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Protecting refugees

### United Nations Relief and Works Agency

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Address:

Publications

Room 92-93, Annexe Le Bocage

Statistics

Palais des Nations

Research/Evaluation

1211 Geneva

Executive Committee

Switzerland

Administration

Tel: +41 22 917 1166

Special events

Fax: +41 22 917 0656

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Web: [www.un.org/unrwa/](http://www.un.org/unrwa/)

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Following the 1948 Arab-Israeli conflict, UNRWA, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, was established by United Nations General Assembly resolution 302 (IV) of 8 December 1949 to carry out direct relief and works programmes for Palestine refugees. The Agency began operations on 1 May 1950. In the absence of a solution to the Palestine refugee problem, the General Assembly has repeatedly renewed UNRWA's mandate, most recently extending it until 30 June 2008.

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Since its establishment, the Agency has delivered its services in times of relative calm in the Middle East, and in times of hostilities. It has fed, housed and clothed tens of thousands of fleeing refugees and at the same time educated and given health care to hundreds of thousands of young refugees.

UNRWA is unique in terms of its long-standing

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commitment to one group of refugees and its contributions to the welfare and human development of four generations of Palestine refugees. Originally envisaged as a temporary organization, the Agency has gradually adjusted its programmes to meet the changing needs of the refugees. Today, UNRWA is the main provider of basic services – education, health, relief and social services – to over 4.1 million registered Palestine refugees in the Middle East.

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