



**unrwa**  
الأونروا

the un agency for  
palestine refugees

وكالة الأمم المتحدة  
لللاجئين الفلسطينيين

## UNRWA GAZA'S POVERTY SURVEY

### *About the Poverty Survey*

Since early 2009, UNRWA has assessed poverty in Gaza using a computer-generated Proxy Means Test Formula developed by the Agency in accordance with international best practice. UNRWA's Poverty Survey is based on the collection of verifiable socio-economic data which predicts family expenditure levels (a more precise indicator than self-reported income). Information collected includes housing characteristics (ie type of tenure, total number of rooms, connection to water, availability of a toilet etc); availability of durable goods (refrigerator, washing machine etc); economic status; and level of education.

### *Classification of families as abject and absolute poor*

In order to determine a family's poverty status, an UNRWA social worker visits the family and undertakes an objective assessment of their situation, using the Poverty Survey. Following the visit, the family is classified as abject poor, absolute poor or non-poor. Those who are abject poor do not have the means to meet even their most basic food needs. Those who are absolute poor are able to meet their most basic food needs, but unable to meet other essential needs, such as clothing and transportation. Those who are non-poor have been found to be able to meet their essential food and non-food needs.

UNRWA determines the monetary value of the abject poverty line each year by the cost required to meet the average caloric need of one person for one day (2,423 calories). The monetary value of the absolute poverty line is then determined by taking into account the cost required to meet each person's average daily caloric needs, *as well as*, the cost required to purchase essential non-food items. These values are adjusted annually to reflect changes in the consumer price index (CPI).

In 2011:

- **abject poverty in Gaza** equates to living on less than USD 1.6 per day (NIS ~6.1 per day); while
- **absolute poverty in Gaza** equates to living on less than USD ~ \$4 per day (NIS ~15.7 per day).