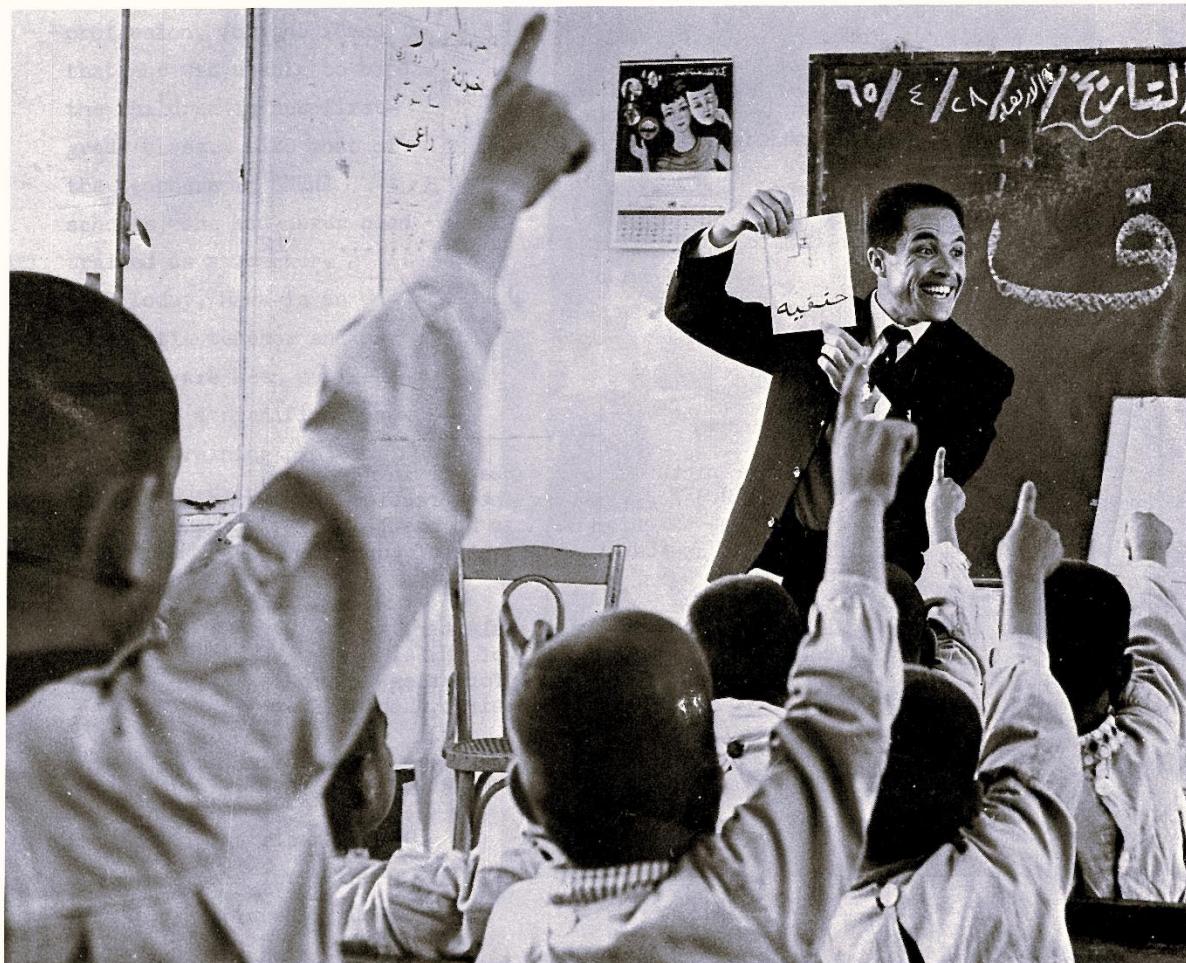




PALESTINE REFUGEES TODAY

An UNRWA Newsletter

No. 41 May—June 1965



NEW TEACHING METHODS IN UNRWA SCHOOLS

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CONTENTS

UNRWA-UNESCO Institute of Education Shows First Results	1
The First of the "Ramallah Girls"	6
In Brief	9
Ramallah "Home Mother" Studies in UK	
Jordan Honours Lutherans	
Six Canadian Volunteers Arrive	
Visitors	
Donations	
Belgian Stamps Aid Palestine Refugees	12

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The cover picture shows a teacher in Tripoli, Lebanon, putting into practice some of the teaching methods he has learned from the UNRWA-UNESCO Institute of Education course.

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

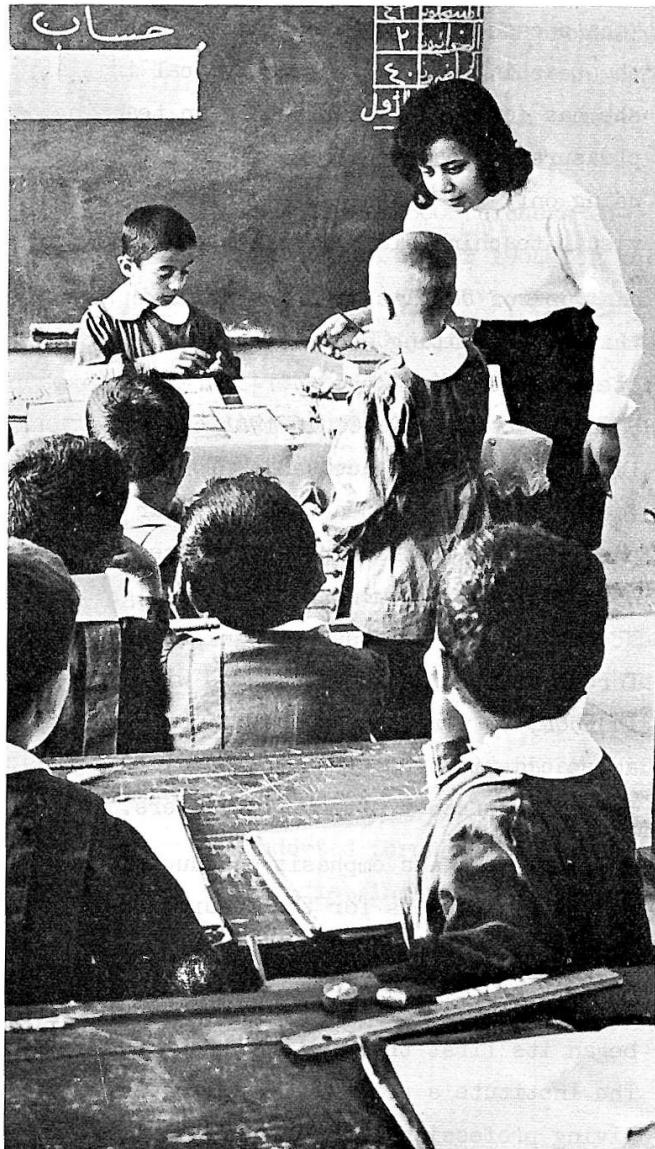
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UNRWA-UNESCO INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION
SHOWS FIRST RESULTS

Last autumn, Maha Hubeishi, a young refugee teacher in an UNRWA school in Beirut, was on the verge of giving up the teaching profession, for she found that she was unable to handle the children in her first-grade class. Like most of the teachers in UNRWA schools, she had never been trained as a teacher.

Today, Maha is an enthusiastic teacher and her children are keen pupils -- thanks to a significant new teacher-training project introduced by UNRWA. In an effort to raise the standard of teaching in its schools, UNRWA, in cooperation with UNESCO and with funds donated by the Government of Switzerland, has embarked on an extensive in-service teacher-training programme. A tripartite agreement sets forth the roles to be played by UNRWA, UNESCO and the Swiss Government in the operation of the UNRWA-UNESCO Institute of Education, the core of the programme.



Arithmetic comes alive for the children in Maha Hubeishi's class at the little shop set up in the classroom. Pupils act as shopkeeper and customers, making the necessary calculations as they "buy" goods at the store.



The first fruits of the work of the Institute, which was established in early 1964, are already apparent, as is evident in Maha H'beishi's classroom. Maha's case, though an extreme example in that she was saved from abandoning the teaching profession, is typical in that, like many other UNRWA teachers, she has found new satisfaction in teaching, and her pupils have found new pleasure in learning. Instead of teaching according to the traditional methods, using only the textbook, Maha is now adding some spice to her lessons by using visual teaching aids, displays and modern teaching methods.

One of UNRWA's major problems in its education programme has always been that of recruiting and retaining adequately-trained teachers. The problem stems largely from the ever-increasing number of refugee children attending UNRWA schools (172,000 in 1964-65). Because the Arab world generally has, like UNRWA, experienced an explosion in its school population, competing demands for well-qualified teachers have far outrun the supply. UNRWA gives pre-service teacher training in four residential training centres, but many of the 450 young refugee men and women who graduate each year as qualified teachers accept employment elsewhere in the Arab world. As a result, UNRWA has been forced to recruit many teachers without professional training or certificates. In 1964, 90 per cent of the 4,500 teachers in UNRWA-UNESCO schools lacked suitable academic or professional qualifications, although years of experience had made many of them effective teachers.

With UNRWA's emphasis on education as the most constructive way of preparing young refugees for the future, there was an urgent need for a programme of teacher training to raise the standard of instruction in UNRWA's 400 schools.

The Institute of Education was therefore established in early 1964, and began its first training course at the beginning of the 1964-65 academic year. The Institute's primary aim is to assist the young generation of refugees by giving professional training to their teachers, and thus improving the quality of the education offered to the children. As a secondary aim, the Institute will assist the teachers by giving them an opportunity to obtain teaching certificates. By introducing modern methods, the Institute hopes to break away from the traditional pattern of teaching and learning in the area, which depends upon memorising the textbook. In-service training on the scale given by the



Institute of Education is a new departure in teacher-training, and UNESCO expects the experience gained in this programme to be of benefit in establishing similar programmes in other developing countries.

Almost 800 teachers enrolled in October 1964 for the Institute's first course, and another 700 joined the Institute at the end of May. These first two courses are for teachers with secondary education but without any teacher training, and are of two years' duration. The Institute's training programme combines both direct and indirect teaching methods. The indirect training is important in raising the academic qualifications of the teachers, and is conducted through a wide variety of media, including correspondence courses (teachers receive one assignment each week), filmstrips, recorded tapes, circul-

As an introduction to reading, pupils in this UNRWA school in Damascus play a "game" of matching words and pictures. Teacher Firyal Ambosi made the cards herself following instruction from the Institute on the use of visual teaching aids.







ating libraries, guided reading lists and an educational journal which will be introduced shortly.

The direct training is conducted by the Institute's Palestinian Field Representatives, who play a key role in the programme. There are presently 20 Field Representatives stationed in the four "host" countries. Each Field Representative, a qualified and experienced educationist, is in charge of a group of 70 to 80 teachers. The teachers attend weekly seminars in groups of 20 to 30, during which the Field Representatives lead discussions on the week's assignment, assisting the teachers with difficulties and elaborating on the subject of the assignment by giving additional material and recommending reference books. The seminars also enable the Field Representatives and the teachers to exchange experiences and to discuss problems encountered in the course of their daily teaching. Through the use of filmstrips, recordings and other aids, the Field Representatives give practical demonstrations of the use of audio-visual teaching methods.

The second and equally important function of the Field Representative is to visit each teacher periodically to evaluate his teaching and to give personal guidance. The Field Representatives are the key men and women in the Institute's programme. Almost all have university degrees, and most were formerly school inspectors or principals. Typical is Salman Abu Ali, assigned to a group of 77 teachers in Lebanon. Mr. Abu Ali, who followed a course in educational planning, was formerly a teacher, a principal, a school inspector and UNRWA's Assistant Field Education Officer in Lebanon before being appointed a Field Representative of the Institute of Education. Like most of the Field Representatives, Mr. Abu Ali conducts three seminars each week for groups of teachers in different areas, and visits eight to ten teachers every week, attending lessons at their schools and giving personal guidance.

Mr. Abu Ali was among the first group of 11 Field Representatives trained at the Institute's headquarters in Beirut during 1964. During the first six months of the Institute's operation, they conducted 625 seminars for the teachers in the first course. During the same period, the Institute issued 45,000 work assignments to the 800 teachers.

Under the tripartite agreement signed in May, the bulk of the cost of operating the Institute in 1965 and 1966 is being borne by the Swiss Government, which is making a technical assistance grant of 1,600,000 Swiss francs (approximately

\$370,000) through its Technical Cooperation Service for this purpose. UNESCO is providing senior staff members to direct the programme, including the Institute's Director (Dr. Heinrich Ryffel of Switzerland), the Deputy Director and three specialists in the fields of audio-visual aids, correspondence courses and programmed instruction. The initial cost of establishing and operating the Institute during 1964 was borne by UNRWA, which also provides transportation and other facilities.

The training offered by the Institute has been received enthusiastically. One teacher from the Gaza Strip who was not able to enroll in the first course because of the limited places available, wrote offering to pay for the training if he could receive the weekly work assignments. A group of teachers in the Bequa'a Valley in the interior of Lebanon petitioned the Institute because, for geographical reasons, they had not been able to join the first course. (Most of them are now enrolled in the second course). Many teachers have devoted money from their own pockets to make visual teaching aids, even though most are poor and live in refugee camps.



The enthusiasm of the teachers is reflected in their pupils, for whom, thanks to the Institute of Education, school is becoming both more enjoyable and more profitable.

THE FIRST OF THE "RAMALLAH GIRLS"

An 18-year-old Palestinian refugee girl has introduced high fashion to the ancient town of Hebron in Jordan.

She has opened the town's first ladies' hairdressing salon. In Hebron where many aspects of life have remained unchanged for centuries, a hairdressing salon is a significant innovation.

In'am Ahmed Madbouh, the girl who opened Hebron's first beauty shop, learned her skill at UNRWA's Girls' Training Centre in Ramallah, Jordan. She was among the 138 refugee girls who received their diplomas at the Centre's first graduation ceremony last summer, and who are now putting their training to use throughout the Middle East.

Of the Ramallah Centre's first graduates, more than 90 per cent are now gainfully employed or continuing their studies. At the beginning of this year, 115 of the graduates were working, and 10 had either returned to school or were continuing their nursing training after taking the preparatory nursing course at Ramallah. Of the remaining 13 graduates, most are now married.

These first Ramallah graduates belong to the new generation of women in the Arab world. With their training and skill, they are able to make a significant contribution to the communities in which they live, illustrating the radical change that is taking place in the status of women. Traditionally, women in the Arab world have led secluded lives, centred around their homes and families. But the old traditions are changing. More girls are going to school; women are broadening their interests, and more girls are now thinking of following

THE PICTURES. Top left: René Asfour, one of the first graduates from the hairdressing and beauty culture course, is now the assistant instructress in the same course at Ramallah. Top right: May Odat, who followed the infant leaders' course, teaches in a nursery school in Amman, Jordan. Bottom left: Nadwa Kheiri, a graduate from the institutional management course, is now in charge of the household operations of a large Government teacher-training centre in Jordan. Bottom right: In'am Madbouh at work in Hebron's first public hairdressing salon.











Nowhere is this better illustrated than in In'am Madbouh's little hair-dressing salon in Hebron, located in the old section of the town just a stone's throw from the famous Al-Khalil mosque which houses the tombs of Abraham and Jacob. A decade ago, it is unlikely that a girl would have set up a salon and even more improbable that the women of Hebron would have come to the shop to have their hair set. Even today, In'am finds that business is not exactly becoming, but she earns \$30 to \$40 a month, which supplements what her father earns as a shoemaker to support her family.

Nadwa Kheiri, now 20 years old, graduated from the institutional management course at Ramallah. Trained and qualified women are in such demand in the area that she was hired almost immediately by the Jordanian Government to take charge of the household operations of a teacher training centre. She has responsibility for menu planning, food preparation, maintenance, laundry and the general household administration of the centre.

Most of the girls have found employment in Jordan, where they live. But a few came to Ramallah from the other host countries, and have returned there to work. Mary Awad, for instance, is now employed as a secretary in a large insurance company in Beirut, and one of her classmates, Suheila Breir, works not far away at the head office of one of the biggest banks in Lebanon. More than 20 of the first graduates have found employment in Saudi Arabia or Kuwait and a number are now working with UNRWA, either in offices or teaching in UNRWA schools.

Two of the girls who received diplomas at the graduation ceremony last summer returned to the Ramallah Centre a few weeks later as instructors. Renée Asfour is now instructing girls in the art of hairdressing, and Hala Khader is an assistant instructor in the infant leaders course.

The social revolution that is evident in the changing role of women is gathering pace throughout much of the Arab world. And in the forefront are the first of the "Ramallah girls".

IN BRIEF

Ramallah "Home Mother" Studies in Britain

Miss Nada Sfeir, the "home mother" of UNRWA's Ramallah Girls' Training Centre in Jordan, has returned to Ramallah after spending six months training and studying in the United Kingdom. Her training course was made possible by a scholarship awarded to her by the Caroline Haslett Memorial Trust, on which is represented the International Federation of Business and Professional Women, one of the most generous supporters of the Ramallah Centre.

Miss Sfeir, who is responsible for the health and welfare of the trainees at Ramallah, and is in charge of the catering, laundry, and supplies for the centre, spent the six months studying modern methods of institutional management. She followed an abridged course at the Northern Polytechnic in London, and then worked and lived at a university residence, a large boarding school, a hospital and a children's home.

Jordan Honours Lutherans

King Hussein of Jordan has issued a decree bestowing the Jordan Star, Second Degree, upon Dr. Bruno Muetzelfeldt, Director of the Lutheran World Federation's Department of World Service. The Department which Dr. Muetzelfeldt heads administers a \$350,000 annual programme of assistance to Palestine refugees in Jordan, operates the Augusta Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem in cooperation with UNRWA, and provides relief services to many other needy persons in Jordan. Jordanian decorations were also bestowed on seven Swedes instrumental in the establishment of the Lutheran World Federation's \$500,000 vocational training centre near Jerusalem, which was financed by Swedish Lutherans. Reverend Ake Kastlund, Director of the Swedish National Committee of the Lutheran World Federation, was awarded the Independence Order, Second Degree. Many Palestine refugees are enrolled at the L.W.F. training centre.

Six Canadian Volunteers Arrive

Six Canadian university students arrived in mid-May to spend the summer working as volunteers with the YMCA and UNRWA. The young men - Bob Ellison, John Henderson, Murray Luft, Donald Peden, Cam Shields and Jack Soule -- will assist in organizing the YMCA International Work Camps to be held in Jordan,

Lebanon and the Gaza Strip. They will also take part in the YMCA Leadership Training Programme operated in cooperation with UNRWA, and in the programmes of UNRWA's Youth Activities Centres.

* * *

Visitors

Monsignor John Nolan, Assistant to the President of the Pontifical Mission for Palestine, spent three weeks in the Middle East in April, during which he inspected the Pontifical Mission's programmes of assistance to the Palestine refugees in Lebanon and Jordan, and visited many UNRWA installations.

Mr. Leif Sendresen, a member of the Governing Board of the Norwegian Refugee Council, visited UNRWA training centres and camps in Jordan during a brief visit. Mr. Sendresen also held discussions with senior UNRWA officials in Beirut.

Mr. Severin Overaa, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Association of Norway (Western Branch), saw UNRWA's operations in Lebanon and the Gaza Strip.

Mr. Norman Bentwich, professor, author, and a former Attorney-General of the Mandate Government in Palestine, accompanied by Mrs. Bentwich, herself a former Chairman of the London County Council, paid a visit to Lebanon, where he discussed the Palestine refugee problem and the work of UNRWA with senior Agency staff.

Mr. Eric Craigen, Honorary Treasurer of the Irish National Committee for UNICEF, spent 10 days in UNRWA's area of operations. He visited refugee camps, UNRWA training centres, schools, clinics and other facilities in Jordan, Lebanon and the Gaza Strip.

The Chief Editor of the Paris newspaper "Le Monde", Mr. Andre Fontaine, saw UNRWA's operations in Lebanon and Jordan during his recent visit.

Dr. A.H. Boerma, Executive Director of the World Food Programme (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations), conferred with the Commissioner-General of UNRWA during a brief stay in Beirut.

Mr. Omer Becu, Secretary-General of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, discussed the work of UNRWA with senior Agency officials in Beirut, Lebanon. A recent donation from the ICFTU provided scholarships for six young

refugees at UNRWA training centres.

A party of five Swedes, representing various associations cooperating with the United Nations Association of Sweden, spent two weeks in the Middle East studying the Palestine refugee problem and the work of UNRWA. The party was led by Mr. Olle Hager, of the Swedish Broadcasting Corporation.

Dr. Henri Coursier, President of the Association for the Study of World Refugee Problems, visited UNRWA installations in Jordan during his visit in April.

Two U.S. State Department officials, Mr. William Buffum, Director of the Office of United Nations Political and Social Affairs, and Mr. Lucien Kinsolving, Desk Officer of Arab/Israel Affairs, visited UNRWA installations in the Gaza Strip in May.

Donations

A donation of \$10,000 from the Swedish Save the Children Fund will save the lives of many children in Rashidieh camp, near Tyre, in Lebanon. The donation will enable UNRWA to establish and to operate for one year a rehydration/nutrition centre there for the treatment of infants and children with severe gastro-enteritis. With the onset of the hot weather, there will be an increase in the number of cases of this intestinal ailment, which causes diarrhea and vomiting, and often results in a dangerous loss of body fluid. If untreated, it can prove fatal. At the new rehydration/nutrition centre at Rashidieh camp, as at other such centres, the fluid balance of these dehydrated children is restored, and special diets are provided for them.

Zonta International has donated another \$8,000 to provide vocational training scholarships for the "Zonta class" of trainees at UNRWA's Ramallah Girls' Training Centre in Jordan. The 16 refugee girls, now in the third and final year of the teacher-training course, were also sponsored by Zonta during the first two years of their training. This latest Zonta contribution brings to \$68,000 the total amount donated by Zonta, which has adopted support of the Ramallah centre as its international project.

Further donations have been received from Federations of Business and Professional Women throughout the world. The Canadian Federation's contribution of \$3,500 has provided training scholarships for seven girls in the first year of

the secretarial course at the Ramallah Girls' Training Centre. The International Federation has donated \$2,500 to sponsor five girls from the same class, and the Australian, New Zealand, Norwegian and Swiss Federations have each made contributions to sponsor one girl.

Mr. A.E. Huntsinger, of Vaughn, New Mexico (United States), has donated \$700 to finance the operation of two UNRWA Women's Activities Centres for one year.

A donation of medical supplies from the Swedish Red Cross, valued at more than \$1,500, will provide scholarships for one refugee girl attending the Ramallah centre and two young men in the builder/shutterer course at UNRWA's Kalandia Vocational Training Centre in Jordan.

The Daimler-Benz Company of Stuttgart, Federal Republic of Germany, has contributed \$1,000 to sponsor two young refugees in the auto mechanics course at UNRWA's Gaza Vocational Training Centre. The two trainees, now in their second year, were also sponsored in their first year by the Daimler-Benz Company.

* * *

BELGIAN STAMPS AID PALESTINE REFUGEES

A special set of three postage stamps has been issued by the postal authorities in Belgium to assist the Palestine refugees.

The set, which depicts flowers of the Gand region of Belgium, comprises stamps with face values of one, two and three Belgian francs. The set is being sold to collectors at the price of 20 francs, and the profit arising from the surcharge will be donated to Belgian voluntary agencies.

The funds, together with contributions from other sources in Belgium, will be transferred to UNRWA to establish a rehydration/nutrition centre in the Gaza Strip to give treatment to refugee infants suffering from severe gastro-enteritis and resulting dehydration. It is hoped that sufficient funds will be received to construct such a centre and to operate it for five years, at a total cost of \$35,600.

The project has been promoted largely by l'Entr'aide Socialiste Belge, a voluntary organization that has shown keen interest in UNRWA's work. Several officials of l'Entr'aide Socialiste, including the President, Mr. Jan Luyten, and the Secretary-General, Mr. Adrian Geets, visited the Middle East last year to study the problem of the Palestine refugees and to see UNRWA's operations.

The stamps were issued on 26 April and will be on sale in Belgium until 30 June.

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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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