

Portfolio overview

Sida's support to UNRWA 2010*

UNRWA (the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees in the Near East) provides assistance, protection and advocacy for Palestine refugees in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and the occupied Palestinian territory. In 2010, Sweden's core support to UNRWA amounted to MSEK 288 handled by Sweden's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This together with Sida's additional contribution of MSEK 61 (disbursed) for the occupied Palestine territories (oPt), makes Sweden to the third largest donor to UNRWA and the fourth largest donor to UNRWA's General Fund in 2010.

The General Fund provides core services in education, health, relief and social services to nearly 5 million Palestine refugees. The support is un-earmarked and disbursed as one single contribution. All Sida support

is classified as humanitarian assistance (Table 1). In 2010 there was only two active Sida contributions to UNRWA's annual consolidated appeals. In 2010 one contribution funded Junior Professional Officer (JPO).

Contributions from Sida in support of UNRWA's programmes are often entitled "multi-bi" (multi-bilateral aid). These should be distinguished from non-earmarked or core contributions to the regular budget of multilateral institutions, which are "multilateral aid". The latter type of support is disbursed by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs or another ministry, and only in exceptional cases by Sida.

Table 1: Sida annual disbursements 2005–2010

Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
No. of contributions	1	3	2	2	2	2
Total amount (MSEK)	40.0	85.0	70.0	64.9	70.0	61.0

Mandate and strategic priorities

UNRWA is a humanitarian organisation with a mandate to provide relief, human development and protection services to Palestine refugees and persons displaced by the 1967 hostilities in its fields of operation: Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic, West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Originally envisaged as a temporary organisation, its mandate has been repeatedly renewed since operations began in 1950. In times of relative calm, as well as in times of hostilities, UNRWA has fed, housed and clothed tens of thousands of fleeing refugees and at the same time provided education and health care to hundreds of thousands of young refugees. It has gradually adjusted its programmes to meet changing needs. Today, UNRWA is the main provider of

basic services – education, health, relief and social services – to nearly 5 million registered Palestine refugees in the Near East. The agency is unique in terms of its long-standing commitment to one group of refugees and its contributions to the welfare and human development of four generations of Palestine refugees.

Since 2010, Sweden support UNRWA through the Medium Term Strategy 2010–2015. The mission of UNRWA is to help Palestine refugees achieve their full potential in human development terms under the difficult circumstances in which they live". Annual emergency appeals define the acute humanitarian needs in the coming year.

For more information about the portfolio and Sida's overall relations with UNRWA please contact focal point minna.orneus@sida.se

* The statistics refer to all contribution up until 31 dec 2010. Returning funds have been excluded.