

Portfolio Overview

Sida's Support to United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) Programmes 2012

UNRWA (the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East) provides assistance, protection and advocacy for Palestine refugees in the West Bank, Gaza, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. In 2012, Sida contributed with 81 MSEK to UNRWA for emergency operations in Gaza and the West Bank. Sida's support is provided in response to UN Consolidated Humanitarian Appeals for the West Bank and Gaza and the National Response Plan for Syria, as well as to UNRWA's own "Regional Syria Humanitarian Response Plan Syria". In addition, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA) allocated core support to UNRWA of 282 MSEK and an additional 10 MSEK as earmarked support for activities in Lebanon. In total, Swedish support amounted to 373 MSEK, making Sweden the overall third largest donor to UNRWA in 2012.

Since 2000, Sida has supported UNRWA's part of the UN Consolidated Action Plan (CAP) for the West bank and Gaza responding to immediate humanitarian needs of the Palestine refugee population. Sida is since 2010 gradually reducing its humanitarian support in Gaza and the West Bank, encouraging UNRWA to transfer towards early-recovery interventions, especially in the West Bank.

Sida has during 2011 and 2012 initiated and continued support in

response to the increasing humanitarian needs in Syria and for refugees who have fled Syria to neighbouring countries. Sida supports UNRWA's humanitarian work for Palestine refugees in Syria as well as Palestine refugees who have fled the hostilities in the country during the last couple of years.

All Sida support to UNRWA is classified as humanitarian assistance (table 1).

Definition of Multilateral and Multi-Bi support

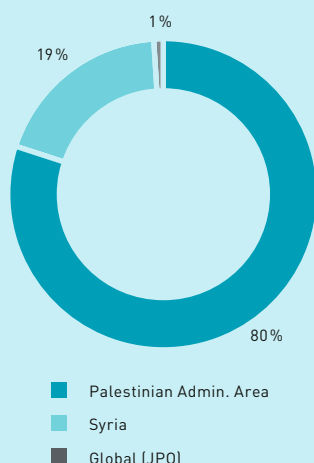
(Core and non-Core Contributions)

Contributions from Sida (or Government Offices) in support of UNRWA's programmes and projects are often entitled "Multi-Bi" (multi-bilateral) support or earmarked, non-core contributions. These should be distinguished from non-earmarked contributions to the organisation's general budget (fund), usually called core support and also labelled "multilateral aid". The latter is processed and decided upon by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

TABLE 1. SIDA ANNUAL DISBURSEMENTS 2008-2012

Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
No. of contributions	2	2	2	3	4
Total amount (MSEK)	64.9	70.0	61	75	81

CHART 1: UNRWA SUPPORT BY REGION 2012



In 2011, there were four active contributions, an increase from previous years due to the crisis in Syria. The Global contribution funded a Junior Professional Officer (chart 1).

MANDATE AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

UNRWA is a humanitarian organisation with a mandate to support and assist Palestine refugees in the West Bank, Gaza, Lebanon, Syria and Jordan. Originally envisaged as a temporary organisation, its mandate has been repeatedly renewed since operations began in 1950. 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, and through its General Fund, UNRWA is the main provider of basic services – education, health, relief and social services – to over 4.6 million registered Palestine refugees

in the Middle 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.

UNRWA's mid-term strategy for 2010–2015 includes the following mission statement: "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 helena.nilsson@sida.se

