



## Rebuilding Lives

### Overview

Following the destruction of Nahr el-Bared Camp in 2007, the homes, commercial properties and NGO and community facilities of the Palestinian community were left in ruins. The UNRWA Compound housing the Agency's health clinic, schools and relief office, was also completely destroyed. Nearly 27,000 Palestine refugees from NBC were forced to abandon their homes.

Four years later, much of the community remains uprooted and is predominantly reliant on UNRWA's assistance. As of September 2011, 369 apartments have been handed over to NBC displaced families. However, the remaining families are still residing in temporary accommodations in nearby Beddawi camp, and in the NBC adjacent areas.

UNRWA is currently managing the reconstruction of NBC while concurrently providing relief and recovery assistance to the displaced families. These activities are made possible by the support of the international community.

### NBC Reconstruction Project

At a total estimated cost of US\$ 345 million, the ongoing effort to rebuild Nahr el-Bared Camp (NBC) is the largest project that UNRWA has ever implemented in any of its five fields of operation. The endeavour involves the reconstruction of 5,223 homes, 1,969 commercial units, the UNRWA Compound and all camp infrastructure, including water and sewerage networks as well as electricity connections.

The physical reconstruction of Nahr el-Bared commenced in November 2009, following removal of approximately 533,000 cubic meters of rubble and the successful clearance of 12,506 unexploded ordinances (UXOs). Despite a number of challenges that delayed the start of construction, the Agency has been able to celebrate a number of milestones, beginning with the delivery of the first apartments to displaced families in April 2011.

### Progress of NBC Reconstruction

- **Package 1 (P1):** As of September 2011, 317 families have received the keys to their reconstructed homes in Package 1 and 56 local businesses have been able to return. Some areas of block N1 and an additional 39 buildings that needed to be retendered are all that remain to complete the delivery of Package 1. In total, 503 families will return once Package 1 is complete next year.
- **Package 2 (P2):** It is currently under construction and the first families are expected to move back in the spring of 2012. A total of 592 families are expected to return to Package 2 when it is completed by summer of 2012.
- **Package 3 (P3):** This package is now fully funded and the first two blocks in Package 3 are currently being tendered.
- **UNRWA Compound:** The construction of three of the six schools (1a, 4 and 5) has been completed and students were able to return for the beginning of the 2011-12 academic year on 17 September. This, allowed over 2,400 primary and secondary school students to relocate from overcrowded temporary school buildings in Beddawi and the NBC Adjacent Areas which

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Families review the designs for their new apartments.

## At a glance

**Total Cost:** US\$ 345 million  
**Total Secured:** US\$ 150 million  
**Total Shortfall:** US\$ 195 million

**No. of Packages:** 8  
**No. under Construction/  
Tendered/to be Tendered:** 3  
**No. to be Funded:** 5

**No. of Schools:** 6  
**No. Completed:** 3  
**No. under Construction/  
Tendered/to be Tendered:** 1  
**No. to be Funded:** 2

**Total Apartments Delivered  
(as of September 2011):** 369

## Budget

UNRWA relies on voluntary contributions to its project budget for the funding of NBC reconstruction operations. The urgent budget requirements to reconstruct Packages 4 and 5 is US\$ 77.5 million.

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were operating on a double-shift basis. With the support of donors, UNRWA has also been able to establish an expanded North Training Center (NTC) within one of the reconstructed schools. This will help to increase access to employment opportunities, improving the livelihoods of NBC families which have been profoundly affected by the prolonged displacement and depressed economy. Funding has recently been secured for the construction of the Health Centre as well as an additional school (School 2).

## Challenges to Reconstruction

The reconstruction of NBC is complex and challenging from a technical, political and logistical perspective. Nahr el-Bared is the first complete Palestine refugee camp ever to be rebuilt in Lebanon. As such, UNRWA in many ways is having to design all of the processes from scratch. The Agency faced a number of delays in beginning the construction operations following the clearance of the rubble and UXOs. This included the discovery of archeological remains, access restrictions imposed by the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) and design problems resulting from the camp's interface with the adjacent areas. In addition, UNRWA must deal with a multitude of stakeholders to ensure that operations run smoothly and all parties concerns are addressed in the process.

## UNRWA Fundraising Priorities

The major impediment to the reconstruction of the camp is insufficient funding. To date, only 40% of the donations required for reconstruction have been secured, leaving a shortfall of US\$ 195 million. The Agency is urgently seeking funding for the following components under the NBC Reconstruction project.

- **Package 4:** The Agency has only received almost 9% of the funding needed to complete Package 4. An additional US\$31 million is required.
- **Package 5:** No funding has been received for Package 5. US\$ 46.5 million will be needed to fully fund it.

## A Note on NBC Relief and Recovery

The effects of this displacement have compounded the already severe socio-economic conditions facing these refugees and constitute a chronic humanitarian crisis. In response, UNRWA has continued to provide urgent relief assistance to displaced NBC residents since 2007. It is important to note that NBC relief and recovery activities are intrinsically linked to the reconstruction of the camp. The need for basic health, food and shelter provisions of the displaced population will remain an urgent funding priority for the Agency until the camp has been fully reconstructed. In 2012, US\$ 15.8 million will be needed for relief and recovery activities. Taking into consideration recently secured funding, the Agency is urgently seeking US\$10.3 million to meet its budget requirements for 2012.



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.



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