



## United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

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The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) was created in 1949 and

commenced operations on May 1, 1950. Its original mission was, in co-operation with the host countries, to provide emergency relief to some 750 000 people, mostly Palestinian Arabs, who had lost their homes and all their possessions during the conflict between Israel and its Arab neighbours in 1948. Subsequently, its mandate was broadened to include the victims of the 1967 war.

UNRWA provides emergency relief, health care services and educational services to needy Palestinian refugees in Gaza, the West Bank, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. By December 1997, UNRWA was providing essential services to nearly 3.5 million refugees, a third of whom were living in 59 different refugee camps.

## United Nations University

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