Our Mission

For the past 70 years, The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has been delivering effective and reliable humanitarian support to Palestine refugees. Our services contribute to stability in an extraordinarily insecure and tense region.

Established by the UN General Assembly in 1949, our mission is to assist Palestine refugees in achieving their full potential in human development until a just and lasting solution is found to the refugee crisis. The Agency fulfils its humanitarian and human development mandate by providing protection and essential services to Palestine refugees in Gaza, the West Bank (including East Jerusalem), Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. Its services include basic (and in Lebanon, secondary) education, comprehensive primary health care, emergency relief, social interventions, microfinance, shelter and infrastructural support. Today, some 5.3 million Palestine refugees are registered with the Agency.

Transforming the Lives of Palestine Refugees

Often working in complex emergency situations, UNRWA is recognized for efficiently delivering one of the most sophisticated and comprehensive humanitarian services and development in the world. From emergency cash and food assistance to education to healthcare to livelihoods, UNRWA is transforming the lives of Palestine refugees every day. Dignity and hope are at the heart of our mission to foster self-sufficiency for the refugees we serve.

UNRWA has over 30,000 employees who are teachers, health professionals, social workers, laborers, among others. Almost all of them are Palestine refugees.
In January 2018, UNRWA launched Dignity Is Priceless, a global fundraising campaign, in response to unprecedented funding cuts. The campaign aims to protect the rights of millions of vulnerable Palestine refugees, who are at risk of losing life-saving assistance at a time of increased tension.

**What’s at Stake?**

- Free basic education for 525,000 boys and girls at over 700 UNRWA schools
- Free healthcare and medicine for 3.5 million Palestine refugees at our 150 clinics
- Essential food and cash assistance for 1.7 million extremely vulnerable refugees
- Dignity, human security and political horizon for 5.3 million Palestine refugees
- Stability of the entire region amid conflict and escalating tensions.

**Join the Campaign**

Palestine refugees have endured 70 years of extraordinary suffering. They deserve our collective solidarity now. UNRWA is committed to continue providing life-saving services despite drastic funding cuts. But we can’t do it alone. Your support counts! Stand #ForPalestineRefugees and join the #DignityIsPriceless campaign to #FundUNRWA at donate.unrwa.org.

**What does it mean to be a Palestine refugee in 2018?**

In **Gaza**, it means being a victim of a decade-long blockade and humanitarian crisis, resulting in 1 million people dependent on food aid.

In the **West Bank**, it means living under occupation, fear of violence, and lack of opportunities.

In **Syria**, it means being trapped in a brutal armed conflict, thousands deprived of access to water, food, electricity, and basic healthcare.

In **Lebanon**, it means living in over-crowded camps with dire living conditions, facing systemic challenges to access to employment and business opportunities.

In **Jordan**, it means a challenging life in the fear of being forgotten, as poverty grows and unemployment rises.

It means 70 years of suffering.

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