care for the spiritual welfare of the residents, most of whom are Catholic. The Pontifical Mission also operates an orphanage for girls in Bethlehem. The Mission's most recent major project was the establishment in 1962 of a centre for the blind in the Gaza Strip. The centre, administered jointly with UNRWA and the authorities governing the Gaza Strip, teaches youngsters, most of them refugees, trades and crafts through which they can become self-supporting and also has a home visiting and counselling service for older blind persons.



Above: The Pontifical Mission operates this school in a camp in Lebanon. The school teaches youngsters, most of them refugees, trades and crafts through which they can become self-supporting and also has a home visiting and counselling service for older blind persons.

#### Southern Baptist Mission

The Southern Baptist Mission in the United States operates the Baptist Hospital in the Gaza Strip. The 85-bed hospital is responsible for surgical and complicated obstetrical care of more than 150,000 refugees in the northern part of the Strip and also furnishes medical services for many non-refugees. About 85 per cent of the patients are refugees referred to the hospital from UNRWA clinics. UNRWA pays an estimated 35 per cent of the hospital's operating costs.

In 1963 there were 30,000 out-patient visits, almost 2,850 admissions, more than 900 major operations and some 4,300 minor operations.

The hospital runs a three-year nursing course, from which 12 girls, almost all refugees, graduated in 1964. In addition, one-year courses in laboratory, X-ray and anaesthesia technology are offered in cooperation with the Near East Council of Churches.



Above: The Pontifical Mission operates this school in a camp in Lebanon.

#### The Young Men's Christian Association

The Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) gives assistance to many young men, both refugees and nonrefugees, in the fields of leadership training, vocational training and opportunities for constructive recreation and sports activities.

A Youth Leadership Training Programme, operated by the World Alliance of YMCA's in cooperation with UNRWA, trains young refugee men in the essentials of leadership, preparing them to act as volunteer leaders in UNRWA's youth activities centres. Some 2,000 young refugees have undergone training since the programme was established in 1960. The YMCA Youth Leadership Training Programme is financed jointly by the World Alliance of YMCA's and UNRWA. Short courses are offered for leadership in sports, cultural activities, recreation, community service, boys' work and youth activity centre administration. (The programme was described more fully in Newsletter No. 35, August-September 1964.)

The YMCA operates a vocational training centre in Jericho, Jordan, where 180 young refugees are presently being trained as carpenters, blacksmiths, cable jointers, waiters and cooks, air-conditioning mechanics, receptionists and laundry workers, among other trades. The centre, started in 1948 in a tent, now has more than 20 sheds, with modern training equipment and accommodation for 40 boarders.

The YMCA also offers opportunities for sports, recreation and development of character through the centres of its National Alliances. The YMCA's facilities in the Gaza Strip include a new hostel which serves as the centre for the Leadership Training Programme in Gaza. More than 1,000 refugees and residents of Gaza make use of the YMCA's facilities, which include a library, sports grounds, and club rooms. Similarly, in Lebanon YMCA centres in Beirut, Tripoli, Sidon and Tyre offer opportunities to young men, many of them refugees.

#### The Young Women's Christian Association

The Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) is active in Jordan, where its aid is directed primarily towards refugees, and in Lebanon, where refugees are among women and girls of all races and creeds who benefit from its programmes.

In Jordan the YWCA operates two vocational training centres in UNRWA's Aqabat Jaber refugee camp, offering courses in home economics, handicrafts and some basic education. A number of refugee girls also attend vocational courses in such subjects as dressmaking, bookkeeping, typing and office work in the YWCA's Amman and Jerusalem centres. The YWCA operates three kindergartens for children, many of them refugees; the mothers are taught baby care, hygiene and nutrition. Some 70 refugee girls receive a small income from the YWCA handicraft industries in Aqabat Jaber refugee camp where they weave material and produce lace, embroidery and costumed dolls. With the assistance of

other voluntary agencies and of UNRWA, the YWCA provides daily hot meals for more than 225 children.

In Lebanon a number of refugee girls participate in the YWCA's regular programmes of social, recreational and educational activities. The YWCA runs a nursery school in Beirut for children from poor families, many of them refugees. The YWCA also offers evening vocational courses, from which many refugee girls have graduated as secretaries and typists, having attended with financial assistance from UNRWA. The YWCA is presently building a new headquarters in Beirut, the facilities of which will benefit a number of refugee girls, among others.

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#### VOLUNTARY AGENCIES ASSISTING THE REFUGEES THROUGH UNRWA

In addition to aid given by voluntary agencies through their own programmes of assistance in the field, the Palestine refugees receive a considerable amount of help from voluntary agencies which channel their aid through UNRWA or, in some cases, through other agencies.

Distance means little to these individuals and groups who enthusiastically devote their time, effort and assets to aid the Palestine refugees, even though few have been able to visit the Middle East and see for themselves the plight of the refugees.

UNRWA depends to a great extent on the generosity of these voluntary agencies for funds for its vocational training scholarship programme to offset training costs. In addition, some of UNRWA's welfare activities depend largely on the support of voluntary agencies.

This issue of the UNRWA Newsletter could not possibly mention every agency that has ever contributed to the welfare of the refugees, but as a token of tribute, it directs attention to some of the major currently contributing agencies.

#### CANADA

THE CANADIAN SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND has associated itself with UNRWA's clinic in Khan Younis refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, donating \$11,000 in 1962 to add a new wing and \$9,000 earlier this year to establish a rehydration centre at the clinic.

Other assistance from Canada has come from THE UNITARIAN SERVICE COMMITTEE, CANADIAN LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF, THE CANADIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY, and the UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA, all regular contributors of used clothing.

THE PRIMATE'S WORLD RELIEF FUND OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA has provided two-year training scholarships for ten young refugee men.

Following its World Refugee Year contribution towards the establishment of "Canada's" training centre--the Siblin Vocational Training Centre in Lebanon--THE CANADIAN JUNIOR RED CROSS made a donation of \$50,000 in 1962 and 1963 to provide two-year scholarships for 50 young refugees attending the centre. The Junior Red Cross has also assisted younger refugees by financing the operation of three play centres and has recently made a donation to establish and operate for one year a woodwork training centre in Jordan.



Refugee children attending voluntary agency supported play centres in many UNRWA refugee camps have opportunities for healthy and constructive recreation.

GERMANY

MISEREOR, the Catholic relief organization, has sponsored almost 70 trainees, many of them for the two years of their course, with a donation of some \$50,000. Some of the Misereor trainees graduated in 1963 and others in 1964. Three representatives of Misereor, Dr. Paul Zajadatz, Miss Maria Blume and Mr. Karl Feldmann, visited the Middle East recently and saw UNRWA's operations.

BREAD FOR THE WORLD, the Protestant relief organization, recently donated \$25,000 to UNRWA through the Lutheran World Federation for the establishment of three rehydration centres in Jordan.



Refugee children attending voluntary agency supported play centres in many UNRWA refugee camps have opportunities for healthy and constructive recreation.

NEW ZEALAND

Aid from a number of New Zealand voluntary agencies is channelled to UNRWA and to the refugees through THE NEW ZEALAND COUNCIL OF ORGANIZATIONS FOR RELIEF SERVICES OVERSEAS (CORSO). Over the years CORSO has donated more than a quarter of a million dollars worth of aid to the refugees. CORSO's aid has included the provision of vocational training scholarships and funds for shelter construction and for the improvement of UNRWA's Kalandia Vocational Training Centre in Jordan. CORSO has also donated medical supplies, provided funds for the establishment and operation of sewing and carpentry centres, financed the construction of a new clinic and provided used clothing for distribution to needy refugees.

NORWAY

THE NORWEGIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL has given generous assistance to UNRWA and maintains particularly strong links with the Agency's Gaza Vocational Training Centre. A donation of \$100,000 made during World Refugee Year enabled UNRWA to double the capacity of the centre, and recent donations have provided two-year scholarships for an entire class of 16 trainees there. A rehydration centre will be established in Gaza in the near future with funds from the Council.

SWEDEN

Training equipment for UNRWA's Siblin Vocational Training Centre was provided from a donation of \$20,000 from THE SWEDISH RED CROSS. Other contributions, amounting to a total of some \$25,000, have been used mainly to provide nursing for refugee girls.

THE SWEDISH SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND has made substantial contributions towards UNRWA's layette programme, under which a layette is provided for each new refugee baby.

UNITED KINGDOM

Of the many contributors of aid to the Palestine refugees, one of the largest is THE OXFORD COMMITTEE FOR FAMINE RELIEF (OXFAM), which channels its substantial assistance both through UNRWA and through other agencies and institutions working in the Middle East. Many young refugees have received or are receiving vocational training in UNRWA centres with scholarships from OXFAM, which donated some \$33,000 to UNRWA for this purpose in 1962, \$38,000 in 1963 and \$28,000 in 1964. A recent donation of more than \$18,000 will enable UNRWA to construct and operate for one year two rehydration/nutrition centres in Jordan. More than one fifth of the used clothing received by voluntary agencies operating in the field and distributed through UNRWA's used clothing programme is collected by OXFAM. Many refugees receive aid from OXFAM through other agencies. The YMCA vocational training centre in Jericho (see page 10) is OXFAM-supported, and substantial grants have been made to the Near East Council of Churches Committee for Refugee Work (see page 8).

CHRISTIAN AID, the branch of the British Council of Churches formerly known as Inter-Church Aid and Refugee Service, recently made another generous donation to UNRWA to provide training scholarships. The contribution of \$51,000 follows a previous donation of \$42,000 in 1962.

THE UNITED KINGDOM SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND also made a substantial contribution, amounting to more than \$20,000, to sponsor a class of 20 refugee girls during their two-year home economics course at UNRWA's Women's Training Centre in Ramallah, Jordan.

Another 11 scholarships have been made available as a result of a contribution amounting to some \$5,500 from WAR ON WANT. WOMEN'S VOLUNTARY SERVICES is a regular donor of layettes, which are given by UNRWA to new refugee mothers.

#### UNITED STATES

AMERICAN MIDDLE EAST REHABILITATION, INC. (AMER) renders assistance by obtaining donations of medical supplies and shipping them to UNRWA, which would otherwise have to purchase the supplies for its health programme. UNRWA allocates the savings to its scholarship programme. Since 1960 some \$58,000 has been allocated in scholarships as a result of AMER donations.

INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTARY SERVICES (IVS) is an organization that sends young volunteers to work overseas. There are presently six young men and women, mostly college graduates, working as associated staff members of UNRWA through IVS. They live in the Agency's training centres where they assist with the planning of extra-curricula activities and with teaching.

UNRWA derives much benefit from its connections with the UNITED STATES COMMITTEE FOR REFUGEES, the coordinating body for organizations concerned with refugee work. UNRWA is particularly grateful to the Committee for handling the distribution in the United States of the monthly UNRWA Newsletter.

#### INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

ZONTA, the international women's organization, undertook support of the Ramallah Girls' Training Centre as its two-year international project in 1962 and renewed the project for another two years this past summer. Since 1962, ZONTA has contributed more than \$60,000 to provide scholarships for refugee girls at the centre. Most of the donations have come from ZONTA clubs in the United States and Canada, with some from Zonta District XIII (North European) and Zonta Iceland.

THE WORLD ASSOCIATION OF GIRL GUIDES AND GIRL SCOUTS has made contributions to UNRWA to provide training scholarships for refugee girls and to provide a Girl Guide troop at the Ramallah centre with equipment.

THE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF UNRWA (WAWA) has been a consistent supporter of UNRWA's welfare programmes. During the past two years, the Association has donated more than \$11,000 to UNRWA, which was used mainly to operate play centres and to give assistance to handicapped refugees.

THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN has been generous in its support of the Ramallah Girls' Training Centre, contributing some \$26,000 since 1962 to provide scholarships for the Federation's "own" class of girls in the clerk-typist/stenographer course.

A number of UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATIONS have shown their concern for the plight of the refugees by making donations to UNRWA to provide vocational training scholarships. They include the UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA and the UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF CANADA. THE UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND, which made a substantial contribution in 1960, is currently assisting UNRWA by making available the services of nine associated staff members who live in the Agency's training centres and act as recreation leaders and/or teachers.

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The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) is a special, temporary, nonpolitical body established by the General Assembly of the United Nations in December 1949.

In cooperation 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; its current mandate expires on 30 June 1965.

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Further information may be obtained from

UNRWA Liaison Office  
United Nations  
New York

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In the United States, the United States Committee for Refugees and American Middle East Rehabilitation, Inc., are organizations cooperating with UNRWA.

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