



eu support to the education of palestine refugees

Since 1971, the European Union and UNRWA have maintained a strategic partnership governed by the shared objective to support the human development, humanitarian and protection needs of Palestine refugees and promote stability in the Middle East.

Today, the European Union is the largest multilateral provider of international assistance to Palestine refugees. This reliable and predictable support from the EU enables UNRWA to provide core services to more than 5 million Palestine refugees in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, the West Bank and Gaza, including quality education for roughly half a million children and primary health care for more than 3.5 million patients. Collectively, the EU and its Member States are also among the largest contributors to the Agency's humanitarian emergency appeals and projects in response to various crises and specific needs across the region.

The partnership between the EU and UNRWA has allowed millions of Palestine refugees to be better educated, live healthier lives, access employment opportunities and improve their living conditions, thus contributing to the development of the entire region.

BASIC EDUCATION

With EU support, close to 500,000 Palestine refugee students attend school every day in one of the nearly 700 UNRWA schools in Gaza, the West Bank, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan.

UNRWA also runs Summer Learning Programmes, which provide children who have not passed a class, dropped out of school or missed classes due to conflict with an opportunity to catch up and move to the next grade level.

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT TO EMPLOYABILITY



In a region marked by high unemployment rates, particularly among youth, the European Union also supports Palestine refugee youth to acquire the skills necessary to enter the job market. Each year, more than 7,200 trainees take courses at one of the eight UNRWA technical and vocational education and training (TVET) centres.

In Syria, the EU-funded Engaging Youth project provides innovative services, such as career counselling and continuing learning opportunities, while tailored vocational courses are developed to meet local labour market needs.

In Lebanon, the EU also funds a scholarship programme to allow the best achievers to attend local universities.

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For hundreds of thousands of young Palestine refugees, EU support is a game changer



11 recreational spaces
established in Syria providing
a place to play for
18,500 children



90 Human Rights teachers
in Gaza teaching positive values to
thousands of students



8 TVET centres
with **100,000 graduates**
over the last 10 years



692 schools
providing quality basic education to
500,000 students



UNRWA TV
provides lessons for
1 million Palestine refugees



55 school counsellors
in Gaza provide psychosocial support to
thousands of children



17 Engaging Youth centres
in Syria provide specialized lessons for
7,000 Palestine refugee youth

EDUCATION IN EMERGENCIES

Armed conflicts, such as the recent one in Gaza in 2014 and the ongoing conflict in Syria, often render access to school difficult for children due to safety issues, displacement or restrictions on movement. Situations of crisis also negatively impact the psychosocial well-being of children and youth. In the last five years, nearly one in two UNRWA schools has been impacted, attacked or otherwise rendered inoperable by conflict or violence.

Continued Access to Education

For students unable to access school, the European Union supports UNRWA in developing innovative teaching and learning approaches. This includes self-learning materials and programmes, a web-based Interactive Learning Program, and lessons broadcast on UNRWA TV, the Agency's own satellite and YouTube channel established in 2012.

In Syria, EU contributions currently support the recruitment of additional temporary teaching staff and the establishment of safe spaces where children can learn and play, while UNRWA field offices in Lebanon and Jordan also count on EU support to help them integrate Palestine refugee students having fled the conflict in Syria.

Psychosocial Support

To try and mitigate the impact of conflict on young Palestine refugees, the European Union funds psychological counsellors and enables individual and group counselling for Palestine refugee children from Gaza and Syria.



In Syria, the European Union also funds the rehabilitation of playgrounds to allow children to find some relief amid the conflict and escape the violence they face on a daily basis.

Human Rights, Conflict Resolution and Tolerance Education

For students who have witnessed traumatizing events, violence in school can become a real issue. As part of dedicated efforts to mitigate the consequences of crisis situations, all UNRWA students receive human rights, conflict resolution and tolerance (HRCRT) education.

For all the UNRWA students, learning about HRCRT is a key strand of their education. In crisis situations, HRCRT education has even greater significance as it helps to empower students, build their resilience and develop peaceful conflict resolution skills.

In Gaza, to help address the specific challenges faced, a dedicated EU-funded human rights education curriculum is being implemented. This programme seeks to strengthen students' understanding of human rights and supports them in developing skills to advocate for their own rights and those of others using non-violent approaches.



united nations relief and works agency
for palestine refugees in the near east

www.unrwa.org



UNRWA is a United Nations agency established by the General Assembly in 1949 and is mandated to provide assistance and protection to a population of some 5.15 million registered Palestine refugees. Its mission is to help Palestine refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, West Bank and the Gaza Strip to achieve their full potential in human development, pending a just solution to their plight. UNRWA services encompass education, health care, relief and social services, camp infrastructure and improvement, microfinance, protection and emergency assistance. UNRWA is funded almost entirely by voluntary contributions.