



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, but also support the regional market and contribute to the overall development of the Palestine refugee society.

TVET in numbers

UNRWA runs eight Vocational Training Centres (VTCs) in the UNRWA five Fields of operation, with approximately 7,700 trainees each year. In 2017, 3,677 trainees graduated from the UNRWA Vocational Training Centres, 2,214

males and 1,463 females. Over the last decade, approximately 34,000 trainees have graduated from UNRWA VTCs and a high employment rate of these graduates has been achieved. More than 81% of the 2016 graduates were employed within one year of graduation.

UNRWA TVET course types

The TVET Programme at UNRWA VTCs offers three categories of courses:

1. Trade courses (vocational) of a one-year (skilled labourer level), and two-year duration (craftsman level) 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 of the Host 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 year 12 of schooling.
3. Short-term courses are aimed to prepare young Palestine refugees for employment in areas of high demand in the labor market.

A range of specializations at different levels are covered in several occupations such as: mechanics, buildings, electrical, electronics, paramedical, ICT, business and women crafts.

Programme achievements

The UNRWA TVET programme is renowned for both its quality and its pioneering role in curricula development. This has been achieved through alliances with the industry, labour market relevance and the innovation of its staff.

To enhance access to TVET for Palestine refugee youth, particularly these from vulnerable groups, and to institutionalise labour market linkages, new courses are introduced on emerging occupations, such as security alarms and surveillance cameras, solar energy technology training programme, and domestic electrical

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appliances programme at WSTC, which was awarded 'His Royal Highness Prince El-Hassan Bin Talal Award for Scientific Excellence' in 2016.

In 2015, a new Electronic Placement and Career Guidance System (e-PCGS) was introduced to follow-up, and track, the employment status of UNRWA VTCs, UNRWA Educational Science Faculty (ESF) and Faculty of Educational Sciences and Art (FESA) graduates. This provides required data for further research, such as studies on effective training courses, labour market needs and analysis, employer perceptional survey and graduates' tracer study, in addition to finding suitable places for the on-the-job training period for the TVET trainees.

An Agency-wide electronic Student Registration System (e-SRS) is also being developed. The e-SRS will help UNRWA manage the students' registration process and other related functions, such as students' assessment and grading, study plans, and tuition details. To date, the e-SRS was successfully rolled-out in Jordan Field in August 2017, and it will be phased in to the four remaining Fields in the near future.

The quality of UNRWA TVET is also reflected in the results of its students in the National Exam in Gaza, the West Bank and Jordan. In 2017 UNRWA graduates performed better than graduates of local institutions as shown in the table:

UNRWA VTC	Field	UNRWA Average	National Average
ATC	Jordan	94.1 %	57.5 %
WSTC	Jordan	82.4 %	57.5 %
RWTC	West Bank	97.2 %	89.6 %
GTC	Gaza	100 %	82.6 %
KYTC	Gaza	95.24 %	82.6 %

In Lebanon, Siblin Training Centre (STC) has recently obtained accreditation by the Lebanese General Directorate for Vocational and Technical Education (GDVTE). This will enable students from Grade 9 to access STC at the Brevet Technical level and complete their studies within two years.

In Syria, UNRWA has supported Palestine refugee youth during the crisis by providing long term-courses, free short-term courses, which utilize e-learning approaches and career guidance and business development services in shelters.

TVET and youth programme reform

The UNRWA TVET Strategy reflects the need to better respond to recent global trends in both TVET and in new and changing labour market demands, and is designed to better ensure the quality, relevance and responsiveness of course provision to labour market needs. TVET courses are regularly updated and good relationships with business, industry and potential employers are maintained. Industry links and employer involvement in TVET have been of benefit to the students and VTCs in terms of quality provisions and improved employability and awareness.

The involvement of industry in UNRWA TVET includes: the development of TVET curricula, assessing TVET trainees, offering capacity building for TVET staff and TVET trainees, participating in TVET surveys, developing apprenticeship programmes, upgrading workshops and premises at VTCs and providing employment for TVET graduates.

An Employer Perceptional Survey has been undertaken. The survey seeks to measure employers' perceptions, with regards to the quality of the UNRWA TVET programme and its graduates. Generally, the results indicate that the employers are satisfied with UNRWA graduates' professional skills.

Making a positive difference

UNRWA TVET plays an increasingly important role in the mitigation of poverty. In this respect, the aim is to improve and increase access to TVET for Palestine refugee youth, particularly these from vulnerable groups, to reach 25% of the total enrollment at UNRWA VTCs. Empowering Palestine refugee youth with labour market skills is critical in times of instability and crisis. UNRWA TVET, through its TVET Strategy, is providing strategic direction to vocational and technical programmes whilst responding systematically and efficiently to Agency wide needs.

Moving forward, UNRWA TVET is looking to secure better job opportunities for its graduates through developing partnerships with more stakeholders, conducting research on labour market needs, upgrading training equipment and redesigning curricula to better meet the demands of the labour market.

For more information

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



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 5,094,886 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's services encompass education, health care, relief and social services, camp infrastructure and improvement, microfinance and emergency assistance. UNRWA is funded almost entirely by voluntary contributions.