

The Refugee Working Group has helped the UN relief agency raise funds for its Peace Implementation Program and raised more than \$90 million US for projects in the West Bank and Gaza, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon. The funds supported training in public health, construction, small enterprises, agriculture, and public administration. This money also supported clinics, helped Palestinian refugees in Lebanon gain access to hospitals, and provided medical supplies and equipment for the UN relief agency and for the Palestinian Red Crescent Society. The Refugee Working Group has also defined and partially funded a program to address urgent needs of Palestinian children. As well, group members have supported a large number of individual projects.

A common humanitarian objective of the Refugee Working Group is the reunification of families who were separated during the Arab-Israeli conflict. The group's work has increased the quota of individuals admitted to the West Bank and Gaza to be reunited with their families. With support from Canada and Kuwait, the relocation of nearly 500 families from Canada Camp in the Egyptian Sinai to Gaza is expected to be completed by the end of 2000.

The Refugee Working Group has sponsored basic data collections and analyses to define the scope of the refugee problem, establish priorities and assess the impact of alternative political choices. The group also provides a forum for dialogue among the regional parties. The most recent meeting was held in Paris in March 1999 and dealt with family reunification.

The Refugee Working Group also promotes dialogue with the refugees themselves by conducting international missions to refugee camps. Members visited Jordan in 1994, 1996, and 1999 and went to the West Bank and Gaza in 1998. Similar missions went to Lebanon in 1994 and 1997.