



## Acquiring Knowledge and Skills

UNRWA operates one of the largest school systems in the Middle East, teaching some half a million children in nearly 700 schools. The Agency has been the main provider of primary education to Palestine refugees for sixty years.

As well as running schools, UNRWA provides vocational training for young people to help them gain further skills for the workforce.

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At UNRWA we believe that each and every child has the right to an education that helps them achieve their full human potential. UNRWA's education system helps refugee children to thrive, achieve, and to grow up understanding their rights and respecting the rights of others. Moreover, UNRWA provides young people with the opportunity to learn skills that will lead to work. This helps individuals and families escape poverty and attain their goals. We believe that to invest in the education and training of Palestine refugees is to invest in peace. **Peace starts here.**

Peace starts with . .

# Acquiring Knowledge and Skills

## Basic and Secondary Education

- Quality education for some 500,000 children;
- Nine to ten years of free basic education;
- UNRWA's largest programme;
- More than half of the Agency's regular budget.

## Vocational Training

- Ten vocational training centres;
- Practical training in professional fields such as plumbing, pharmacy, design and teacher training.

## Scholarships

- Helps brightest students to access higher education;
- Contributes towards the development of a highly skilled workforce.



### At a glance

- 691 schools
  - 22,100 educational staff
  - 482,900 enrolled pupils
  - 49.8 per cent female pupils
  - Ten vocational training centres
  - 6,700 training places
  - Three educational science faculties
  - 930 teachers in training
- as of December 2009

## Human Rights Education

- Human rights and tolerance curriculum in every school;
- Curriculum teaches non-violent communication skills, conflict resolution and human rights, and emphasises tolerance;
- Practical lessons in conflict resolution and practice of democracy;
- Active participation in school parliaments and peer mediation.

## Overcoming Challenges

### Gaza:

- Schools of Excellence project introduced in 2007 to reverse decline in standards;
- Project includes remedial education, focus on core subjects, extra-curricular activities, improved student-teacher contact time and attention for children with special needs.

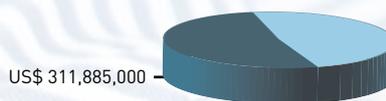
### West Bank:

- Educational recovery programme introduced in 2009;
- Reforms target curriculum, teaching methods and remedial classes, as well as encouraging community participation.

## 2010 Regular Budget

Acquiring knowledge and skills: **US\$ 311,885,000**

Total core activities: **US\$ 601,916,000\***



UNRWA relies on donations. The Agency currently faces an unprecedented shortfall in funds needed to provide its essential services.

\*Including support services, contingency requirements, area staff separation benefits, salary increase reserve, maintenance reserves. Excludes projects.

UNRWA provides assistance, protection and advocacy for some 4.7 million registered Palestine refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and the occupied Palestinian territory, pending a solution to their plight. The Agency's services encompass education, health care, social safety-net, camp infrastructure and improvement, community support, microfinance and emergency response, including in times of armed conflict.

Through these services UNRWA strives to help Palestine refugees achieve a decent standard of living, long and healthy lives, knowledge and skills and full enjoyment of human rights. These goals are formulated according to the UN criteria for human development.