



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 being accessible, inclusive and sustainable. The UNRWA TVET system must empower Palestine refugees to achieve their maximum potential as well as to support the regional market and contribute to the overall development of the Palestine refugee society. UNRWA TVET, through the TVET Strategy, is providing strategic direction to vocational and technical programmes whilst responding systematically and efficiently to Agency-wide needs. The implementation of the TVET Strategy is supported through projects at the Field and HQ levels.

TVET in Numbers

UNRWA runs eight Vocational Training Centres (VTCs) and two Education Science Faculties (ESF) in the UNRWA five Fields of operation, with approximately 8,000 trainees at the VTCs and 2050 students at the ESFs each year. Since the inception of these programmes, UNRWA has graduated approximately 132,000 trainees from UNRWA VTCs and 8,370 students from the two ESFs, with a high employment rate for both. The TVET and ESFs programmes have not only enhanced livelihood opportunities for the students themselves but also strengthened the livelihoods of their families; in certain cases, the graduates have even supported more than one family at the same time. In 2022, 4,080 trainees graduated from UNRWA VTCs, 2,511 males and 1,569 females. In 2022, 78.98% of VTC graduates found employment.

The quality of UNRWA TVET is reflected in the results of students in the national examinations in Gaza, the West Bank and Jordan. In 2022, UNRWA graduates performed better than the graduates of local institutions as shown below.

UNRWA VTC	Field	UNRWA Average	National Average
ATC	Jordan	89.46%	69.00%
WSTC	Jordan	75.00%	69.00%
RWTC	West Bank	96.40%	89.00%
GTC	Gaza	91.70%	72.20%
KYTC	Gaza	98.33%	72.20%

UNRWA TVET Courses

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

1. Trade courses (vocational) of a one-year (skilled labourer level), and two-year duration (craftsman level). These are offered at post-preparatory school level for



those who have successfully completed at least years 9 or 10 of schooling, depending on the system in the Hosting countries.

2. Semi-professional courses of a two-year duration (technician level) are offered at the post-secondary school level for those who have successfully completed 12 years 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.

A range of specializations at different levels are covered, such as mechanics, building construction, plumbing, refrigeration, black smithery, carpentry, electrical installations, auto electrical and electronics, communication systems, mobile maintenance, hairdressing and fashion design, graphic design, accounting, assistant pharmacist, nursing, medical records and physiotherapy.

The curricula of semi-professional TVET courses are developed by the UNRWA VTCs in alignment with the curricula outlines provided by the host country accreditation body, if present in the Field.

Programme Achievements

The UNRWA TVET programme is renowned for its quality and pioneering role in curricula development through the adoption of the Competency-Based Training “CBT” principles for trade courses.

The programme is designed to better ensure labour market relevance and responsiveness. TVET courses are regularly updated and good relationships with business, industry and potential employers are maintained. The involvement of industry in UNRWA TVET includes developing TVET curricula, assessing TVET trainees, offering capacity building for TVET staff, offering on-the-job training for TVET trainees, participating in TVET studies, developing apprenticeship programmes, upgrading workshops and premises at VTCs, and providing employment for TVET graduates. To further strengthen labour market engagement, the TVET programme is working on a Labour Market Linkages Framework. For this purpose, a two-day Agency-wide capacity-building TVET workshop was held in Amman in December 2022.

As part of its focus on innovation, UNRWA has introduced and enriched 30+ TVET courses in the rapidly expanding field of digital technology. This is part of a project funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). UNRWA is also seeking opportunities to introduce more TVET courses in the field of sustainable/green economy.

In line with UNRWA ICT4E Strategy, the TVET programme is working on digitalisation in TVET.



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- The Agency-wide TVET electronic Student Registration System (e-SRS) supports student data management. The e-SRS has been rolled out in the five Fields and is now fully operational in the 8 VTCs. Work is underway on strengthening and updating the system.

- An online application system for admission is now operational in Gaza and Jordan Fields; it has replaced the current handwritten application forms for admission, thus making the application process easier, more accessible, and cost-efficient. The system will be rolled out in the remaining fields.

- A unified TVET online learning platform (Microsoft 365) has been set up to be used by all the VTCs in addition to face-to-face learning. This will facilitate remote learning during times of crisis as well as promote asynchronous learning during regular times.

UNRWA Placement and Career Guidance (PCG) offers career guidance to UNRWA school students and placement assistance to TVET graduates. The PCG staff provide overarching support to TVET students by linking them with employment opportunities in the labour market, tracking graduates and assessing employer satisfaction. In addition, an Agency-wide Electronic Placement and Career Guidance System (e-PCGS) is used to track the employment status of graduates. This provides required data for further research, such as labour market needs and analysis, graduates' tracer study, etc. The Employer Perceptual Survey (EPS) seeks to measure employers' perceptions, with regard to the quality of the UNRWA TVET programme and its graduates. The EPS was implemented in 2014/15, 2016/17 and most recently in 2022/23. In general, the results of the surveys indicate that employers are satisfied with the professional skills of UNRWA TVET graduates.

Making a Positive Difference

UNRWA TVET plays an increasingly important role in trying to mitigate poverty. The aim is to improve and increase access to TVET for Palestine refugee youths (in line with SDG 4), particularly those from vulnerable groups. Empowering Palestinian refugee youths with updated labour market skills is critical in times of instability and crisis in order to support expansion of economic opportunities (SDG 8) and poverty reduction (SDG 1) in Palestine refugee communities.

Moving forward, UNRWA TVET is looking to secure better job opportunities for its graduates through modernizing the TVET Strategy to reflect changes in the labour market, strengthening partnerships with relevant stakeholders, utilizing labour market information, upgrading training equipment and redesigning curricula to reflect market demands.

For more information

Please contact the Chief Field Education Programme or UNRWA HQ Education Department on info.education@unrwa.org

UNRWA is a United Nations agency established by the General Assembly in 1949 with a mandate to provide humanitarian assistance and protection to registered Palestine refugees in the Agency's area of operations, namely the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, Gaza, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria, pending a just and lasting solution to their plight. Thousands of Palestine refugees who lost both their homes and livelihood because of the 1948 conflict have remained displaced and in need of significant support for over seventy years. UNRWA helps them achieve their full potential in human development through quality services it provides in education, health care, relief and social services, protection, camp infrastructure and improvement, microfinance and emergency assistance. UNRWA is funded almost entirely by voluntary contributions.