



PRESS RELEASE

UNRWA ADVISORY COMMISSION MEMBERS VISIT LEBANON

28 November 2019
Beirut

Members of the Advisory Commission (Adcom) on the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) visited Lebanon on 27 and 28 November to see first hand the Agency's operations and the situation of Palestine Refugees.

On 27 November, the members of the Advisory Commission, accompanied by the Director of UNRWA Affairs in Lebanon, Claudio Cordone, visited Nahr el-Bared camp. They toured both temporary refugee shelters and newly reconstructed houses, and were briefed on the ongoing works to complete the camp's reconstruction. They also heard from community leaders and representatives about the refugee experience of the reconstruction process as well as the wider Palestine refugee experience in northern Lebanon.

On 28 November, the AdCom delegation toured Mieh Mieh camp in southern Lebanon and met with local community members. In addition, they visited Sibliin Training Center, learning about its importance for the employability of Palestine refugees in Lebanon and its impact on the daily lives of Palestinian refugee youth. The delegation met with students and UNRWA staff members and discussed their experience and aspirations.

Mr. Cordone thanked the Advisory Commission members for their ongoing support to Palestine refugees, and specifically for their interest in and commitment to UNRWA's work. He reiterated UNRWA's determination in Lebanon to continue to assist Palestine refugees and to advocate for the full enjoyment of their human rights, including the right to work. He said "The present situation in Lebanon is dire for the Lebanese as well as for the Palestine refugees, among others. Providing people with concrete opportunities and hope for the future, with the continued support of our donors and partners, is the best recipe for progress and stability."

The Advisory Commission is a subsidiary organ of the UN General Assembly tasked with advising and assisting the Commissioner-General of UNRWA in carrying out the Agency's mandate.

Background Information

UNRWA is confronted with an increased demand for services resulting from a growth in the number of registered Palestine refugees, the extent of their vulnerability and their deepening poverty. UNRWA is funded almost entirely by voluntary contributions and financial support has been outpaced by the growth in needs. As a result, the UNRWA programme budget, which supports the delivery of core essential services, operates with a large shortfall. UNRWA encourages all Member States to work collectively to exert all possible efforts to fully fund the Agency's programme budget. UNRWA emergency programmes and key projects, also operating with large shortfalls, are funded through separate funding portals.

UNRWA is a United Nations agency established by the General Assembly in 1949 and mandated to provide assistance and protection to some 5.5 million Palestine refugees registered with UNRWA across its five fields of operation. Its mission is to help Palestine refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, West Bank, including East Jerusalem 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.

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