

Portfolio Overview

Sida's support to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) 2013

UNRWA provides assistance, protection and advocacy for almost 5 million Palestine refugees in the West Bank, Gaza, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. In 2013, Sida contributed with a total of 72 MSEK through UNRWA in response to the Syria crisis and for emergency operations in the West Bank and Gaza. In addition, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA) allocated core support to UNRWA of 282 MSEK. In total, Swedish support amounted to 355 MSEK, making Sweden the overall fifth largest donor to UNRWA in 2013.

Since 2000, Sida has supported UNRWA's emergency programme for the Palestinian territory, responding to immediate humanitarian needs of the Palestine refugee population. The refugees in the West Bank and Gaza are on average relatively more affected by the protracted humanitarian crisis than the rest of the population, including with higher incidence of food insecurity. In Gaza, where the blockade is causing increased humanitarian concerns, 80 percent of the population are registered refugees. Sida's support is provided in response to the UN Strategic Response Plan and the UNRWA Emergency Appeal. In 2013, Sida was the fourth largest donor to the appeal with a contribution of 45 MSEK.

Since 2011, Sida has also funded UNRWA's response to the increasing humanitarian needs among Palestine refugees in Syria and those who have fled Syria to neighbouring countries. In Syria, displacement among Palestine refugees has increased significantly since December 2012 due to the intensifying conflict. At the end of 2013, an estimated 440,000 Palestine refugees inside Syria were in need of assistance, about 51,000 had fled to Lebanon and some 11,000 to Jordan. Sida's support is provided in response to the National Response Plan for Syria, as well as to UNRWA's own regional Syria Humanitarian Response Plan. In 2013, Sida's contribution was 27.5 MSEK.

In line with Sweden's commitment to Good Humanitarian Donorship, Sida's contributions to both emergencies are un-earmarked, enabling UNRWA to allocate funds for most prioritized needs. In both emergency programmes, the bulk of the assistance has consisted of providing cash, cash-for-work or food assistance. A smaller share of the emergency programmes focus on areas like emergency health, education and protection.

Geographical and Thematic distribution

All Sida support to UNRWA is classified as humanitarian assistance (chart 1). There is one contribution categorised as other/global in the pie charts below, which funded a Junior Professional Officer based in Jerusalem.

Results

Global Trends

Across its fields of operation, UNRWA provides basic education and health services and social protection for some 5 million registered Palestine refugees. About 3 million people regularly use UNRWA health clinics and more than 400,000 pupils attend UNRWA schools across the region. Almost 300,000 refugees benefit

Definition of Multilateral and Multi-Bi support (Core and non-Core contributions)

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

from the social safety net provided by UNRWA.

Projects and Programmes

In 2013, the Sida funded UNRWA emergency programmes, in response to the Palestinian and Syrian crises, provided emergency support to about 1.4 million of those most vulnerable caught in the ongoing regional conflicts. In 2013, Sida contributed to the following results:

TABLE 1: SIDA ANNUAL DISBURSEMENTS TO UNRWA 2008–2013

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
No. of Contributions	2	2	2	3	4	3
Total Amount (MSEK)	65	70	61	75	81	72

CHART 1: SWEDISH SUPPORT TO UNRWA 2013

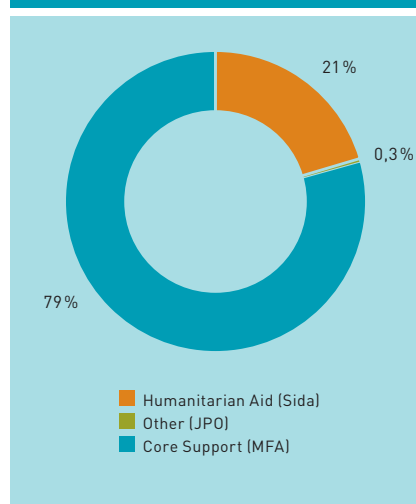
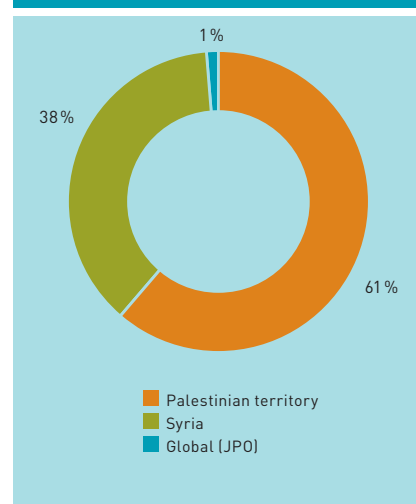


CHART 2: SIDA'S SUPPORT TO UNRWA BY COUNTRY 2013



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, UNRWA is the main provider of basic services such as education, health, relief and social services to

some 5 million 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.

- As part of the emergency programme in the Palestinian territory, UNRWA was able to provide food assistance to some 710,000 Palestine refugees. UNRWA also developed its targeting system to ensure that food assistance reaches the beneficiaries most in need.
- In Gaza, where the Israeli imposed blockade is obstructing livelihoods, UNRWA provided over 12,000 refugees with employment opportunities through its emergency job creation programme, injecting 11 million US dollars into the local economy. In the West Bank, jobs were created for some 23,000 vulnerable refugees. The food insecurity of some 220,000 was mitigated by these cash-for-work opportunities.
- The emergency health programme ensured that some 270 000 people in protection-prone and isolated communities of the West Bank were able to access basic health services. In Gaza, 36,000 people were reached with much-needed psychosocial support.
- In Syria, some 360,000 Palestine refugees received cash assistance, and some 180,000 received food assistance (in-kind or cash). In Lebanon, UNRWA food assistance benefitted some 48,000 and in Jordan, 9,300 Palestine refugees, who had fled from Syria.
- Almost 100,000 families and 190,000 individuals in Syria, Lebanon and Jordan were provided with emergency non-food items like bedding and hygiene kits (in-kind or cash).