



## Palestine refugees: a special case

### Overview

As of June 2011, the number of Palestine refugees registered with UNRWA was 433,000, although the actual number of refugees residing in the country is estimated at between 260,000 and 280,000. Half of the refugee population is aged under 25 years. More than half of the refugee population lives in camps (62%) while the remainder (38%) resides in gatherings, which although in the vicinity of camps, are not part of the official settlements, or are dispersed throughout Lebanon.

### Priorities for 2011/2012

- Reconstruction and ongoing emergency relief in Nahr el-Bared Camp
- Provide adequate shelter and functioning infrastructure in refugee camps
- Ensure access to health services and medications for all Palestine refugees, particularly at tertiary level and secure additional support for UNRWA's CARE programme for severe chronic illnesses
- Enhance the food security of Palestine refugee families
- Provide quality education to the youth and promote their employability
- Address the needs of the most vulnerable, especially persons with disabilities

### POVERTY

- 2/3 of Palestine refugees are poor, subsisting on less than \$6 per day
- 6.6% of these subsisting on less than \$2.17 per day
- The majority of those living in poverty and extreme poverty reside in camps in South Lebanon

#### UNRWA's response

- › The Social Hardship Assistance Programme provides a food and cash supplement to those experiencing extreme poverty
- › Empowerment of women through the provision of subsidies to Community Based Organisations
- › Special assistance provided to disabled persons
- › UNRWA is also in the process of designing a comprehensive Poverty Reduction Strategy

### UNEMPLOYMENT

- 56% of Palestinians are jobless, more than half of these live in South Lebanon
- Women are significantly more likely to be unemployed than men
- Those in employment are often in unskilled, manual occupations with little job security

#### UNRWA's response

- › Two Vocational Training Centres
- › Three Employment Services Centres
- › Micro-finance loans to promote business start-up and development

### EDUCATION

- 8% of refugees of school-going age are not enrolled in any school
- Two-thirds of Palestinians above the age of 15 do not have the Brevet (official exam awarded at conclusion of grade 9)
- Only half of Palestinian youths aged 16-18 years are enrolled in schools or vocational training centres

#### UNRWA's response

- › Provision of education to over 32,000 students through a network of 68 schools and two vocational training centres
- › Scholarships for university studies within the limits of available funds



# UNRWA in Lebanon



## Number of UNRWA registered Refugees in the 12 camps

Burj el-Barajneh	16,888
Shatila	9,154
Dbayeh	4,237
Mar Elias	627
Wavel	8,308
Ein el-Hilweh	50,309
Mieh Mieh	4,958
Beddawi	7,866
Nahr el-Bared	36,338
Burj Shemali	21,205
El-Buss	10,559
Rashidieh	29,363

## Lebanon Budget 2011

UNRWA relies on voluntary contributions to its budget. In 2011, the regular budget of UNRWA in Lebanon amounts to \$ 74.7 million, with an additional \$ 49 million for projects.

For more information, please contact  
UNRWA Lebanon Public Information Office  
Tel/Fax: +961 1840468  
Or e-mail: h.samra@unrwa.org

## HEALTH

- One-third of Palestine refugees suffer from chronic illnesses
- 95% of the refugees do not have any public or private health insurance
- On average, Palestine refugees pay \$1,228 per household per year for hospital care, far beyond their means

### UNRWA's response

- › Provision of comprehensive primary care free of charge in 28 health centres across Lebanon
- › Assistance to 22,000 patients per year to cover the cost of secondary treatment and to 4,000 patients to cover tertiary care treatment
- › The new Catastrophic Ailment Relief Programme (CARE) provides financial assistance to Palestine refugees with severe chronic illnesses

## LACK OF RIGHTS

- Palestine refugees lack many basic rights, are restricted from employment in most professions and are not allowed to own property
- Palestine refugees have extremely limited access to the legal system
- Palestine refugees who do not have identification cards (known as non-IDs) have even fewer rights and less freedom of movement

### UNRWA's response

- › UNRWA has actively worked to advocate for the right to work for Palestine refugees and to strengthen the rights of Non-ID refugees
- › A new three-year legal aid project to enhance access to justice for Palestinian refugees

## INFRASTRUCTURE

- The destruction of Nahr el-Bared Camp in 2007 led to the displacement of 27,000 refugees who continue to live in temporary accommodations
- 40% of dwellings in the other 11 camps have water leaking through their roof and walls and 8% of these experience 'bad' housing conditions
- The infrastructure in many of the camps is in urgent need of upgrading and replacement

### UNRWA's response:

- › The reconstruction of NBC is underway and since April 2011 the first residents have been gradually returning to their new homes
- › A shelter rehabilitation initiative has been introduced based on a successful self-help approach
- › Under the Infrastructure and Camp Improvement Programme a number of major infrastructure projects have commenced in the worst-affected camps



**unrwa**  
الاوروا

the un agency for وكالة الأمم المتحدة  
palestine refugees للاجئين الفلسطينيين

**Peace** | السلام  
Starts Here | يبدأ هنا

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.