

**Palestine  
Refugees  
Today**

No. 98





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**1 Gloomy Prospect**

The annual report of UNRWA's Commissioner General predicts a budget deficit of \$ 80 million for 1982 and the very real possibility of cuts in programmes.

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**2 Average Refugee**

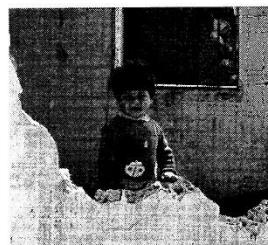
He or she is 28 years old, comes from a family of four children and was born a refugee according to data compiled by UNRWA. He is one of almost 1.9 million refugees, some of whom are fourth generation refugees.



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**3 South Lebanon**

Medical staff in refugee camps say that Palestine refugee children have been particularly affected by the fighting and increased tension in Lebanon over the past few months. One major additional problem has been the fall in the standard of education with schools being closed for days at a time.



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**8 How UNRWA survives**

In its nearly 32 years of existence, UNRWA has received enough money to cover its annual budget in full only eight times but the Agency has carried on. How has it been able to survive?

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# Palestine Refugees Today

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

# Financial crisis overshadows UNRWA

Overshadowing all of the activities of UNRWA during the past year has been a continuing financial crisis and the threat this poses to its education programme for refugee children. The Agency was faced with a \$ 45 million deficit in 1981 to be followed by an \$ 80 million deficit in 1982.

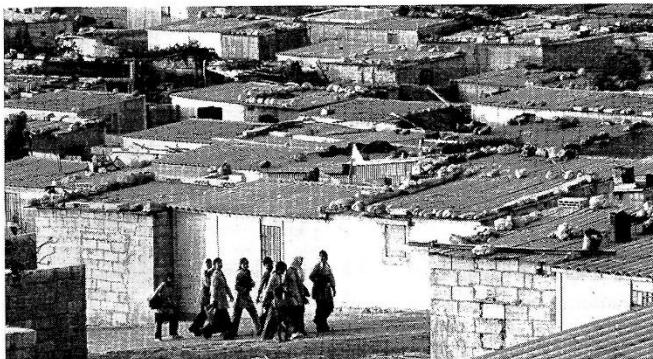
As in past years part of the deficit has been eliminated by putting off urgently needed construction of classrooms, clinics and other installations. In 1981 only enough school repair and construction was done to remove the worst conditions and to avoid triple shifting in some schools. More than 70 per cent of the Agency's 635 schools are already on double shifts.

In his annual report to the United Nations General Assembly, issued in October, UNRWA Commissioner-General Olof Rydbeck warned that the peace and stability of the Near East region would be seriously threatened if UNRWA were allowed to collapse because of a lack of money. The report is for the 12-month period ending 30 June 1981.

Inflation, currency exchange problems and the increasing refugee population are all affecting UNRWA's financial position. The number of refugees registered with the Agency at the end of June was 1,884,896, an increase of 2.2 per cent over the previous year; and every year several thousand more children are eligible to enrol in UNRWA schools.

## Stabilising influence

Mr. Rydbeck states in his report that he has found general agree-



Baqa camp, north of Amman, Jordan and home to some 50,000 refugees.

ment in extensive contacts with governments that UNRWA services are a stabilising element in the region and that the maintenance of these services, especially the education programme, is essential from both a humanitarian and a political point of view.

Despite this moral support it has proved increasingly difficult to find financial support on the scale required to meet UNRWA's budgetary needs. And attempts to convert contributions in kind (such as flour) to cash have met with little success. In 1980 about 824,000 refugees (44 per cent of the total) received small food rations representing about 800 calories a day per person.

## Mandate renewed

In November 1980 the General Assembly renewed UNRWA's mandate to 30 June 1984. The annual report says that by this action "the Assembly obviously intended that (UNRWA) should continue its services to the Palestine refugees, pending a political solution to the Palestine problem."

Despite the extension of the mandate, the General Assembly made no comment on the level and type of services UNRWA should provide, nor did it make any provision to put the Agency on a firmer financial footing. UNRWA continues to be financed almost wholly through voluntary contributions. In his report, Mr. Rydbeck appealed to Member States to take a stand on these issues and

for the General Assembly to make its wishes known before he has to take drastic measures in 1982 such as cutting parts of the education system to keep the Agency solvent.

## Despite the crisis

Despite the financial crisis facing UNRWA, it continued to provide health care for some 1.6 million persons; elementary and junior secondary education for 321,000 young refugees; and vocational and teacher training for 4,961 students.

And coinciding with the International Year of Disabled Persons, the Agency has begun a pilot project for the rehabilitation of the disabled. The project, being carried out in conjunction with the British development aid organisation Oxfam, is designed to show refugees how they can improve the quality of life of the disabled using readily available resources. In the Gaza Strip, with financial help from the Japan Shipbuilding Industry Foundation, UNRWA has succeeded in rehousing about a third of 381 refugee families who have been living in former British Army barracks.

Because of the expanding school population, the Agency has had to hire more teachers. The total number of locally recruited staff reached 16,626 by 30 June and the number of internationally recruited staff was 89 plus 10 staff seconded from UNESCO and five from WHO.

# The Average Palestine Refugee

Age: 28, comes from a family of four children, father is 52, mother is 46. Religion: Moslem. He or she is the average Palestine refugee, according to data compiled by UNRWA.

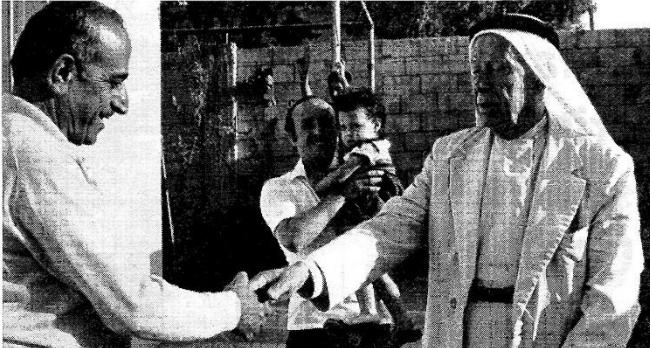
Mr Average's status as a refugee arose from the 1948 Arab-Israeli war when his parents lost their homes and livelihood and fled to Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic or the then Arab-held parts of Palestine. So he has been a refugee all his life. He was born a refugee. He is one of 1.9 million Palestine refugees registered with UNRWA.

Now there is a third generation of Palestine refugees — 73,000 of them, representing almost 4 per cent of the total registered population. And there are already a very few of a fourth generation being born. Those born before 1948 represent only 33.5 per cent of the refugees, or 621,000, while more than 1.2 million were born after the original exodus.

Today, more than 30 per cent of the refugees — about 583,000 — are under 15 years of age, including 120,000 who are five or less. And there are almost 24,000 refugees who are over 80.

## Nationality

Although virtually all the refugees had their origins in Palestine, some have taken out citizenship in other countries, and those living in Jordan and the Israeli-occupied West Bank are eligible for Jordanian passports. About 26,000 have Lebanese nationality, 3,500 have Syrian nationality and a small number have the citizenship of other countries. (The qualification for status as a refugee when UNRWA began 1950 was at least two



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1. Four generations of Palestine refugees.
2. More than 30 per cent of the refugees are under 15 years.
3. Almost 24,000 refugees are over 80 years.

years' prior residence in Palestine and the loss of both home and livelihood.)

## Children per family

In the five areas where UNRWA operates in the Middle East (Jordan, Lebanon, Syrian Arab Republic, the West Bank and Gaza Strip), the average number of children per family is 3.9—2.1 males and



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## Registered refugees by UNRWA field of operations (30 June 1981)

Lebanon	232,455	12.3%
Syrian Arab Republic	215,147	11.4%
Jordan	732,615	38.9%
West Bank	334,410	17.8%
Gaza Strip	370,269	19.6%
Total	1,884,896 *)	100%

\*) including 663,181 registered refugees living in refugee camps.

1.8 females. The lowest number is in Lebanon where the average family has three children, 1.6 boys and 1.4 girls. The highest is among the refugees in Jordan with 5.3 children – 2.8 boys and 2.5 girls.

### Heads of family

UNRWA statistics show that there are 331,568 heads of family in the registered refugee population. About 25 per cent of these are women.

### Country of residence

It is estimated by the United Nations Economic Commission for Western Asia that there are more than four million Palestinian Arabs scattered around the world. In 1975, about 13 per cent lived in the Gulf States and in the United States and other industrialised countries.

About half the Palestinians still live within the pre – 1948 borders of Palestine, the majority of these in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, and the rest in Israel. Most of the other Palestinians live in the countries bordering Palestine (Jordan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Lebanon). It is in these areas where most of the UNRWA – registered Palestine refugees live.

### Original homes

A few examples will show the area of origin and the present location of many Palestine refugees.

The largest group, today numbering 284,000, originated in the Ramleh area of Palestine. Of these, some 167,000 are in Jordan, 65,000 in the Gaza Strip and 47,000 in the West Bank.

More than 270,000 refugees trace their origins to Jaffa with 130,000 now in Jordan, 48,000 in the West Bank and 63,000 in Gaza.

A group of about 218,000 refugees originated in Haifa. Of these, 57,000 are now in Gaza, 46,000 in Lebanon, 48,000 in the S.A.R. and 63,000 in Jordan.

Safed – 82,000 now in the S.A.R. and 62,000 in Lebanon.

Acre – 73,000 in Lebanon and 15,000 in the S.A.R.

## Lebanon: “Boom” the first word learned

Medical staff in refugee camps say that Palestine refugee children have been particularly affected by the increased tension in Lebanon in recent months.

Repeated shelling, bombing and other military action by Israeli forces and Lebanese irregular militia reached a peak in mid-July 1981, before a cease fire between the Israelis and the PLO brought a respite, and led to a death toll that included registered Palestine refugees, especially in the southern part of the country. The renewed fighting placed an extra burden on UNRWA in delivering its relief, health and education services.

### Children cry

“The first word the children in the camp usually learn is ‘mama’, but often it is ‘boom’ because they are so frightened of the aircraft that fly over the camp, and of the shelling and bombing”, according to Eva Bergholtz, a Swedish doctor working at a clinic in Rashidieh refugee camp, near Tyre, the southernmost city of Lebanon.

“Rashidieh is particularly vulnerable,” she says, “because it can be attacked both from the air and from the sea. Children here cry when they see boats or planes. When the shelling starts, they are just like frightened birds.”

Rashidieh is the Palestine refugee camp in Lebanon which has been hardest hit. Since 1977, the camp has been shelled or bombed about 500 times; more than 6,000 bombs have fallen on it and scores of refugee homes have been destroyed. Dozens of refugees have been killed and hundreds wounded in the past few years.

Dr Saleh Hweidi, a Palestine refugee medical officer at the Rashidieh UNRWA clinic, agrees with his Swedish colleague in believing that children are the most affected by the hostilities: “When they are asked to draw pictures, what they draw are planes, gun-boats and bombs. The constant danger is imprinted in their minds.”

Dr Saleh Hweidi, a Palestine refugee medical officer at the Rashidieh UNRWA clinic, agrees with his Swedish colleague in believing that children are the most affected by the hostilities: “When they are asked to draw pictures, what they draw are planes, gun-boats and bombs. The constant danger is imprinted in their minds.”

### Born in a bomb shelter

The attacks and the continuing threat to lives have had other serious consequences for the health of the refugees. Dr Hweidi: “Many of the camp inhabitants have been wounded and sent for emergency treatment to El Buss hospital in Tyre. We later do the dressings here at the clinic. Many patients have had amputations; several are blind. All the inhabitants are used to going to the bomb shelters, where they often spend the whole night.

“In winter, the shelters are cold and wet, and the refugees catch influenza and pneumonia. In summer, they are hot and full of mosquitos and flies, and the refugees develop gastro-intestinal and skin diseases. Since 1978, 360 children have been born in bomb shelters.”

Dr Hweidi underlines, however, that the nutritional state of the children is generally good. He says UNRWA feeding centres are particularly appreciated at a time of increasing poverty for the refugee population living in the south: “Tyre is today one of the poorest areas of Lebanon. Men looking for work generally find only seasonal jobs in agriculture, for industry has been hard hit by the hostilities and building, for instance, is at a standstill.”

### Thousands homeless

In addition to economic difficulties, thousands of refugees have been made homeless by the attacks carried out earlier in 1981. Among the 70,740 families registered with UNRWA in the five refugee camps of the Tyre and Sidon areas alone, the homes of 280 families have been destroyed. Another 530 homes were damaged. Shells have demolished the

homes of refugees living outside the camp, including the apartments of two UNRWA staff members.

Emergency measures, including the distribution of kitchen kits, blankets and extra food rations to homeless families, were taken by UNRWA after a cease-fire was arranged in Lebanon on 24 July. Some families left their homes in the south during the attacks, but there were no massive movements of refugees searching for safety further north as has happened in the past. Around 70 per cent of the registered refugee population remains in the small El Buss camp, which is part of Tyre. The proportion of the population remaining in the other two refugee camps near the city is about 40 per cent at Rashidieh and 35 per cent at Burj el Shemali. Mr Ghassan Hajj is one of those who decided to stay in Burj el Shemali with his wife, his small sons and his grandmother. His parents have gone to Sidon. "I'm here," he says, "because it is better to be in my own house and because renting accommodation is terribly expensive. Of course, my children are frightened of the bombing."

### Relief slowed

In the present circumstances, the relief services provided by UNRWA are especially important but they have been hampered by the fighting.

There was, for example, delay in the distribution of food rations to eligible refugees. More than one thousand tons of flour, sugar, and cooking oil are normally transported monthly to the Agency's distribution centres in towns and camps. Supplies could not be sent to the south for a time because of the destruction by aircraft of bridges across the Litani river.

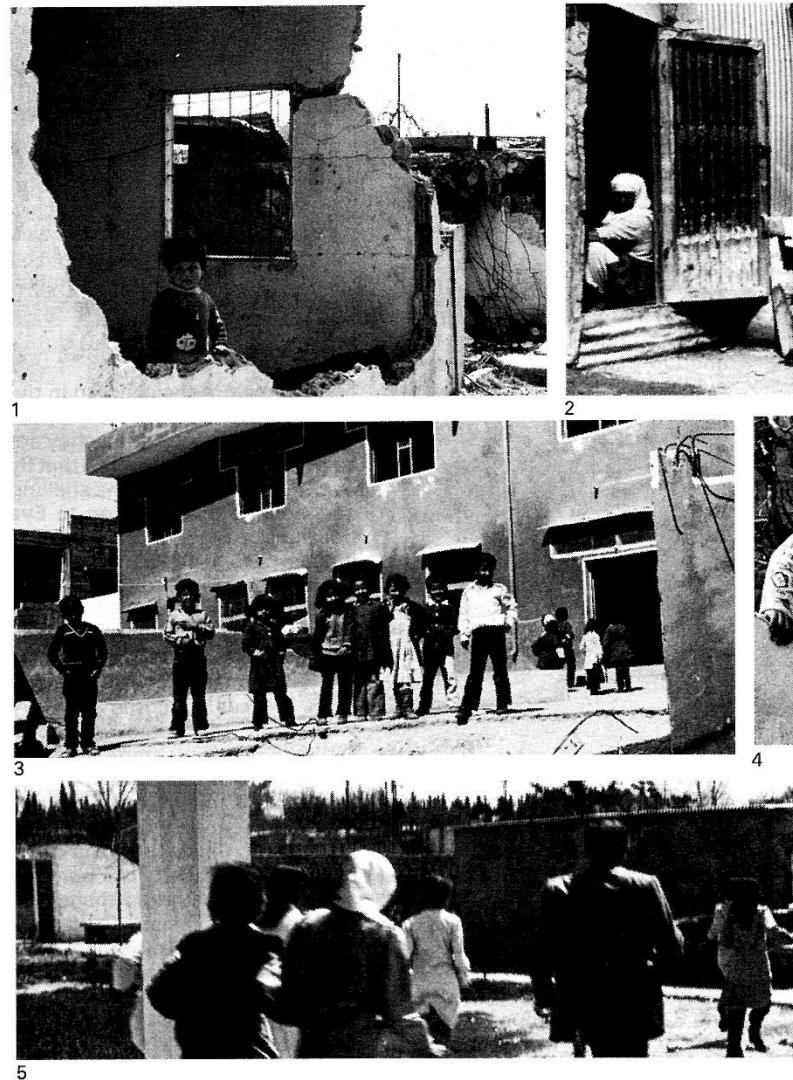
The Agency's operations in Lebanon were not complicated only in the south. For three months the town of Zahle in the Beqa'a valley was blockaded by the Arab Deterrent Force, and the transport of UNRWA supplies between Beirut and Tripoli was difficult. Fighting in Tripoli at the beginning of August further complicated the Agency's operations in the north.

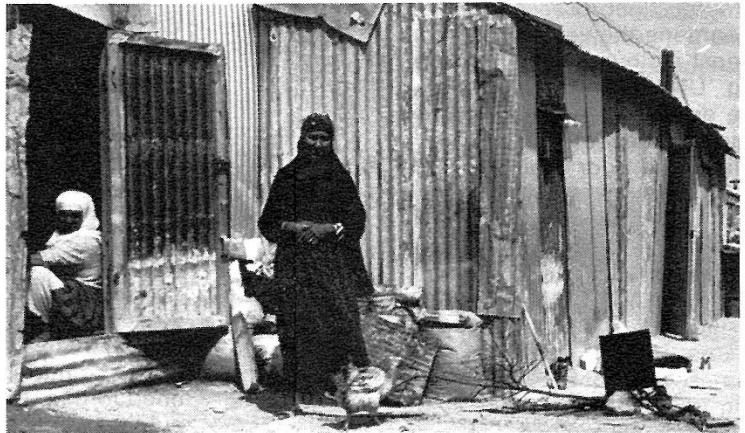
In the Beirut area the situation was marked from April onward by periodic clashes between various factions. Roads between the eastern and western parts of the Lebanese capital were closed by heavy firing and some UNRWA staff could not come to work. The Beirut UNRWA Polyclinic, which is just on the line between east and west Beirut, had to close and a temporary medical unit was opened in the UNRWA Area Office in Beirut. As there was only one room available, pregnant women were examined and infants vaccinated at Burj el Barajneh clinic, in a refugee camp south of Beirut.

The main service provided by UNRWA to the refugees in Lebanon – 10 years of primary and lower secondary education – was also affected. School days were lost in all areas because of the fighting, especially in the Beirut area, where up to 50 days were lost in some schools.

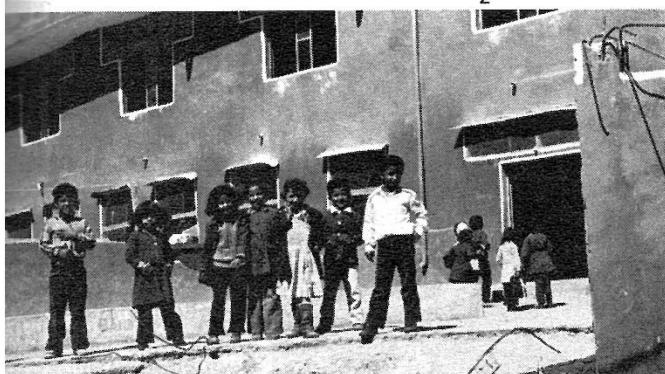
Schools opened 15 days earlier in the Beirut area for the 1981–82 school year in order to make up time lost.

UNRWA's Education Officer in Lebanon, Mr Fouad Farah, explains: "We never closed any of our schools, but the attendance depended on the security situation." The Siblin Vocational Training





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Centre, lying in a comparatively safe area, remained open, except during the Israeli air attacks in July.

Education is only one of the casualties of the turmoil in Lebanon. More than one-third of the 232,000 Palestine refugees in Lebanon registered with UNRWA have fled their homes at one time or another during the past few years because of the danger. Many have not gone back.

Some displaced families in their search for safety have moved to areas that have no UNRWA schools nearby and others are reluctant to send their children to

school for security reasons. Also in the past few years, schools in southern Lebanon have been occupied for weeks at a time by displaced refugees, so that classes could not be held. Enrolment in UNRWA schools in Lebanon has dropped by eight per cent in the past seven years. This is in contrast to UNRWA's other fields of operation where the school population increases by several thousand children each year.

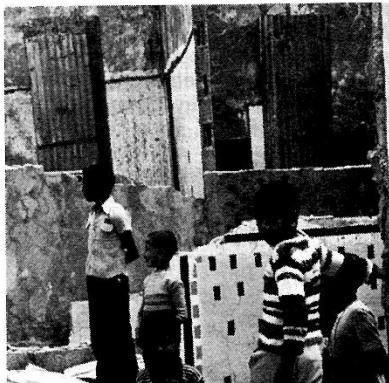
Some schools are half empty in the south because of the flight of refugees; others are more crowded than ever because of refugee migration. This year UNRWA had to open a new school

near Sidon to accommodate 750 displaced refugee children.

### **Emergency aid**

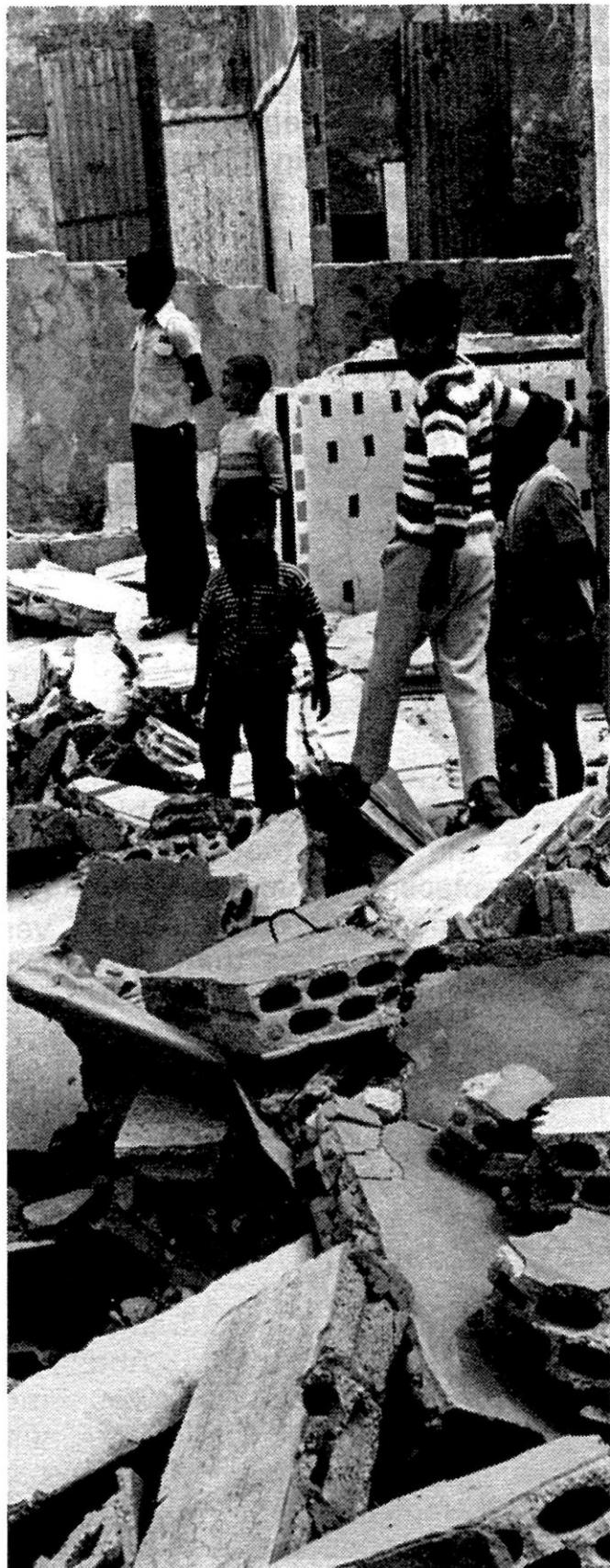
UNRWA has often had to improvise to maintain its services because of successive movements of refugees from one area to another. In the course of the last three years, UNRWA has spent an extra \$ 3 million for emergency aid and reconstruction in south Lebanon. Two emergency international appeals were launched to obtain some of this money. The last mass migration was in March 1978 as a result of Israeli military operations. Some 50,000 persons from the Tyre area fled north. Most stopped near Sidon, others went on to Beirut.

Since then, frequent operations by Israeli forces or shelling from the border enclave controlled by Lebanese irregular militia have provoked successive movements of refugees to and fro between the Tyre and Sidon areas. About two-thirds have returned to their homes in and around Tyre



#### **Photos:**

1. Rashidieh camp. Since 1977, the camp has been shelled and bombed about 500 times.
2. Corrugated iron shelters have been built around Ein el Hilweh camp, Sidon, by displaced refugees from the south.
3. UNRWA's 85th school in Lebanon opened in 1981 in Shehim, north-east of Sidon to accommodate 750 displaced refugee children.
4. Destroyed refugee shelters in Burj el Shemali refugee camp near Tyre, south Lebanon
5. Children and teachers dash from classrooms to the safety of an air raid shelter as aircraft approach Rashidieh, the southernmost refugee camp in Lebanon.
6. Refugee children in the rubble of huts destroyed by air attacks in Burj el Shemali camp.



and refugees have built bomb shelters, including some near school buildings, to try to reduce the number of casualties.

### Shanty towns

Most refugees who have not returned to their homes are living in the Sidon area. According to the UNRWA Area Officer in Sidon, Ibrahim Audeh, the population of the city has increased greatly since 1975, possibly even tripling with the influx of both Palestine refugees and Lebanese seeking safety. Around Ein el Hilweh camp, the biggest refugee camp in Lebanon, shelters of corrugated iron have grown up. Mr Audeh says the total camp population, officially 25,000, is really of the order of 60,000 today.

The shanty town which has grown up around the camp has rudimentary sanitary facilities built by the refugees themselves, and water and electricity supplied by the municipality of Sidon.

Most of the refugees are farm labourers who continue to work in the citrus groves around Tyre. "We earn as much as before 1978 – 35 Lebanese pounds a day (\$ 9). But the cost of living has increased and we also have to pay five pounds a day to get to work," says one of them.

Others have found shelter in the centre of Sidon. Several dozen families from Nabatieh occupy a building that formerly housed a soap factory and a cinema. Each family has about 10 square metres of space, with only cardboard partitions between families. Sanitary conditions are bad and cannot be improved by UNRWA as the building is being occupied illegally.

Other squatters, Lebanese and Palestinian alike, live in the cells of the city jail built in Ottoman times, cells that have probably never been so crowded.

Nothing at the moment can give these people hope of living in better conditions, and they have nowhere else to go. Those able to work find jobs from time to time as manual labourers in the market or port but the money they earn does not allow them to rent housing in Sidon, a city where the rents have soared in step with the huge increase in population.

The only hope for them is the success of their children at school. But the upheavals and displacements have affected the education of young refugees.

### Standard drops

Academic achievement has been affected by the fighting in all of Lebanon in the past few years. It has definitely dropped in many schools in the country. The main reason is irregular attendance because of the insecure situation. The tension in the south also creates fears and psychological problems among children, affecting their concentration. In the Sidon area, 1,200 displaced refugee children have had to be absorbed into already-over-crowded UNRWA schools. And a new school has opened in Shehim, a small mountain community northeast of Sidon, in a region where there was no UNRWA school before. The displaced families of the 750 pupils are dispersed in a radius of about 20 kilometres around the town, posing the problem of getting to school. Some teachers have to change their means of transport three times to get to work.

### Years behind

Many of these children have had no schooling for long periods of time: parents are often reluctant to send young children to school when conditions are unstable, despite the value that refugee families place on education. As a result, some older children are now in lower classes than they would normally have been. "On the educational level, it is very awkward to have to teach children in the same class who range in age from 6 to 11," says one of the school's 22 teachers.

But the children who attend work hard and apply themselves, he said.

UNRWA expected 400 children at Shehim – but 750 came. And another teacher says: "When you see a child walking several kilometres to school at seven in the morning in the rain or snow, without proper shoes and clothing, there's no doubt that he wants to learn."

## Cuts could endanger health

Great strides have been made in improving environmental sanitation for Palestine refugees living in camps, but budget cuts are slowing down progress and could jeopardise the health of young refugees.

Gastro-intestinal diseases, particularly among the very young, are the most serious health problem facing UNRWA's medical staff. These diseases are promoted by the lack of adequate, clean water supplies, and poor drainage and garbage disposal facilities.

For the past few years, refugees themselves have been improving environmental sanitation with the help of UNRWA. But because of the Agency's chronic financial problems, these self-help programmes were cut back by 75 per cent in 1981.

Of the \$ 445,000 budgeted for environmental sanitation self-help projects in 1981, only \$ 124,000 could be provided, and only an additional \$ 77,000 was made available for a self-help programme of repairing shelters, schools, health centres and the infrastructure of camps: a small sum, but an investment that can multiply its effect many times over when combined with voluntary labour.

### A good record

Basic sanitation and health services provided by UNRWA itself have been able to prevent any serious outbreak of a reportable communicable disease among refugees during the Agency's 31 years of operation. But much more needs to be done as waste water flows down the streets and pathways in some camps and collects in overloaded septic tanks and fetid pools. And not all camps have enough trucks to haul away garbage.

Self-help projects have been able to right some of the wrongs. UNRWA usually supplies technical guidance for a project and pays about a third of the cost in the form of construction materials such as cement or concrete blocks. The labour and the rest of the materials are supplied by camp residents.

Self-help projects entail paving of paths and roads, building drains, laying sewers and improving camp water supplies. During the last year such schemes were completed for the improvement of seven camps in the Gaza Strip, two in Jordan, 10 in Lebanon, four in the Syrian Arab Republic and 14 in the West Bank. There are a total of 61 camps for Palestine refugees, where about 35 per cent of the registered refugee population live.

In some camps, complete water distribution systems have been

built. It is thanks to these projects that most refugee homes are now equipped with private latrines, and more than half have indoor water taps.

### Living in the past

"Someone told me a few years ago that we are still in the Roman era", says Syed Moini, the UNRWA official responsible for sanitation services. "Perhaps", he says, "but at least we've left the age of Adam and Eve and we are regularly improving the situation, thanks to the participation of the community".

Self-help has not been without its detractors. The principle has been accepted only reluctantly by some refugees, who see it as tending to give the camps a more permanent character, and compromising the refugees' right to return to their lands or be compensated for their

losses. Mr. Moini says that it took two years of persuasion before the idea was accepted in some camps.

And the idea is a fragile one, he adds. If UNRWA's spending cuts break the trend of self-help, it could take another five years to get back on the right track.

### Self-help in Lebanon

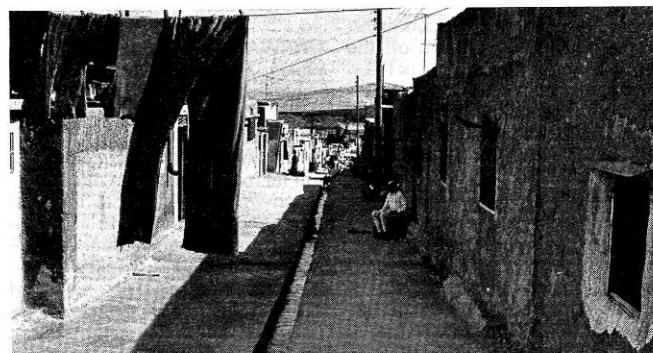
Despite the problems in Lebanon, self-help has moved ahead faster there than in other areas. One camp, Mieh-Mieh, south of Sidon, pioneered in building a full water-supply system. A similar project has recently been completed at Wavell camp, near Baalbek in Lebanon.

Running water is piped to every house and every path and road has been cemented to protect the precious water pipes running through the camp. UNRWA supplied raw materials, such as cement and sand. The refugees supplied the manpower and collected the money needed to buy other materials and to build a water tower. In addition to these improvements at Mieh-Mieh, many refugee homes in the camp have been improved, some even sprouting a second floor. It goes without saying, says Mr Moini, that the more such projects spread, the more the refugees are inclined to improve their environment, with benefit to their health.

In Jordan two self-help projects were completed in 1981 at Irbid and Baqaa camps. The projects began several years ago with the result that 61,155 square metres of roadways were paved and 11,392 metres of surface drains were built. The total cost was about \$ 245,000. UNRWA contributed \$ 122,000 and the rest of the money and the labour was supplied by the refugees.



A typical street in many camps for Palestine refugees. But this street in Irbid camp, Jordan has changed ...



Now after a self-help programme sponsored by UNRWA, streets have been paved with concrete, surface drains built and sewers installed.

### Positive step

Self-help is a positive step that can help improve life in a dreary camp and do some of the things that UNRWA cannot do alone. But only a fraction of the funds needed for UNRWA to promote projects is likely to become available in 1982.

## How does UNRWA Survive?

In its 31 years of existence, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has received enough money to cover its annual budget in full only eight times. It is therefore accustomed to financial stringency.

However, in 1981 UNRWA's financial position was so grave that the Agency prepared dismissal notices for its 5,000 teachers in Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic. The notices were withdrawn at the last moment as the Agency's cash outlook improved slightly.

Despite chronic financial problems, the Agency has carried on for decades. How has it been able to survive?

### Preparing the budget

Each year, before the annual session of the United Nations General Assembly, UNRWA's education, health and relief departments submit a budget for the next year to the Agency's finance department. This shows recurrent costs (such as salaries, which take almost 70 per cent of UNRWA's budget) and non-recurrent costs (such as school construction, replacement of vehicles and other capital items). Then UNRWA's Comptroller and the Contributions Office look at the possibilities for income in the following year.

As contributions to UNRWA are voluntary, mainly from governments, estimates of income have to be based on the previous year's "regular" contributions by governments. These estimates do not include any special contributions which come in during the year as they are invariably one-time contributions.

### Pledging Conference

The first firm indication of income possibilities comes during the an-

nual session of the United Nations General Assembly, toward the end of each year. Here a pledging conference is held to launch UNRWA's income for the following year.

In November 1981, \$ 107 million was pledged by 45 governments for 1982, but others were not able to announce their pledges at that time. On the basis of previous regular contribution patterns, the Contributions Office was able to foresee another \$ 78 million for a total estimated income of \$ 185 million against planned expenditure of \$ 265 million in 1982. This means an initial deficit of \$ 80 million for the year.

With such a situation, the Agency has to establish priorities for spending. The Budget Division begins by going through each budget item one by one, establishing which expenditure has to be chopped or delayed.

At the end of this exercise, there is a list of budget items that are approved by the Commissioner-General and one for expenditure not yet approved.

The not-yet-approved items are listed in order of priority so that those at the top of the list have first call on any additional contributions that come in.

The list usually includes such items as adding classrooms or building new schools to take care of the yearly increase of some 5,000 students attending UNRWA's elementary and junior secondary schools, and much-needed repairs to dilapidated existing schools.

The list also includes repairs to UNRWA clinics, some of which should have been replaced or repaired years ago; putting off the work only adds to the costs later. And the list also includes improvements to schools and clinics to keep up with improved, more cost-effective methods and technology.

There is no longer any provision in the budget for money to buy food for ration recipients. As a cash-saving measure two years ago, rations were cut and UNRWA now distributes only food it receives in kind from governments and the European Community. For this year, the entire UNRWA/UNESCO school system after

April is at the top of the not-yet-approved list. This means that the schools have first call on any additional income arriving during the year. But if sufficient contributions are not received, dismissal notices will have to be issued to many of UNRWA's 10,000 teachers.

In 1980, the United Nations General Assembly renewed UNRWA's mandate for another three years to June 1984. But no end is in sight to the Agency's financial problems. UNRWA's senior officials have to spend much of their time grappling with financial problems and trying to raise funds. The constant threat to UNRWA services has a negative impact on the Palestine refugees and on the morale of the 17,000 staff members, most of whom are Palestine refugees. One basic problem is that UNRWA has to rely on voluntary contributions. Last-minute special contributions have repeatedly saved parts of UNRWA's education programme from cuts in the past six years, but UNRWA rarely knows beforehand when they are going to arrive. Education takes about 55 per cent of the budget and is the only area left where sufficiently large cuts in expenditure can be made to cover the deficit.

### Income uncertain, expenses rise

UNRWA's Commissioner-General Olof Rydbeck has pledged to carry out UNRWA's new mandate from the General Assembly but he faces increasing difficulty in doing so.

UNRWA is not isolated from the world. Prices increase, currency values change, the number of refugee children entering the education system each year increases. So the Agency's costs increase—but its income remains uncertain. Meanwhile the strain to the system, and the stress to the employees and to the refugee children constantly at risk, takes its toll. But that is not all. The spectre of school closures is followed by another: that if the schools stop, the whole UNRWA system might break down in the resulting turmoil.

# UNRWA Publications

## GENERAL

UNRWA: Basic Facts (PL 1006)  
Printed Leaflet (English, French, German)

After 30 Years . . . UNRWA's 30th anniversary (PL 1008)  
Printed Leaflet (English, French, German, Arabic)

Map of UNRWA's area of operations  
with refugee location data (English, Arabic)

Survey (PB 1002)  
Brochure of facts and figures (English, French, German and Arabic).

## PROGRAMME LEAFLETS

Education (PL 2002—English, French, German)

Vocational Training (PL 2001—English, French, German)

Health (PL 3001—English, French, German)

Relief (PL 4001—English, French, German)

Palestine Refugees in Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic, Jordan, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. A series of five leaflets on each field of operation (English).

## POSTERS

UNRWA and Children  
A set of three posters on Palestine refugee children. Black and white. Titles in English, French, German.

UNRWA: Born in 1950 . . .  
Marking UNRWA's 30th anniversary. Titles in English, French, German.

After 30 years . . .  
Black and white poster to mark UNRWA's 30th anniversary. Titles in English, French, German or Arabic.

Family Album (Px 6)  
Shows the lives of three young Palestine refugees from birth to today. Text in English, French or German.

Palestine Refugees in Camps (Px 7)  
A full-colour poster showing refugee camp life with text in English, French or German.

## AUDIO-VISUAL PRODUCTIONS

Slide/Tape Shows

ST 1002: A seven-minute slide/tape production showing UNRWA's activities with Palestine refugees. Commentary in English, French, German or Arabic.

ST 1003: Through the Eyes of Ibrahim, a 10-minute slide-tape presentation in English, French, German and Arabic. Kit with map, posters and teaching notes included. Available on loan or purchase at \$ 45 per set.

Palestine Dresses: A set of 27 colour slides showing Palestine dresses from various regions. Included is a descriptive note in English, French, German or Arabic.

My Name is Fadwa

A 15-minute, 16 mm colour film on a deaf Palestine refugee child. Available for loan or purchase in English, French, German or Italian.

My Father's Land

A half-hour, 16 mm colour film on the Gaza blind school for Palestine refugee children. Available for purchase or loan in English, French or German.

## CONTACT

UNRWA Headquarters (Vienna)  
Vienna International Centre  
P.O. Box 700  
1400 Vienna, Austria

UNRWA Headquarters (Amman)  
P.O. Box 484  
Amman, Jordan

UNRWA Liaison Office  
Room 937  
United Nations Headquarters  
New York, New York 10017  
U.S.A.

UNRWA Liaison Office  
2, Avenue Dar El-Shifa  
P.O. Box 277  
Cairo, Egypt