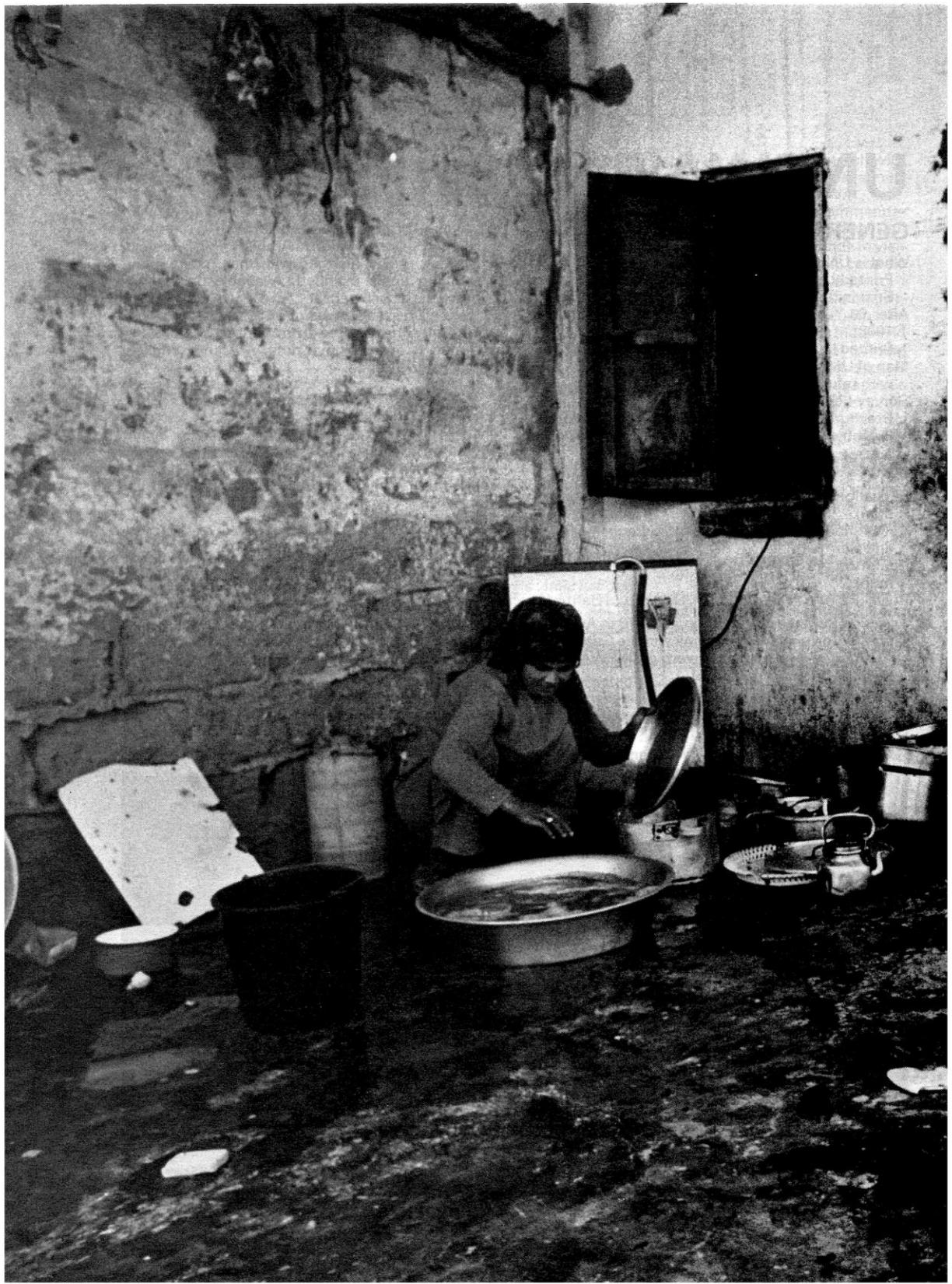


Palestine  
Refugees  
Today

No. 99





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**1 News  
about  
UNRWA**

The 36<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly continued its work long after its normal closing date. One of the items of unfinished business was the financing of UNRWA. In March the General Assembly received and accepted a report on UNRWA's finances prepared by the Working Group on the Financing of UNRWA.

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**3 NGOs  
and  
UNRWA**

In 1950 UNRWA took over the work of a number of voluntary organisations which were helping Palestine refugees. In this issue of Palestine Refugees Today, five pages are devoted to the important work of some of these nongovernmental and other organisations which support schools, clinics, kindergartens and other UNRWA projects. Some organisations also have their own programmes of assistance to Palestine refugees.

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**8 Japan  
and  
UNRWA**

Japan has become an important contributor to UNRWA. In 1982 the Government of Japan is donating \$ 7 million in cash plus several millions of dollars' worth of food to the Agency. Recently a new link with Japan has been formed with the appointment of an UNRWA/UNESCO vocational training specialist who has worked for many years in the Japanese electronics industry.

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# Palestine Refugees Today

UNRWA Newsletter No. 99  
May 1982

Cover photo: The Japan Shipbuilding Industry Foundation has given \$ 130,000 to help rebuild homes for Palestine refugees who have been living army huts built by the British in Gaza some 40 years ago.

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



UNRWA pledging conference at the 36th session of the United Nations General Assembly with General Assembly President Ismat Kittani in the chair. To his right are Commissioner-General Olof Rydbeck and the Director of UNRWA's Liaison Office in New York, John Miles.

## UNRWA at the UNITED NATIONS

UNRWA's financial problems were among the items of unfinished business which led the United Nations General Assembly to keep its 36th session going into 1982. The General Assembly, which normally finishes its annual autumn meeting before the end of the year, decided without a vote on 16 December 1981 to continue the session until (among other things) proposals for meeting UNRWA's expected 1982 budget deficit had been submitted by the Assembly's

Working Group on the Financing of UNRWA. The Agency foresees a shortfall in income of about \$ 60 million to maintain its education, health and relief services to registered Palestine refugees this year.

### Assembly asks cash donations to UNRWA

The General Assembly resumed discussion of UNRWA on 16 March 1982. In a decision adopted without a vote, the General Assembly took note of the report of the Working Group and called upon governments to make more generous contributions to UNRWA and:

"Called upon Governments and organisations making contributions in kind either to give cash instead or to allow the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East to sell their contributions for cash."

### Pledging Conference

In December, 43 nations pledged \$ 107 million for 1982. Several governments were not then able to make pledges, but said they would announce their 1982 contributions later. On the basis of the pledges, special contributions announced by 31 March 1982 and expected contributions UNRWA can foresee an income of about \$ 190 million for a budget of about \$ 250 million. A number of countries announced major increases. These include, with 1982 contributions in brackets, Australia (\$ 902,000), Canada (\$ 6.6 million), Denmark (\$ 2.5 million), Sweden (\$ 10.5 million), United Arab Emirates (\$ 800,000 including a special contribution) and the United States (\$ 67 million). Early this year Japan announced that it would increase its cash contribution by \$ 1 million

over the 1981 level to \$ 7 million for 1982. Japan also regularly contributes food commodities to UNRWA which were valued last year at \$ 4.5 million including transport.

Norway has also recently increased its regular contribution to about \$ 4.5 million, Saudi Arabia has made a special contribution of \$ 5 million and Kuwait has made a special contribution of \$ 1.5 million.

### Resolutions

During its 1981 session, the General Assembly passed a number of resolutions relating to UNRWA. These included:

- demanding that Israel stop removing and resettling Palestine refugees in the Gaza Strip and stop destroying their shelters, and asking the Secretary-General, after consulting with UNRWA's Commissioner-General, to report to the General Assembly before the opening of the Assembly's 37th session on Israel's compliance with this demand;
- asking all Governments, organisations and individuals to contribute generously to UNRWA and to other inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations concerned;
- asking the Working Group on the Financing of UNRWA to continue its work for another year;
- asking non-contributing governments to contribute regularly to UNRWA, and contributing governments to consider increasing their regular contributions;
- asking for money to be donated for scholarships and grants to refugee students, and asking UNRWA to act as recipient and trustee for such money;
- endorsing UNRWA's continued provision of assistance to those who were displaced during the June 1967 hostilities; and
- asking UNRWA to relocate its headquarters within its area of operations as soon as practicable.



Mme. Simone Weil, former President of the European Parliament, recently visited UNRWA installations in Jordan. She is seen here at an UNRWA supplementary feeding centre accompanied by John Tanner, Director of UNRWA Affairs in Jordan, (right).



UNRWA and the European Community recently signed a new agreement on contributions from the Community. The agreement covering 1981–83 was signed in Vienna by Vittorio Ghidi of the EC's Delegation to the International Organisations in Vienna (right) and UNRWA Commissioner-General Olof Rydbeck (left). In the centre is Deputy Commissioner-General Alan J. Brown.



UNRWA's Commissioner-General Olof Rydbeck (right) recently met the new Secretary-General of the United Nations, Javier Perez de Cuellar, in New York. The Secretary-General has made an appeal for funds to assist UNRWA with its chronic financial problems, saying that he was deeply concerned at the critical financial situation of UNRWA. He appealed urgently "to all Governments to make timely and generous contributions or additional contributions to the Agency so that it can avoid taking an action that would have serious consequences for the refugee community, for the host Governments and for the peace and stability of the region."

## Non-Governmental Organisations and UNRWA



When UNRWA began operations in 1950, it took over the work of several voluntary organisations which had already been providing services to Palestine refugees. Since that time, non-governmental organisations and other inter-governmental and private groups have continued to provide help to Palestine refugees either through UNRWA or with their own programmes. The following pages show what many of these organisations are continuing to do. But there are many others which are not included in this brief look at NGOs and UNRWA.

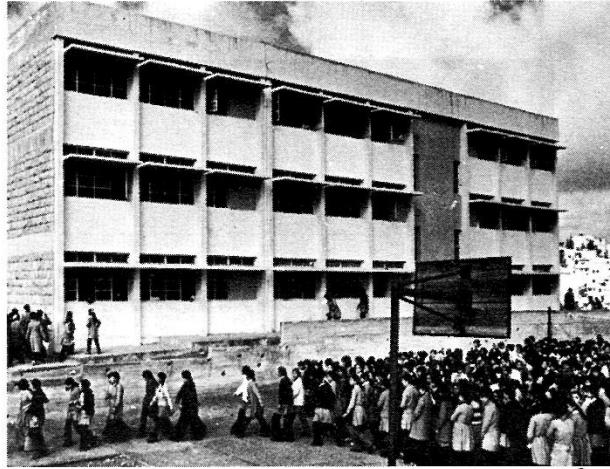
Recently two organisations have started new projects with UNRWA. One is the Gulbenkian Foundation, which has built a library at Kalan-dia camp (West Bank), and the other is Christian Aid of the United Kingdom, which is providing funds for a programme to help the handicapped prepare themselves for full-time work.

Other NGOs helping through the years have included: Americans for Middle East Rehabilitation, American Near East Refugee Aid, CARE, the Danish Refugee Council, the Finnish Refugee Council, Misereor, church groups at the national level plus the World Council of Churches and the Middle East Council of Churches, Universities Education Fund for Palestine Refugees (UNIPAL), the Standing Conference of British Organisations for Aid to Refugees (now called the British Council for Refugees) and Zonta International. Hundreds of individuals and a number of schools also help.

This is not a complete list nor does it include all of the contributions made by national refugee committees during World Refugee Year some 25 years ago. The following pages, however, give some idea of what is being done by NGOs, often things that UNRWA has no money to do.



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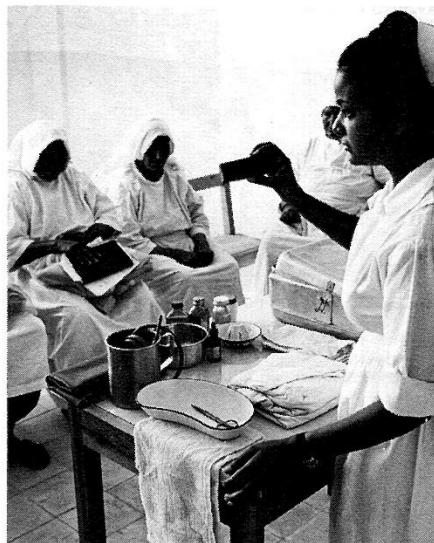
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#### Photo captions

1. Redd Barna, the Norwegian Save the Children Fund, provides the operating costs for two schools at Amman New camp, Amman, Jordan.
- 2, 3. Rädda Barnen, the Swedish Save the Children Fund, built Jabal Joffeh Girls' School in Amman, and for many years provided the operating costs.
4. UNRWA's Rehydration and Nutrition Centre at Khan Younis in the Gaza Strip was established with funds do-

nated by the Canadian Save the Children Fund. CAN-SAVE continues to provide the annual operating costs of the Centre.

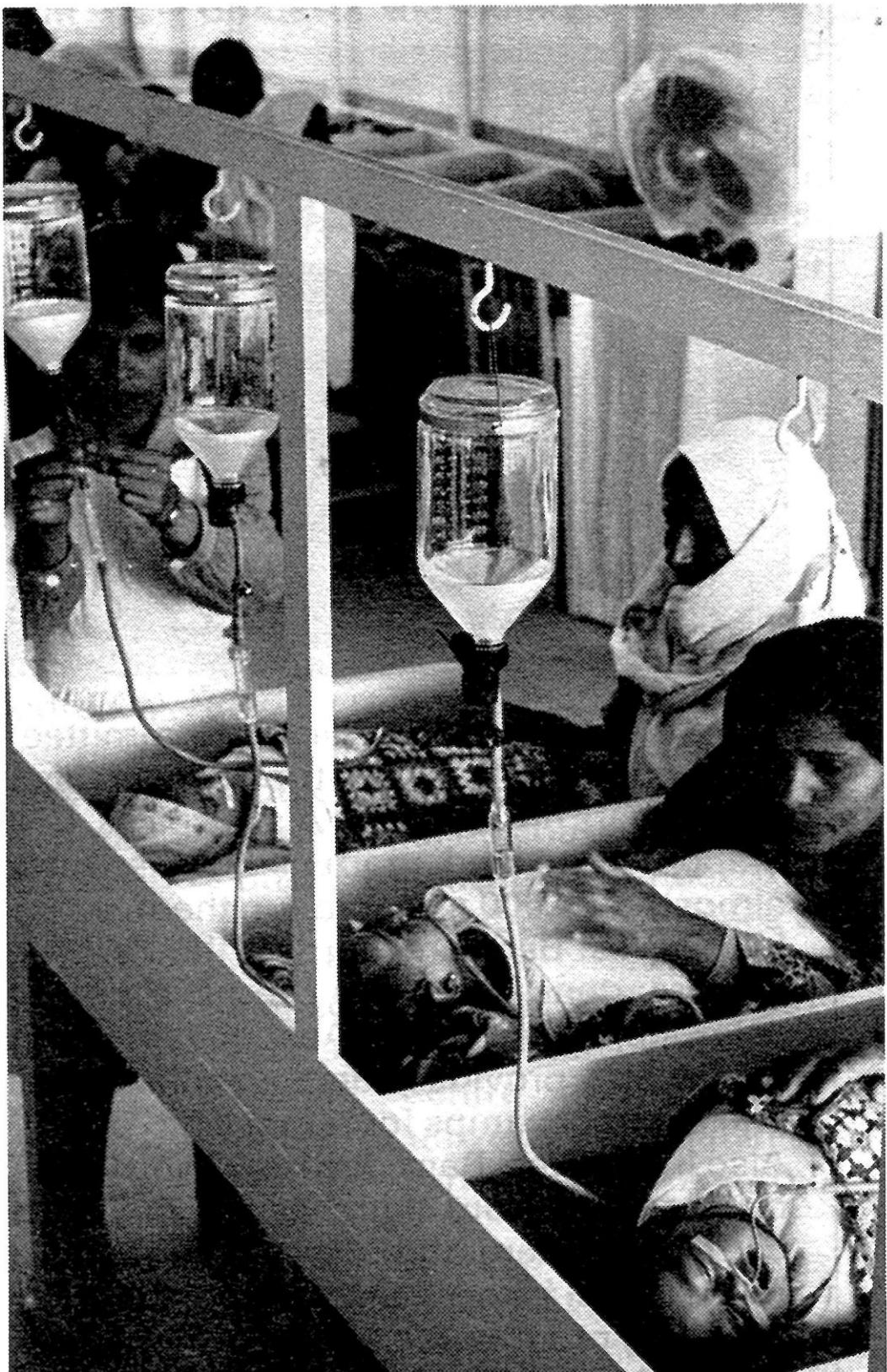
5, 6. AUSTCARE (Australians Care for Refugees) has been providing financial help to the UNRWA Health Centre at Deir El-Balah camp in the Gaza Strip since 1969.

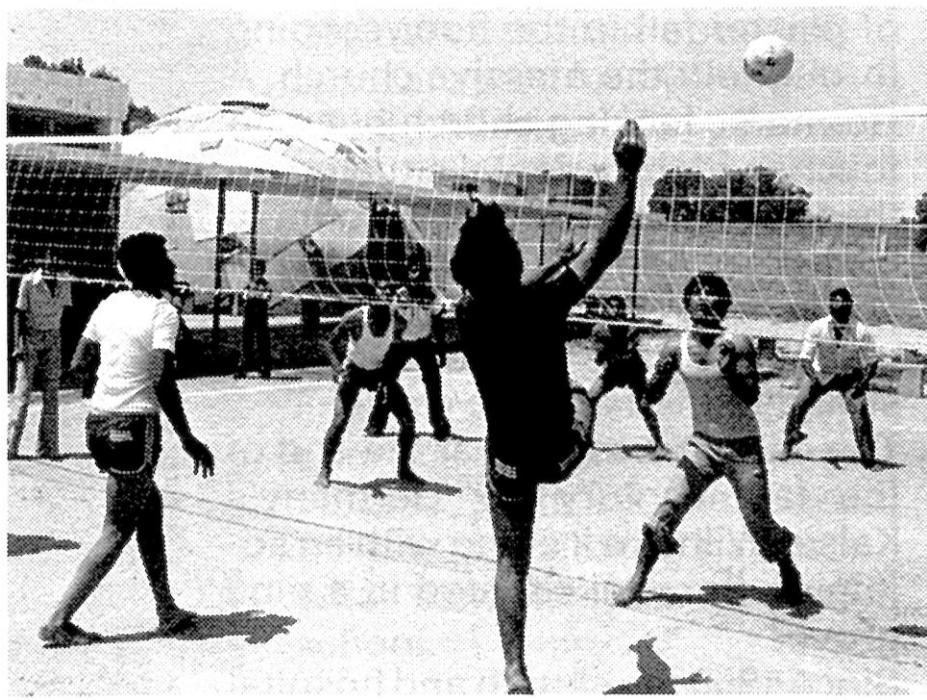
7. The UNRWA/Swedish Health Centre in Gaza town was established with funds from Sweden and continues to be supported by the Swedish organisation Rädda Barnen. These



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women are being trained as midwives. The centre also offers advice in birth spacing and birth control to refugees.

8. Swiss and German Aid Caritas provide the funds necessary to operate the UNRWA Health Centre at Am'ari camp north of Jerusalem in the occupied West Bank.

9, 10. In Rafah camp in the occupied Gaza Strip, the Norwegian Refugee Council built a health centre and clinic in 1965 and continues to provide funding for the

centre. The Council also pays the running costs of the Child Health Clinic in Baqa'a camp, Jordan, and is building a new health centre at Baqa'a. Funds for the new building were raised by one night of television advertising in Norway.

11,12. In Jordan, the West Bank and Gaza Strip, UNRWA operates 36 Youth Activities Centres. UNRWA's work is assisted by the YMCA which provides sports and leadership courses for the young men who are members of the centres.



### Kindergartens for refugee children



The American Friends' Service Committee established and ran kindergartens in the Gaza Strip such as this one in Beach Camp, for many years under UNRWA's auspices. UNRWA has taken over operation of the kindergartens but the Quakers continue to provide almost \$ 450,000 a year to run them.

In the West Bank and Jordan, the YWCA operates a total of eight kindergartens in refugee camps, six of them in the West Bank at Jalazone, Kalandia and Aqabat Jabr camps. In the West Bank the YWCA also provides some vocational training for young women and summer camps for refugee girls.

Also in the West Bank, the Holy Land Christian Mission, sponsored by donations from churches and individuals in the United States, has eight kindergartens, six of them in refugee camps. The Mission has a school for orphans, many of them Palestine refugee children, a welfare programme and an orthopedic hospital in Bethlehem. The United Kingdom Save the Children Fund finances three kindergartens in Lebanon and has recently donated funds for the repair of the centre at Ein el Hilweh camp in Sidon, Lebanon. The Fund provides money for the training of midwives and nurses at institutions in Egypt and the Gaza Strip.

## Augusta Victoria Hospital

A sonic boom created by a passing jet fighter shakes the building, bits of plaster fall to the floor echoing throughout the massive church. A Germanic looking church but with touches of the oriental situated on the top of Mount Scopus (Mount of Olives), overlooking the old city of Jerusalem. Before entering the church there is a huge banquet hall straight out of a Rhine castle. The church was built at the end of the last century by Germany's Kaiser Wilhelm II along with an adjoining hospital situated in a pine grove. Since 1950 the church and hospital

called the Augusta Victoria after the Kaiser's wife have been under the care of the Lutheran World Service (LWS). The hospital used to have 174 beds but now has only 107 as the top floor was destroyed during the fighting of 1967. UNRWA subsidizes 100 beds in the hospital. The LWS is currently planning renovation and expansion of the



hospital at a cost of \$ 3.5 million. The money for this will be raised by the LWS. Running costs of the hospital are shared approximately 80 per cent by UNRWA and 20 per cent by the Lutheran World Federation.

About half of all the surgery needed for eligible refugees amongst the approximately 300,000 registered refugees in the West Bank is performed at the Augusta Victoria. And each year about 10,000 persons receive treatment either as inpatients or through a polyclinic.

The Lutheran health-care programme in the West Bank doesn't stop here. It has eight village health centres serving more than 30,000 patients yearly and provides health education in West Bank villages. The care is for persons not categorized as refugees but are Arabs who would not otherwise have access to health-care facilities.

The LWS also has a vocational training centre in Beit Hanina for 152 students in auto mechanics, carpentry and metal work. There is a university scholarship programme for 50 students a year. Fifty per cent is a loan and 50 per cent is a grant. For students studying outside the West Bank the total comes to 300 JD a year (about \$ 900) and for students staying at West Bank universities, the LWS pays 150–200 JD directly to the university attended.

In 1980 the nursing school at the Augusta Victoria graduated its last class of staff nurses. Over 300 nurses have been trained at the school since 1950. Training for practical nurses and nurses' aides is being carried on.

A sheltered workshop for the blind

was established in 1968 to provide facilities for blind workers who had received training in handicrafts at the LWS Vocational Training Centre. The income from their production pays their salaries and material costs. In the West Bank, the LWS employs more than 210 persons, most of them Palestinians plus a few administrators and a Programme Director from abroad.

## CORSO

"We couldn't survive without the CORSO money", says the supervisor of the Women's Activities Centres in the Gaza Strip. There are six such centres in the Strip and 14 in UNRWA's area of operations as a whole. CORSO is the New Zealand Council of Organisations for Relief, Rehabilitation and Development.

The object of the programme is to give refugee girls and women living in camps a chance to develop skills which will help them to raise their standards of living. Lectures in health education, cooking classes, first aid lessons and classes in other household skills are provided at the centres as well as a variety of arts and crafts. Classes to teach reading and writing are also part of the programme, when required.

CORSO's contribution of \$ 30,000 last year enabled the centres to keep operating. Money is used to pay supervisors of the centres their \$ 5 a day wage (in Gaza) and the rest goes into buying sewing

supplies and arts and crafts materials. Centre groups range in size from 12-40 persons.

The Agency operates and finances three carpentry centres for young men. The one in Balata camp near Nablus in the West Bank was originally established with money from CORSO. The centre provides an 11-month course for young men and, through the ingenuity of staff and students, they were able to add a new room to the centre on a self-help basis. And by making and selling furniture they were able to buy a \$ 3,000 bench saw. The centre also turns out desks for UNRWA schools and bedroom suites for sale to the general public. Some of the students work as labourers outside school hours and others are still in secondary school.

## Trainees sponsored

At UNRWA's vocational and teacher training centres, a number of organisations provide money to sponsor trainees. Oxfam (United Kingdom) sponsors 16 students at the Gaza Vocational Training Centre (VTC) in carpentry, radio/TV and building/shutterer courses; 25 trainees in plumbing, electrician and business and office practice courses at Kalandia VTC (West Bank); and eight trainees in business education and teacher training at the Ramallah Women's

Training Centre (West Bank). Some of the trainees sponsored must be disabled. Oxfam is also contributing to UNRWA through a pilot project for the disabled.

Rädda Barnen of Sweden has in the past sponsored trainees in business education and teacher training at Ramallah and is now funding the expansion of the infant leader course at the Centre. Graduates of this course find work in various kindergartens sponsored by the YWCA, the Holy Land Christian Mission and the American Friends' Service Committee as well as other kindergartens operated by refugees themselves.

Najda (American Women for the Middle East) and the International Federation of Business and Professional Women plus a number of individuals also sponsor trainees at various centres.

Aramco sponsors some 30 students at the Damascus Vocational Training Centre and provides money for university scholarships and other parts of UNRWA's education system.

In recent years the OPEC Fund has pledged \$ 2.5 million to expand UNRWA's vocational training programme with new buildings and equipment at centres in Damascus, Gaza, Kalandia (West Bank) and at the Wadi Seer Training Centre near Amman, Jordan. And since the training programmes began in the early 1950s, various governments and voluntary agencies have provided funds for building and equipping the eight vocational and teacher training centres operated by UNRWA.



## Pontifical Mission for Palestine

The School for the Blind in Gaza town is operated by UNRWA but total operating costs are paid for by the Pontifical Mission for Palestine - more than \$ 100,000 a year. Besides providing general education, the school trains young blind refugees in rug and broommaking and knitting. It has recently opened several centres in various parts of the Gaza Strip to assist blind persons who cannot come to the school.

## Japan and UNRWA

The Government of Japan has become one of the major contributors to UNRWA. This year Japan increased its cash contribution to \$ 7 million from \$ 6 million in 1981. Japan is also contributing rice valued at \$ 3 million and will pay \$ 1.5 million for transporting it to UNRWA's area of operations in the Middle East.

Since UNRWA began work in 1950, Japan has contributed more than \$ 67 million in cash and food to the Agency.

Various UNESCO clubs, employers' associations and chambers of commerce in Japan have also contributed to UNRWA over the years. And the Japan Shipbuilding Industry Foundation has given \$ 130,000 to help rebuild homes for Palestine refugees who

have been living in army huts built by the British in Gaza some 40 years ago.

This year another link with Japan has been formed. Mr. Soichi Sato from Sony has become a Vocational Training Specialist (Electronics) in UNRWA's vocational training programme. In this position he will be advising instructors and developing training programmes for the five UNRWA training centres that have courses related to electronics. He will be based in Amman, Jordan.

Mr. Sato began in 1968 as a high school teacher, later joining Sony as an electronics engineer. From 1976-78 he worked as a UNESCO expert in the Ivory Coast, where he set up a Central Video Maintenance Workshop and trained technicians. After that he returned to Japan, becoming the Chief Instructor at Sony's International Training Centre.

As well as managing the Centre, he taught trainees from abroad maintenance and repair techniques for audio-visual equipment such as videotape recorders, colour TV sets and language laboratory systems.

Although working with UNRWA,

Mr. Sato is under contract with UNESCO which supplies senior education staff for UNRWA. Before making any recommendations and developing new programmes, Mr. Sato intends to visit all of the UNRWA training centres. He says that there is advanced equipment such as simulators, circuit trainers and microcomputer-aided training machines that could be introduced into the training programme, but this will depend on the needs of the various centres and especially on the budget available.

Mr. Sato foresees that programmed self-study systems with audio-visual training aids will eventually be introduced in electronics training programmes. This way trainees can move at their own pace. While the instructor's role will still be important, he will have more time to improve his own technical abilities, thereby reducing differing skill levels among trainees caused by differing skill levels of instructors.

Mr. Sato had a choice of going to Zaire or to Jordan. He chose Jordan as he had never worked in the Middle East. His first impression is that people in Amman are relaxed and open-hearted.



Soichi Sato, the new UNRWA Vocational Training Specialist (Electronics), visits a classroom at Wadi Seer Training Centre near Amman, Jordan.

# UNRWA Publications

## GENERAL

What is UNRWA? (PL 12)  
Printed Leaflet (Arabic, English, French, German, Spanish).  
After 30 Years . . . (UNRWA's 30th anniversary (PL 1008).  
Printed Leaflet (Arabic, English, French, German).  
Map of UNRWA's area of operations with refugee location data (Arabic, English).  
Survey (PB 1002)  
Brochure of facts and figures (Arabic, English, French and German).

## PROGRAMME LEAFLETS

Education (PL 13 – Arabic, English, French and German).  
Vocational Training (PL 14 – Arabic, English, French and German).  
Health (PL 15 – Arabic, English, French and German).  
Relief (PL 16 – Arabic, English, French and German).  
Palestine Refugees in Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic, Jordan, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. A series of five leaflets covering UNRWA's five fields of operation (English).

## POSTERS

UNRWA and Children  
A set of three black and white posters on Palestine refugee children. Titles in English, French or German.  
Family Album  
Shows the lives of three young Palestine refugees from birth to today. Black and White. Text in English, French or German.  
Faces in the Crowd  
A colour poster showing faces of Palestine refugees with text in English, French, German or Spanish.  
UNRWA and the Aged  
Colour poster to mark the World Assembly on Aging. Text in English, French, German or Spanish.  
Palestine Refugees in Camps  
A colour poster showing refugee camp life with text in English, French or German.

## AUDIO-VISUAL PRODUCTIONS

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

ST 1003 – Through the Eyes of Ibrahim, a 10-minute slide/tape presentation in Arabic, English, French, German or Swedish. 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 Arabic, English, French or German.

## FILMS:

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 film on the Gaza blind school for Palestine refugee children. Available for purchase or loan in English, French or German.  
Born Homeless  
A 20-minute, 16 mm colour film showing the work of UNRWA through a refugee family in Baqa'a camp, Jordan. Available for purchase or loan in Arabic, English, French or German.

NOTE: A complete catalogue of UNRWA publications and audio-visual productions (including historical films) is available from the offices listed below.

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