

syria

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Damascus Training Centre, Syria. © 2016 UNRWA Photo by Taghrid Mohammad

building youth resilience in syria

In Syria, UNRWA remains the main provider of basic services and humanitarian assistance to 450,000 Palestine refugees. The Agency's pre-existing structures, supply chains and workforce have enabled an effective response to the crisis, through a rapid expansion of humanitarian operations and the adaptation of development programmes to meet changing needs. Due to the deterioration of conditions inside Syria and the protracted displacement of Palestine refugees, the critical lifeline provided by UNRWA is required more than ever.



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For over five years, Syria's youth have endured loss and hardship caused by the protracted civil war. The conflict is coupled with economic disintegration and social fragmentation, leaving youths feeling overwhelmed and insecure about their future. Many have been exposed to armed violence, forced to discontinue their education or unable to find jobs. Many have had to flee the country. Youth are the backbone and the future of Syria. Any obstacles to their educational and social attainment will result in severe losses to Syria and its communities. Providing young men and women in Syria with opportunities to learn, socialize and get jobs has never been more critical.

To mitigate the impact of the crisis, UNRWA works with adolescents and youth to manage and plan their lives and provide them with the space to develop their skills with their peers. Making use of its community-based organizations and mobile teams, UNRWA ensures that adolescents have access to counselling, recreational activities, sports, musical activities and career guidance. UNRWA also offers career development and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in Homs, Damascus and Dera'a and access to 10 youth centres to eligible youth from the ages of 15 to 35.

Technical Education and Vocational Training

UNRWA has been running the Technical and Vocational Education and Training programme since 1961. Over the years, in Damascus, Homs and Dera'a, Palestine refugee youths have acquired marketable vocational skills. Currently, a two-year program is offered to high school graduates and a one-year accredited trade course is available for grade 9 graduates, while all students and young adults have access to short-term courses.



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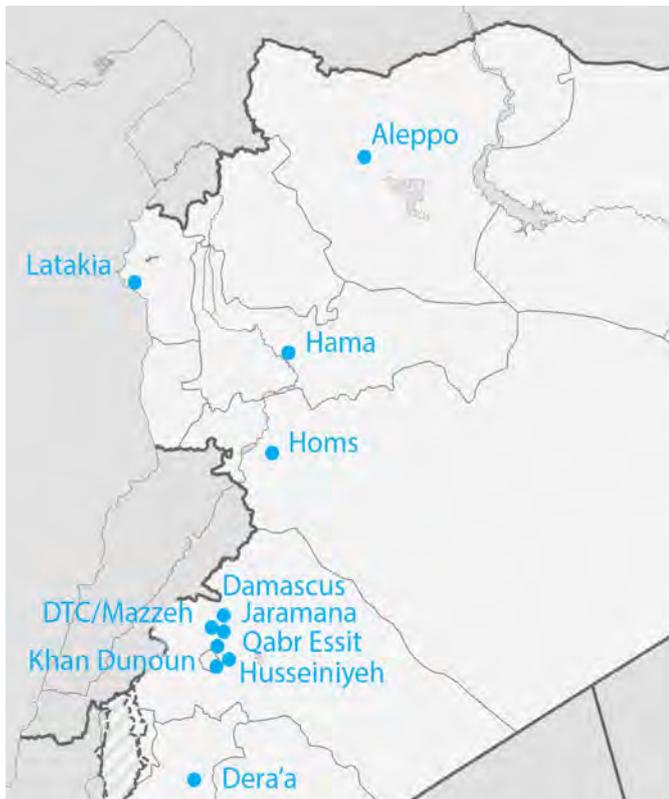
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Career Guidance

With funding from the European Union, UNRWA runs 10 career guidance points in its youth centres. Young jobseekers learn to plan their careers, write their resumes and develop interview skills. In the centres, they can learn about employment opportunities and sign up for job fairs.

Promoting Entrepreneurship

UNRWA helps Palestine refugee youth widen their career opportunities, including through self-employment as an alternative to waged employment. Through information and awareness campaigns, students learn about entrepreneurship. Prospective entrepreneurs have access to a series of entrepreneurship trainings and advice services on the skills required to successfully startup a small-scale business.



Location of UNRWA vocational training and youth centres.

Youth Clubs & Community-Based Organizations

Ten youth centres offer an estimated 17,300 young Palestinians a choice of cultural, artistic, and sports activities. In the centres, young refugees can participate in clubs where they develop their own projects and initiatives, cultivate interpersonal skills, and learn to become advocates for their needs within the community. With funding from UNICEF, community-based organizations are additional entry points for community initiatives, psychosocial support and job skills training. They provide a supplemental offer of music, sports and art clubs.



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UNRWA is a United Nations agency established by the General Assembly in 1949 and mandated to provide assistance and protection to some 5 million registered Palestine refugees. Its mission is to help Palestine refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, West Bank and the Gaza Strip achieve their full human development potential, pending a just and lasting solution to their plight. UNRWA services encompass education, health care, relief and social services, camp infrastructure and improvement, protection and microfinance.