

UNRWA: Perpetuating the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

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Definition of Refugees



“A refugee is **someone who has been forced to flee his or her country** because of persecution, war, or violence. A refugee has a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group.”

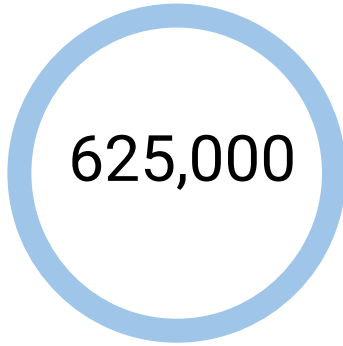


“Persons whose normal place of residence was Palestine during the period 1 June 1946 to 15 May 1948, and who lost both home and means of livelihood as a result of the 1948 conflict. **Palestine Refugees, and descendants of Palestine refugee males, including legally adopted children, are eligible to register for UNRWA services.**”

Ongoing Conflicts

Turkey and
Cyprus

1963-Present



2,000
Internally Displaced
People Today

Iran

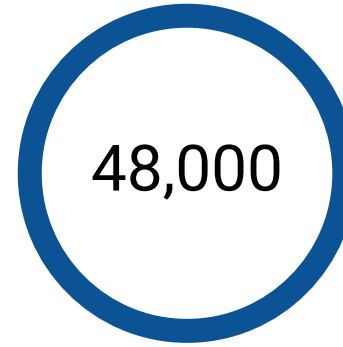
1978-Present



75,043
Refugees Today

Morocco and
South Sahara

1975-Present



90,000
Internally Displaced
People Today

Palestinian
Authority

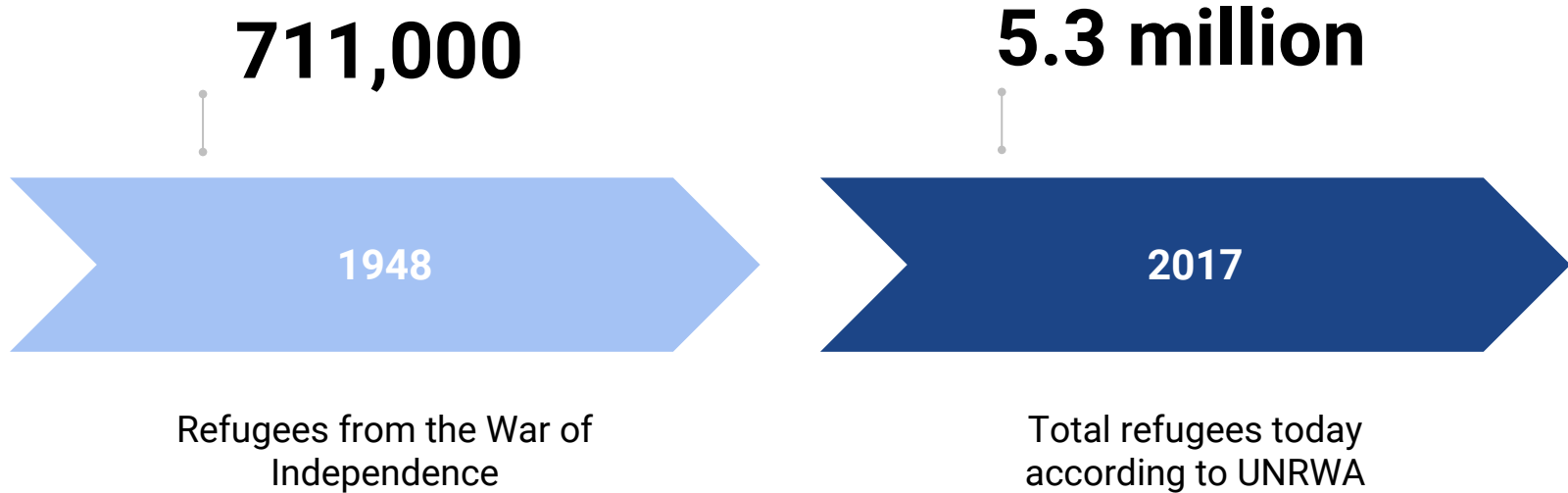
1946-Present



5.3 million
Refugees Today

Palestinian Refugees 1948-2017

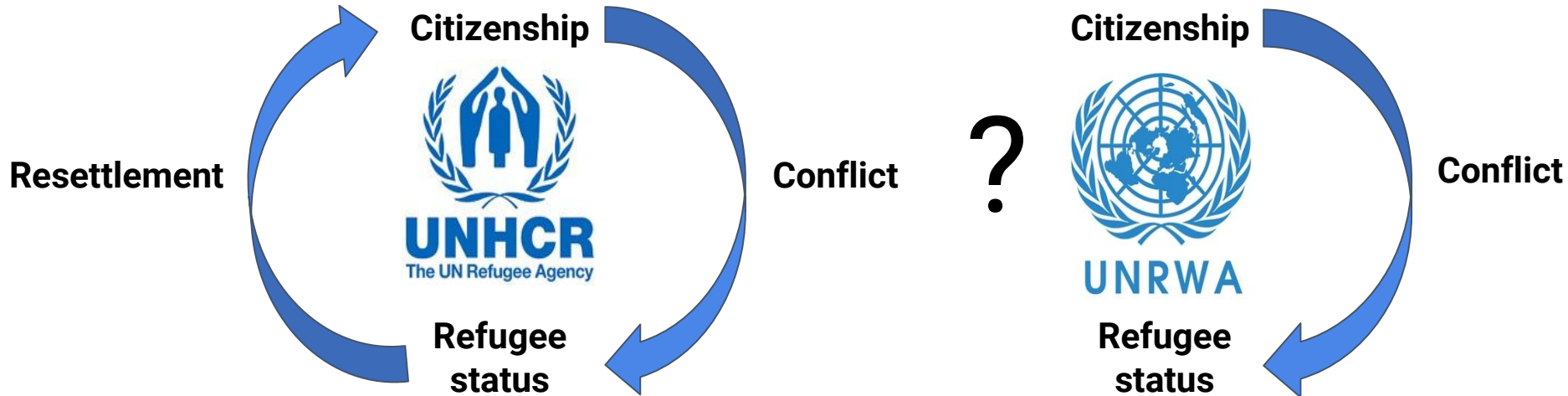
Why is this number increasing?



Why?

Reason for Increasing Number of Refugees

- While UNHCR helps integrate refugees, UNRWA fosters “permanent status” of Palestinian refugees
- Refugee status maintained even in Palestinian autonomy



Comparing UNHCR and UNRWA



Responsible For	All non-Palestinian refugees, IDPs	Palestinian refugees and their descendants
Number of people servicing	65.6 million	5.3 million
Annual Budget	\$7.7 billion	\$1.2 billion
Number of Employees	~5,000	~30,000

UNHCR vs. UNRWA Refugee Camps

UNHCR Camp in Syria



UNRWA Camp in Gaza



Benefits Offered by UNHCR

UNHCR camps are temporary efforts to resettle and create better futures for refugees



Temporary Shelter



Immediate Health Care



Educational Services
for Re-integration

Benefits Offered by UNRWA

UNRWA camps are permanent structures internalizing and perpetuating refugee status



Permanent Home



Long-Term Health Care:
Owns 143 Health Facilities



Full Education System:
Operates 674 Schools

Perpetuating the conflict



**Descendants
retain refugee
status and the
number keeps
rising**

**Education
system teaches
violence and
hatred of Jews**



70%
of Gaza
population
are refugees

**UNRWA finances
families' welfare,
health, and education**

**Members of
 Hamas get
jobs in UNRWA
facilities**



**We support human rights and
refugee organizations**

**We do not support terrorist
organizations and terror activities
disguised as human rights efforts**

Hamas is a Terrorist Organization

1. Mission statement calls for destruction of Israel
2. Responsible for hundreds of terror attacks and thousands of deaths
3. Uses violence to control own civilians



UNRWA Leaders Connected to Hamas

“I am sure that there are Hamas members on the UNRWA payroll, and I don't see that as a crime”
–UNRWA leader Peter Hansen, 2004

Muhammad al-Jamassi

- Chairman of the UNRWA engineering department in the Gaza Strip through 2017
- Senior activist in Hamas since at least 2007
- Worked in Hamas Public Relations Bureau



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Suhail al-Hindi

- Chairman of UNRWA staff union and principal of UNRWA elementary school through 2017
- Senior Hamas activist--UNRWA known since 2004
- Considers opposition to including the Holocaust in textbooks among “greatest achievements”



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'Issa' Abd al-Hadi al-Batran

- A Teacher at UNRWA's Gaza school for years.
- Senior activist in The Al-Qassam Brigades, military wing of Hamas.

UNRWA Facilities Used for Terror

- 2009, 2014: Hamas using Shifa Hospital for headquarters, weapon storage
- 2014: Nearly 600 rockets launched close to schools, hospitals and other civilian facilities
- 2017: Two Hamas terror tunnels found beneath UNRWA schools



An Education System That Demonizes and Delegitimizes Israel

- 674 schools
- Budget of \$735,748,000 (54% of total)
- 2017 textbooks deny any Jewish historical or religious connection to land of Israel
- Textbooks and assignments foster anti-semitism and anti-Israel sentiments



Indoctrination in UNRWA Textbooks

“I have sworn! I shall sacrifice my blood
[...] I shall remove the usurper [...] and
exterminate the foreigners’ scattered
remains”

(*Our Beautiful Language*,
Grade 3, Part 2 (2017) p. 64)

“The number of martyrs during the first
Intifada (the Stone Intifada) reached 2,026.
The number of martyrs during the Al-Aqsa
Intifada reached 5,050. The number of martyrs
during the two Intifadas is _____”

(*Mathematics*, **Grade 4**, Part 1 (2017)
p. 25)

“In the winds' storm and the weapon's
fire [...] I shall die as a *Fidai*¹ until I
return”

(*National and Social Upbringing*,
Grade 3, Part 1 (2017) pp. 15-16)

¹*Fidai*- “self-sacrificing person”

"Savage Zionist gangs that came from a
foreign world full of hostility and hatred
to Arabs and Palestinians invaded it [the
land] without permission..."

(*Arabic Language*, **Grade 9**,
Part 1 (2017) p. 23)

"Jerusalem is an Arab city built by our
Arab forefathers thousands of years ago.
Jerusalem is a holy city for Muslims and
Christians [...] and the city still succumbs
to the yoke of Zionist occupation"

(*Social Studies*, **Grade 7**, Part 1
(2017) p. 60)

“The martyrs are more honorable than us
all”

(*Arabic Language*, **Grade 6**,
Part 2 (2017) p. 34)

An Education System That Demonizes Jews and Israel

Mortasim Hussein, UNRWA student
Shuafat, Jerusalem

Everyone needs to attack the Jews



UNRWA Schools Radicalize Students

▶ "UNRWA UPRISING"
DAVID BEDEIN

We are taught how to defend our land, how to recapture the land.



GAZA CLASHES
NEW VIDEO PURPORTEDLY SHOWS UN INFLUENCE

FOX NEWS ALERT

Challenges with UNRWA



UNRWA

1

Motivates refugees to stay refugees

2

Textbooks demonise Jews and glorify terrorism

3

Trains future terrorists instead of peaceful citizens

4

Enables Hamas to allocate budget to violence

Solving the Problem

Unacceptable that a UN branch is essentially run by PA--this must change

This leaves us with three options

1

Reposition UNRWA
under the UNHCR

2

Officially place UNRWA
under Palestinian
Authority jurisdiction

3

Reform UNRWA

Solving the Problem

Unacceptable that a UN branch is essentially run by PA--this must change

This leaves us with three options

1 - Reposition UNRWA under the UNHCR

- Adopt UNHCR rules
- Adopt UNHCR budget
- UNRWA joins Middle East division for refugees

Solving the Problem

Unacceptable that a UN branch is essentially run by PA--this must change

This leaves us with three options

2 - Officially place UNRWA under Palestinian Authority jurisdiction

- Not part of UN
- No funding from UN

Solving the Problem

Unacceptable that a UN branch is essentially run by PA--this must change

This leaves us with three options

3 - Reform UNRWA

- Increase transparency
- International workers
- Completely distance from and boycott Hamas
- Ensure budget and equipment used for correct purpose
- Place Palestinians under UNHCR
- New definition of refugees
- Supervise educational program