



unrwa technical and vocational education and training programme

The UNRWA Technical and Vocational Education and Training Programme (TVET) aims to empower Palestine refugee youth by providing the skills and knowledge that they need to become independent adults.

The vision of UNRWA TVET

The UNRWA vision for TVET is to have a pioneering and responsive system that is relevant, efficient, effective, as well as, accessible, inclusive, and sustainable. The UNRWA TVET system should empower Palestine refugees to achieve their maximum potential, support the regional market and contribute to the overall development of the Palestine refugee society.

TVET in Numbers

UNRWA runs eight Vocational Training Centres (VTCs) in the UNRWA five Fields of operation that accommodate approximately 7000 trainees each year.

In 2014, 3,868 trainees graduated from the UNRWA Vocational Training Centres – 2,293 males and 1,575 females. Over the last decade, approximately 100,000 trainees have graduated from UNRWA VTCs and a high employment rate of graduates has been achieved. More than 78% of the 2014 graduates were employed within one year of graduation.

UNRWA TVET Course Types

Palestine refugee students can choose from three types of courses offered by UNRWA TVET:

1. Trade courses (vocational) of a one-year (skilled laborer level), and two year duration (craftsman level). These are offered at post-preparatory school level for those who have successfully completed years 9 or 10 of schooling (depending on the system of the host countries).
2. Semi-professional courses of a two-year duration (technician level) offered at the post-secondary school level for those who have successfully completed year 12 of schooling.
3. Short-term courses: In addition to regular courses, short-term courses are available. These aim to prepare young Palestine refugees for employment in sectors where there is a high demand in the labor market.

All courses cover a range of specializations at different levels, such as: Building Construction Craftsmanship, Plumbing, Refrigeration, Electrical Installations, Auto Electrical and Electronics Systems, Hair Dressing and Fashion Design, Graphic Design, Accounting, Assistant Pharmacist, Nursing, Medical Records and Physiotherapy.

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Programme Achievements

The UNRWA TVET programme is renowned for both its quality and its pioneering role in curricula development. This has been achieved through: alliances with the industry, labour market relevance and innovation of its staff.

One example of effective collaboration with the market is Kalandia Training Centre (KTC), in the West Bank, which has to date signed seven Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with local companies. These relate to cooperation in terms of equipment, curricula development and placement.

Innovation in curricula development is highlighted through the example of Wadi Seer Training Centre (WSTC) in Jordan, where the "Elevators Installation & Maintenance" was awarded the "His Royal Highness Prince El-Hassan Bin Talal Award for Scientific Excellence" in 2013.

The quality of UNRWA TVET is also reflected in the results of its students in the national exams, in Gaza, West Bank and Jordan. Here UNRWA graduates perform better than graduates of local institutions. For example, in Gaza, trainees from GTC have an average score of 96.7%, in comparison with the national average of 89.7% (for the period between 2007 and 2013). In 2014, trainees from GTC increased their average score to 99.6% compared to the national average of 93.1%. In 2015, GTC average score was 98.7% compared to the national average of 90.04%.

In Lebanon, the Sibli Training Centre (STC) has recently obtained the Establishment License, which is the first step towards their obtaining full accreditation. Being able to provide accredited courses will allow STC to offer vocational education to students at Grades 7 and 8 to reduce the number of dropouts. Students from Grade 10 will be able to access STC at the Brevet Technician Level and complete their studies within two years and, if they choose to, be able to continue on to University.

In Syria, UNRWA has supported Palestine refugee youth during the current crisis by providing free short-term courses which utilize e-learning approaches in Damascus, Hama, Homs, Aleppo and Latakia and by providing career guidance and business development services in shelters.

UNRWA has also focused on rapid training and development to encourage self-employment projects.

TVET and Youth Programme Reform

Although proud of the strengths and achievements of its TVET Programme, there has been a growing recognition within, and beyond UNRWA, of the need to better respond to recent global trends in both TVET and to the labour market demands. The recently developed TVET Strategy reflects this recognition and has nine thematic Building Blocks which will strengthen the TVET programme and its impact. The Blocks are designed to enhance the access of vulnerable groups to TVET, ensure the quality and relevance of course provision, and improve management structures and procedures of the programme. The nine Building Blocks are: Sustainability, Access, Placement and Career Guidance, Human Resource Development (HRD), Labour Market Relevance and Responsiveness (LMRR), Developing and Delivering TVET Programs, Quality Assurance, Governance and Structures and TVET in Times of Wars and Crises.

Making a Positive Difference

UNRWA TVET plays an increasingly important role to mitigate poverty. In the scholastic year 2014/2015 UNRWA VTCs there were 7,234 trainees enrolled: 4,140 males and 3,094 females, among them 2,170 were considered to be vulnerable youth. For the scholastic year 2014/2015, 29.47% of the trainees were Social Safety Net recipients, in 2013-2014, 24.47% of trainees were recipients of SSNP. Due to the challenging socio-economic environment in the region, the percentage of abject poor among trainees is expected to further rise in the following years.

Empowering Palestine refugee youth with labour market skills is also critical in times of political instability and crisis. UNRWA TVET, through its TVET Strategy, is providing strategic direction to vocational and technical programmes whilst responding systematically and efficiently to Agency wide needs.

For more information please contact your Chief Field Education Programme or UNRWA HQ Education Department on info.education@unrwa.org.



united nations relief and works agency
for palestine refugees in the near east

www.unrwa.org

UNRWA is a United Nations agency established by the General Assembly in 1949 and is mandated to provide assistance and protection to a population of some 5,094,886 registered Palestine refugees. Its mission is to help Palestine refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, West Bank and the Gaza Strip to achieve their full potential in human development, pending a just solution to their plight. UNRWA's services encompass education, health care, relief and social services, camp infrastructure and improvement, microfinance and emergency assistance. UNRWA is funded almost entirely by voluntary contributions.