

3-7 April 2022

Documentation of the Work of the United Nations Relief Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) NMUN Simulation*



Conference A

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United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA)

Committee Staff

Director:
Assistant Director
Chair
Chair

Aemin Becker

Justus Krahnfeld

Agenda

- I. Situation of and Assistance to Palestinian Women
- II. Providing Career Opportunities for Youth

Resolutions adopted by the Committee

CODE	TOPIC	VOTE (FOR-AGAINST-ABSTAIN)
1.1	Situation of and Assistance to Palestinian Women	20 votes in favor, 0 against, 1 abstentions
1.2	Situation of and Assistance to Palestinian Women	Adopted without a recorded vote
1.3	Situation of and Assistance to Palestinian Women	Adopted without a recorded vote
1.4	Situation of and Assistance to Palestinian Women	Adopted without a recorded vote
2.1	Promoting Career Opportunities for Youth	Adopted without a recorded vote
2.2	Promoting Career Opportunities for Youth	Adopted without a recorded vote

Summary Report

The United Nations Relief Works Agency for Palestine Refugees held its annual session to consider the following agenda items:

- I. Situation of and Assistance to Palestinian Women
- II. Promoting Career Opportunities for Youth

The session was attended by representatives of 22 Member States and three Observers. On Sunday, the committee adopted the agenda of I, II, beginning discussion on the topic of "Situation of and Assistance to Palestinian Women."

By Monday, the Dais received four working papers covering a wide range of sub-topics such as healthcare, education, inequality, employment and community response, partnerships and social entrepreneurship, economic relief and multilateralism, food insecurity, and microfinance. By Tuesday, delegates had received edits from the Dais and worked closely to ensure consensus across their papers. The collaborative spirit of the committee was evident as multiple Member States contributed to different working groups in an effort to reach consensus.

By Wednesday morning, delegates decided not to merge but rather work closely together as a body to develop distinct ideas across their papers. All four working papers were accepted as draft resolutions by Wednesday afternoon and adopted by consensus. The delegates proceeded to discuss the second topic on "Promoting Career Opportunities for Youth." The committee submitted two working papers for consideration discussing data collection, youth educational and practical initiatives, and the expansion of existing UNRWA programs. Both working papers were accepted as draft resolutions by the Dais and adopted by consensus.



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Code: UNRWA/1/1

Committee: United Nations Relief Works Agency for Palestine Refugees

Topic: Situation of and Assistance to Palestinian Women

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees,

Recognizing the importance of multilateral efforts focused on the situation of Palestinian women and noting existing partnerships between Member States, the United Nations, the State of Palestine, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), such as the partnership between Norway, UNICEF, and the Palestinian Ministry of Health, the founding of the Arab Women Refugee Fund as a partnership between the UAE and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, and the “Yalla nshouf film!” (Come, let’s see a movie!) project implemented by the Palestinian NGO “Shashat Woman Cinema” funded in majority by the European Union,

Recalling the importance of Human Rights Council resolution 17/11 (2011) on accelerating efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and ensuring due diligence in protection,

Underlining the importance of quality education and gender equality, as outlined in Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 4 and 5, respectively, as guiding principles for using education as a tool to secure gender equality for Palestinian refugee women,

Alarmed at the limited access to professional and psychosocial health services for Palestinian refugee women and *supporting* the Psycho-Social Counseling Center for Women (PSCCW), which provides counseling services to survivors of gender-based violence (GBV),

Noting with profound concern the issue of deleterious societal understandings of the role of Palestinian women, as highlighted by the April 2018 survey conducted by the Ministry of Palestinian Women’s Affairs that reveals 59% of men and 41% of women think only men should handle politics,

Highly appreciating the UNRWA Health Programme (HP), particularly the collaboration between the World Health Organization and the UNRWA that resulted in the creation of 140 health centers that serve 176,574 Palestinian women refugees,

Keeping in mind the lack of adequate access to healthcare resources within the five regions of operation where UNRWA works to assist and protect Palestinian refugees, which are in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, the Gaza Strip, and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem,

Acknowledging the *Refugee Convention* (1951), which states that refugees should have access to commensurate healthcare services with host populations, and continuing on the path set by multiple Member States on implementing primary and preventative health care services as offered by UNRWA health centers,

Affirming that the Haya Programme, jointly implemented by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UN Habitat, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), aims to change harmful practices and attitudes that perpetuate violence against women in Palestine in order to eliminate them,

Recalling Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on “Women, Peace, and Security”, which affirmed women’s participation and inclusion of gender perspectives on peace negotiations and protection of women’s rights,

Recognizing the importance of integrating women in the workplace and the clear advantages that it would bring, as highlighted by the International Monetary Fund’s study “Pursuing Women’s Economic Empowerment” (2018),

Remembering that pledging conferences—such as UNRWA’s annual international Pledging Conference, which resulted in pledges of over US \$110 million in 2019—are highly effective in securing resources for UNRWA to provide for Palestinian refugee women,

Deeply appreciating the funding contributed by multiple Member States to the UNRWA to alleviate issues related to healthcare and education access, especially for Palestinian refugee women,

1. *Encourages* further collaborations between the UNRWA, regional and national agencies, and civil society organizations to develop multilateral approaches by expanding UNRWA’s Young Women Leaders Programme to collaborate with female role models in leadership positions to meet with and provide mentorship to Palestinian women interested in leadership or political issues;
2. *Urges* the initiation, implementation, and expansion of age-appropriate educational campaigns such as:
 - a. Modules for young boy and girl children to raise awareness of the social and discriminatory practices that women experience in order to work toward fostering an environment of gender equality;
 - b. Educational campaigns by NGOs, which would be funded by respective NGOs to inform youth about gender-based violence throughout the five UNRWA regions of operation, which would help girl children actively claim their rights and thus improve the situation of Palestinian refugee women;
3. *Welcomes* the expansion of healthcare services, notably specialty services tailored to Palestinian refugee women within the five UNRWA regions of operation, proportionately to the need of host Member States by:
 - a. Increasing the capacities of UNRWA HP’s health centers by 20% by 2027, which would incorporate preventative care while also including specialized and mental health care;
 - b. Further expanding the Haya Program to create more specific health departments that offer psychosocial services and support helplines deriving from the program’s gender-responsive economic, medical, psychosocial, security, and shelter services as a part of End Violence Against Women (EVAW);
 - c. Extending the PSCCW to create counseling workshops within the UNRWA HP’s health centers, thus ensuring women have access to mental health resources related to support with those experiencing GBV;
4. *Emphasizes* the need for the implementation of gender mainstreaming, rooted in the UNRWA Gender Equality Strategy 2016-2021, to facilitate the integration of gender perspectives on policy-making and program framework formulation by:

- a. Suggesting the establishment of a partnership between UNRWA and UN Women for the concretization of gender mainstreaming through gender analysis and gender impact assessments as pivotal tools in implementing the gender architecture framework based on the UN Women's Gender Capacity Assessment Tool, or similar, appropriate instruments;
 - b. Administering educational programs, such as an additional subject or a theme week, in UNRWA schools:
 - i. For male students, to focus on gender equality and women empowerment, and empowering participation in traditionally female-led activities, such as but not limited to domestic work and child care;
 - ii. For female students, encouraging and empowering them to try out and undertake male-dominated careers in a safe environment;
 - c. Suggesting national and local governments provide specific platforms for women's advocacy and leadership, such as through gender units, as providing women's perspectives in different fields will ensure women's needs are met accordingly;
 - d. Re-evaluating the educational curriculum as part of the UNRWA Rapid Review Process and including gender mainstreaming goals under the criteria "gender" in the improvement process;
5. *Calls upon* Member States to continue financially prioritizing the situation in Palestine through additional funding to the UNRWA so that further services can be provided to empower Palestinian refugee women by:
- a. Encouraging Member States to renew donations within at least two years of the previous donation so that continuous and reliable funding for projects is secured;
 - b. Emphasizing the need for the establishment of mechanisms to prevent UNRWA-supported programs and funds from espousing or supporting antisemitic rhetoric to ensure continuous funding from all Member States;
 - c. Recommending the review and improvement of UNRWA funds as laid out in the blueprint for the UNRWA Strategic Plan for 2023-2038, in order to ensure proper distribution according to the urgency of each distinct issue related to female refugees.



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Code: UNRWA/1/2

Committee: United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees

Topic: Situation of and Assistance to Palestinian Women

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees,

Stressing the significance of including Palestinian women in the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals 1: No Poverty, 2: Zero Hunger, 4: Quality Education, 5: Gender Equality, and 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth, in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR),

Further stressing the importance of fulfilling the ideals of the *Convention of the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)* (1979) in Palestine, specifically the enjoyment of civil, political and economic rights,

Dismayed by the extent of food and water insecurity among the refugee population, noting that 54% of households in Gaza headed by women experience food insecurity and that 90% of the water in Gaza is unsafe to drink, as noted by the World Food Programme (WFP) country factsheet on Palestine and the non-governmental organization (NGO) Anera's report on "Addressing the Water Crisis",

Noting with concern that insufficient healthcare among Palestinian refugees disproportionately affects women and that, according to the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), existing UN programs among refugees in Lebanon were able to cover only 27% of the medical needs for reproductive health,

Alarmed by the study *The Burden of Mental Disorders in the Eastern Mediterranean Region 1990-2013*, which reported that 40% of Palestinians endure depression and 46.5% of girl children ages six through twelve have emotional or behavioral disorders, and the *Arab Youth Survey (2020)*, which noted that 97.5% of children ages 10-19 in the Gaza Strip experienced symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD),

Distressed that the majority of shelters in Gaza, the West Bank, East Jerusalem, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria are unable to accept women and girls with disabilities and that, according to UNFPA *Global Study on Ending Gender-based Violence and Realizing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (2018)*, disabled women are ten times more likely to suffer from gender-based violence (GBV) than non-disabled women,

Taking into account the financial and organizational burdens of countries that host Palestinian refugees, including the approximately 175,000 Palestinian refugees in Lebanon according to the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF),

Reaffirming the goals set by Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on "Women, Peace, and Security", which highlights the importance of female participation in conflict and peace negotiations and underscores the necessity of gender mainstreaming efforts to diminish lingering gender disparities,

Further acknowledging the role of women as solution multipliers for economic, political, and social issues,

1. *Stresses* the need for UNRWA to address the distressing pervasion of food and water insecurity among Palestinian refugee women and female heads of households by:

- a. Recommending collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), which partners with the Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, to assist in the delivery of emergency food and water supplies in Gaza, the West Bank, East Jerusalem, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria;
 - b. Suggesting an expansion of the existing Cash-Based Transfer system beyond the West Bank, in coordination with the World Food Programme (WFP), to be able to provide relief for refugees, particularly women, in the remainder of the Palestinian territories and refugee camps;
 - c. Emphasizing that all initiatives to combat food and water insecurity such as WFP's Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation should be configured to ensure that resources equally benefit women and men;
 - d. Requesting UNRWA partner with NGOs such as the Union of Agricultural Work Committees to develop a sustainable, community-based development framework to promote crop growth throughout the Palestinian territories by empowering female farmers with access to agriculture resources and technical capabilities in order to provide a sustainable source of livelihood;
 - e. Further suggesting the creation of a desalination plant in the West Bank modeled on the Gaza Desalinization Plant to provide safe drinking water for all Palestinian refugees, including women and children;
2. *Advocates* for equal access to healthcare among Palestinian women in refugee camps by increasing the availability of feminine hygiene supplies and pregnancy resources by:
- a. Recommending collaboration with the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) as well as NGOs including but not limited to Oxfam International, Amnesty International, and the Norwegian Refugee Council for the provision and distribution of feminine hygiene products, in cooperation with UNICEF's Menstrual Hygiene Management Programme;
 - b. Requesting collaboration with UNICEF and UN Women to provide infancy products in coordination with the Women's Health Program (WHP), including diapers, infant formula, baby clothes, and other related products which many Palestinian women struggle to obtain;
 - c. Calling for increased availability of counseling services and additional funding and support for the Psycho-Social Counseling Center for Women in Palestine;
 - d. Recommending UNRWA model programs after the International Labor Organization's (ILO) Maternal and Child Cash Transfer, which offers monetary assistance to mothers in South Sudan for the first 1,000 days following the birth of their child;
3. *Calls for* the reconstruction and improvement of refugee camps damaged or destroyed in the ongoing conflict, including the Nahr el-Bared refugee camp in Lebanon, which had a specific center focused towards ensuring women's access to basic and essential services, by:
- a. Utilizing partnerships similar to the 2019 HAYA Joint Programme and UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS) collaboration, which has developed and maintained the

Mehwar Center for the Protection and Empowerment of Women and Families, Al Bayt Al Amen Nablus, Bait Al Tawarea Jericho, and the Hayat Center in Gaza as high quality shelters for women afflicted by GBV;

- b. Inviting further collaboration with NGOs such as but not limited to Oxfam International in the funding and reconstruction of the aforementioned refugee camps;
4. *Calls upon* UNRWA and Member States to address the inequality between disabled Palestinian women and the remainder of the female population by:
- a. Aligning with NGOs that provide resources specifically for women with disabilities, such as Humanity and Inclusion and the Palestinian Disability Coalition;
 - b. Improving existing infrastructures and facilities for accessibility for disabled women by:
 - i. Reconfiguring women's shelters and refugee camps to be inclusive and accessible to women with disabilities;
 - ii. Ensuring equal access to healthcare and parenthood services as needed;
 - iii. Improving access to higher education by ensuring that, within UNRWA's Scholarship Programme, a certain number of scholarships are specifically dedicated to women with disabilities;
5. *Notes with gratitude and satisfaction* existing partnerships that aim to implement projects focusing on areas such as public health and the protection of women across Gaza, the West Bank, East Jerusalem, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria by:
- a. Encouraging further collaboration with intergovernmental organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF and NGOs such as Amnesty International and Oxfam International;
 - b. Acknowledging the importance of strategic partnerships such as the partnership between UN Women and United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), which rehabilitates and provides technical and financial support services for women and girls who have survived or who are at risk for gender-based violence;
 - c. Encouraging further partnerships between Member States and humanitarian and governmental aid programs in Palestine in cooperation with UNRWA such as the partnership between Canada and HAYA Joint Programme, and between Norway and the Palestinian Ministry of Health;
6. *Welcomes* the political participation and inclusion of women in decision-making processes in Palestine by:
- a. Recommending UNRWA work with NGOs within Palestine to undertake a grassroots approach which encourages achieving gender parity in government;
 - b. Expanding the technical capabilities and access to resources of education and leadership programs such as the UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and UNRWA's Women's Leadership for Peace to prepare Palestinian women to fully participate in government;

7. *Urges* the expansion and continuation of the partnership between UNRWA, UN Women and the Attorney General's Office in the West Bank that took a human-rights-based approach to deal with GBV and discrimination cases by:
 - a. Training public prosecutors in accordance with international standards based on the UN Handbook on Legislation on Violence Against Women, which aims to enhance the response to and prevention of GBV;
 - b. Developing special standard operating procedures to promote coordination with the Attorney General's Office.



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Code: UNRWA/1/3

Committee: United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees

Topic: Situation of and Assistance to Palestinian Women

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees,

Asserting that the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) include the Gaza Strip, West Bank, and East Jerusalem, as well as camps established in Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria,

Guided by the UN Charter Article 55 and its reaffirmation of the UN's commitment to social and economic development as a right with respect to all peoples,

Recalling the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) on the twelve major areas of women's rights, particularly education and vocational training,

Reaffirming Article 10 of the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women* (CEDAW) (1979) assuring that discrimination concerning a woman's right to education should be addressed,

Acknowledging that 90% of future jobs will require Information Communication Technology (ICT) skills, according to the World Economic Forum report on *The Future of Jobs* (2021),

Having considered the UNRWA-EU Scholarship Program to provide scholarship opportunities for Palestinian women in universities in Lebanon,

Recognizing that women in the OPT make up 44% of those enrolled in universities according to the United Nations Development Program's (UNDP) *Development for Empowerment: the 2021 Palestine Human Development* report (2021) and *takes into account* recommendations from the UN Secretary-General's report on *The Situation of and Assistance to Palestinian Women* (2019),

Deeply disturbed that the average unemployment rate of women in the OPT is 43% as reported in *Palestinian Youth Challenges and Aspirations* (2019), a study conducted by Interpeace and commissioned by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA),

Deplores that only 47.5% of Palestinian women have access to the internet, according to the UN Industrial Development Organization's report on *Women's Empowerment Through Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development in the MENA Region* (2018),

Emphasizing continued focus on digitalization as one of *UNRWA's 2022 Programmes Budget* objectives as a means to offer new avenues for skills enhancement and employment for refugees,

Alarmed that despite having over 350 centers for youth involvement, centers are known for being exclusionary to women and girls according to the UNFPA report on the *Status of Palestinian Youth* (2017),

Recognizing the imminent need to alleviate educational conditions that impede development such as violent disciplinary practices which have impacted 87% of school-aged girl children in the OPT according to the United Nations Children's Fund's (UNICEF) report on *Children in Palestine* (2021),

Expressing its satisfaction with the UN and civil society partnership Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund's Role for Social Change Association within the OPT, which educates women in peacebuilding and local leadership,

Expressing its appreciation of UN Women initiatives such as the HAYA: Eliminating Violence Against Women in the West Bank & Gaza Strip, which works to change harmful practices and attitudes that contribute to violence against women and girls within households, and the Palestine Gender Innovation Agora, which provides a platform for regular dialogue and advocacy around gender with youth in Palestine,

Expressing its satisfaction with the UNRWA Child and Family Protection Program, which educates families on positive discipline practices and reproductive health,

Emphasizing the UN's Sustainable Development Goals 2 (No Hunger) and 5 (Gender) in relation to the 32% of Palestinian households headed by women who are currently experiencing food insecurity and 37% of women experiencing gender-based violence (GBV) in the OPT,

Keeping in mind UNRWA's reliance on the generous funding of Member States and the campaigns of international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), such as UN's Human Rights Campaign and Amnesty International's Human Rights Defenders, to assist the situation of Palestinian women,

1. *Encourages* collaboration for replication in the OPT of the International Technologies Union (ITU) and UN Women Coding Camps and ICT Schools for Young Girls, which would establish a safe, encouraging environment for girls to
 - a. Explore fields related to computer science and develop their skills through innovative competitions and the utilization of existing online educational platforms such as the UNRWA Self Learning Platform;
 - b. Receive further development through mentorship opportunities at the discretion of individual schools;
2. *Recommends* the expansion of efforts being undertaken by the UNRWA-EU Scholarship Program to:
 - a. Forge partnerships with private universities within the OPT as host schools of the scholarship recipients;
 - b. Incentivize female students completing their tertiary studies and their rapid integration into the labor market, both within the OPT;
 - c. Encourage collaboration with the UNRWA's Social Safety Net Program, which would ensure female students access to food, water, medicine, and other necessary supplies over the course of their studies;
 - d. Expand the United Nations International Computing Center (UNICC) (2020) partnership with UNRWA to provide specific scholarships in areas related to IT and computing skills;
 - e. Bolster the resources available for Palestinian women, such as professional assistance through education and career counseling and networking opportunities, within existing universities in the State of Palestine;

3. *Suggests* the further collaboration of UNRWA and the World Bank Group in their Digital West Bank and Gaza Project which seeks to provide internet access as a means of closing the digital gender gap in the OPT and notes their commitment to expanding the outreach of online COVID-19 pandemic recovery mechanisms such as telemedicine or online education options;
4. *Hopes* to foster innovation and enthusiasm for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) areas through the establishment of a Women's Empowerment Fund to
 - a. Provide employment opportunities by connecting them with local professionals in STEM careers with an emphasis on overcoming limiting gender roles;
 - b. Create an all-woman management board within the Women's Empowerment Fund which would select promising STEM-related female-led projects to sponsor within the OPT;
5. *Encourages* cooperation among all Member States and NGOs to help create programs and safe spaces for women by strengthening existing educational and vocational programs in the OPT region, such as:
 - a. UNRWA's established Microfinance Department, which involves the allocation of Amnesty International's individual donations to financially support female-led businesses and build capacity to further invest in new projects;
 - b. Recommends the expansion of groups eligible for certain cash-based programs, such as UNRWA's Cash-for-Work (CfW) program, to include women pursuing tertiary education and provide them with monetary aid to continue education and training;
 - c. Suggests the promotion of safe spaces by partnering with the United Nation Delegations Women's Club where women may receive assistance and refuge within Palestinian universities to mitigate the effects of GBV that have been prevalent during the COVID-19 pandemic;
 - d. Working with local programs such as *The Palestinian Association for Empowerment and Local Development*, which seeks to empower women and men to build safe communities through the expansion of GBV prevention and management in schools and job training centers to prevent women from leaving the workplace due to conflict;
 - e. Expanding the UNRWA Ramallah Women's Training Center for educational and vocational programs in tandem with Amnesty International's aims to work with local NGOs in the OPT to promote advocacy and raise awareness about women's rights in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) through local and social media campaigns;
6. *Promotes* expanding outreach of the UN and civil society partnership Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund as established in Hebron for the *Roles for Social Change Association* by:
 - a. Establishing chapters in other OPT regions such as West Bank, Gaza, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon, and notes that the establishment of regional chapters of the Roles for Social Change Association would allow for a localized strategy to ensure that program implementation is based on specific regional needs;

- b. Recommends local assessment of chapter locations be done in collaboration with the NGO Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund to identify local priorities such as emergency preparedness, conflict prevention, and peacebuilding;
7. *Emphasizes* the importance of changing harmful gendered practices through outreach programs to increase awareness by:
 - a. Ensuring the territorial outreach of programs and initiatives, such as the West Bank UNRWA Child and Family Protection Program, are inclusive to all territories in the OPT;
 - b. Expressing conviction that UNRWA schools play an integral role in helping girl-children in the OPT understand their rights, especially the rights enshrined in the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (1948) articles 21, 23, and 26;
8. *Emphasizes* the importance of enabling Palestinian women to be autonomous and financially independent through:
 - a. Establishing guidance practices within the UNRWA Microfinance Program to ensure financial education is provided to ensure the viability of disbursed loans and to assure that women take part in sustainable financial practices;
 - b. Extending the existing UNRWA framework currently operating in Palestine, which is the Leadership Across Borders Training Programme, to prioritize IT studies and offer online courses for improved international collaboration with the OPT and which also includes mentorship from women in leadership and senior positions worldwide that have a Palestinian background;
9. *Aims* at empowering Palestinian women to pursue online entrepreneurship for securing their financial security with self-sufficient and sustainable means by:
 - a. Widening the Microcredit Community Support Programme (MCSP) to provide microfinance loans as capital, both financial and material equity, to women for their respective entrepreneurial ventures;
 - b. Expanding vocational training offered by the UNRWA Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Programme through public-private partnerships (PPP) to include programs such as teaching the creation of websites and online businesses to enable women to work from home without fixed office hours, which allows for the raising of children and domestic responsibilities as well as may raise respect for the work of Palestinian women;
 - c. Widening the market that women can sell their products in and thereby increase points of contact with other OPT citizens as well as citizens of other nations;
10. *Invites* Member States and international non-governmental organizations to voluntarily increase their contribution to education and employment for Palestinian women in the ICT and STEM fields by:
 - a. Maintaining the Digital West Bank and Gaza Project of the World Bank, which has allocated \$20 million USD to address the digital divide in Palestine, and provide internet access and modern technology to female-led households in Palestine by closely collaborating with UNRWA for the specific funding needs of the program;

- b. Expanding the existing UNRWA IT Centers in the Gaza Strip into the remaining four UNRWA regions: West Bank, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon;
- c. Recognizes that all Member States may not be amenable to increasing financial contributions and thus encourages the sharing of frameworks of national programs that promote and offer scholarships and employment to be utilized by UNRWA;
- d. Asks UNRWA's Department of Internal Oversight Services to oversee the changes made following this resolution to ensure their success.



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Code: UNRWA/1/4

Committee: United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees

Topic: Situation of and Assistance to Palestinian Women

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees,

Reasserting the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979), which guarantees gender equality in economic and social life and the protection of fundamental freedoms for all women regardless of nationality,

Recalling Security Council resolution 2122 (2013) on “Women, Peace, and Security” that reaffirms the UN’s commitment to gender equality and women’s empowerment and recognizes the disproportionate impacts of conflict on women and girls,

Acknowledging the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 (Gender Equality) which seeks to empower all women and girls and end all forms of discrimination against women and girls everywhere,

Highlighting SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), which promotes inclusive and sustained economic growth and ensures productive and sustainable employment,

Deeply conscious of the voluntary nature of UNRWA’s funding base, leading to a funding deficit of \$217 million in the most recent core program budget alone, and the negative effects decreased financial support has on UNRWA’s ability to fulfill its mandate and deliver impactful programs in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria,

Noting the efforts of the United Nations Transparency and Accountability Initiative to increase transparency and oversight systems within UN bodies,

Recognizing the current gap in UNRWA’s microfinance delivery, with UNRWA’s Microfinance Divisions operating in the regional offices of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Syria, and Jordan, and an absence of presence in Lebanon,

Evaluating the lack of effective and sustainable economic development ventures that specifically recognize the ability of Palestinian refugee women to empower themselves within UNRWA’s five fields of operation,

1. *Proposes to create a specific Palestinian Refugee Women Budget (PRWB) by earmarking a dedicated budgetary section within the UNRWA’s budget solely reserved for measures aimed at improving the situation of Palestinian refugee women by:*
 - a. *Contractually binding the availability of the PRWB for measures only concerned with supporting Palestinian refugee women, thereby ensuring that available resources will not be used for other measures but will be solely dedicated to supporting all programs that provide assistance to Palestinian refugee women;*
 - b. *Requesting the UNRWA’s Department of Finance to examine past financial statements to determine the share of UNRWA’s annual core program budget that has been allocated to programs in the past which provided assistance to Palestinian refugee women;*

- c. Ensuring a 5% increase of UNRWA's current annual core program budget dedicated to supporting Palestinian refugee women, with 5% to be set as a permanent minimum funding allocation to the PRWB;
 2. *Encourages* the creation of the Cash-Flow, Monitoring, and Transparency (CMT) framework, which would allow for increased transparency and accountability regarding the usage of funds for the PRWB by:
 - a. Focusing on tracking the dispersion of resources and funding by closely monitoring the cash flows between the UNRWA's PRWB and designated projects assisting female Palestinian refugees;
 - b. Encouraging an internal UNRWA computer-based monitoring system to detect discrepancies in financial transactions which:
 - i. Includes designated financial staff from the UNRWA Department of Internal Oversight Services monitoring and resolving any funding discrepancies that arise;
 - ii. Provides willing Member States with an in-detail virtual balance sheet regarding the capital that was provided by them and exactly where it is used by UNRWA;
 - iii. Recognizes and takes into account the work and aim of the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) to provide available data on the humanitarian program's expenses as a template for what the CMT is aiming to achieve in increasing transparency and accountability between UNRWA and participating donors;
 3. *Supports* increased UNRWA funding addressing Palestinian refugee women by encouraging annual contributions from Member States, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and individual donors through:
 - a. Calling on Member States, NGOs, individual donors, and the general public to provide additional funding specifically to the PRWB;
 - b. Encouraging donor participation by increasing the amount of the International Ministerial Conferences of the UNRWA from once to three times a year in order to educate about UNRWA's efforts, and which would be hosted by UNRWA Member States;
 - c. Requesting a quarterly check-in on future pledging conferences to promote the significance of contributions to the implementation of the aforementioned programs and frameworks to create pathways through which UNRWA can continue to enact change;
 - d. Proposing the establishment of a social media campaign and increased media reportage in collaboration with UN Ambassadors, and by partnering with Amnesty International, Oxfam International and other NGOs to reach the general public and raise awareness on the situation of Palestinian women;
 4. *Expands* the UNRWA Microfinance Division to the UNRWA Regional Office in Beirut, Lebanon, to be conducted through the Microfinance Department in Jerusalem, in order to extend UNRWA's system of financial support and provide adequate economic development to Palestinian refugees through:

- a. Replicating the work of the corresponding Microfinance Divisions in Gaza Strip, West Bank, Syria, and Jordan;
 - b. Reallocating the existing UNRWA Microfinance Department's budget in order to adequately disperse support for all five regions;
 - c. Advancing micro financing programs within the state of Lebanon to promote individual agency of Palestinian refugee women;
5. *Establishes* the Palestinian Women Social Entrepreneurship Programme, an application-based microfinancing program delivered through the UNRWA regional Microfinance Division by:
 - a. Targeting Palestinian refugee women residing in Gaza Strip, West Bank, Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan;
 - b. Providing sustainable income-generating opportunities for women seeking to develop business opportunities that have a positive impact on the Palestinian refugee community;
 - c. Ensuring mandatory online and in-person training delivered through UNRWA regional offices to provide resources to successful applicants to translate economic support to business development;
 - d. Setting a minimum goal of supporting 500 women (100 per region of operation) in the program's first year of implementation, with the expectation to increase this amount in the following years;
6. *Calls for* an economic relief system for Palestinian refugee women implemented through the cooperation of NGOs (such as but not limited to Amnesty International and Oxfam International) and Member States to actively combat the rise of household poverty and provide access to essential goods through:
 - a. Implementing a limited voucher-based system, similar in form to actions taken by the World Food Bank, to provide ease of access to food and specifically taking aim at providing much needed resources to women and girl children impacted by violence in the region;
 - b. Providing resources to Palestinian refugee women, especially prioritizing those in refugee camps, to best provide assistance regarding such basic necessities as food, healthcare, feminine hygiene products, and educational resources;
 - c. Distributing vouchers at UNRWA-operated relief stations within the affected regions to ensure region-wide accessibility independent of technological barriers such as internet access.



National Model United Nations • NY

Code: UNRWA/2/1

Committee: United Nations Relief Works Agency for Palestine Refugees

Topic: Promoting Career Opportunities for Youth

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees,

Recalling Security Council resolution 2250 (2015) defining youth as persons aged 18 to 29 years old and encouraging Member States to create infrastructure to enable young people to participate meaningfully in the global peace-building community,

Asserting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development's commitment to "leave no one behind" in the pursuit of gender-neutral career development efforts,

Acknowledging that Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 (Quality Education) is an essential step toward the provision of career opportunities for refugee youth, and that all individuals should have access to education, noting especially that Palestinian refugee children have reduced access to education,

Reaffirming the United Nations Youth Strategy (Youth 2030) which calls on the UN to strengthen efforts in youth-led engagement, participation and advocacy; informed and healthy foundational knowledge; economic empowerment through decent work; and peace and resilience building,

Expressing concern that youth are more likely to be unemployed than adults and engage in low-paying, precarious and informal work, as seen by the decreasing formal employment rate of Palestinian refugee youth, remaining at 73% unemployment as opposed to 53% of Syrian youth,

Appreciating the work of the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth and the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development (IANYD) and their commitments to enhancing UN response for the needs of young people and increased collaboration on youth development,

Acknowledging the importance of Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) (1948), which affirms the right to an accessible education,

Deeply concerned about the low completion rate of higher education among Palestinian students, with 8.7% of male students and 11.9% of female students completing it, according to the study "Youth, Peace and Security" (2017),

Affirming the success of UNRWA's Graduate Training Program in providing 31,451 graduates with career opportunities since its inception, as well as the Technical and Vocational Education and Training Youth Programme's (TVET) advancement in preparing Palestinian youth for high-demand employment sectors,

Recognizing the positive impacts of the Digital Learning Platform (DLP) on youth's ability to respond to the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic—particularly the need for remote work—on youth career opportunities, through providing technical, vocational, entrepreneurship and increasing digital infrastructure options to children from their homes,

Reaffirming programs facilitating career opportunities in the Palestinian territories, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria, such as Microcredit Community Support Program and the Microfinance and Microenterprise Program (MMP),

Recognizing that 533,000 Palestinian refugee students within the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, Lebanon, Syria and Jordan, are dependent on the Education in Emergencies (EiE) program,

Deeply concerned that unemployed youth comprise 40% of the Palestinian youth population as reported in *Palestinian Youth Challenges and Aspirations (2017)*, a study conducted by Interpeace and commissioned by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA),

Recognizing the inefficiency of the UNRWA schools' curricula in providing youth with valuable skills for the job market, resulting in job mismatch,

Reaffirming programs facilitating career opportunities in the Palestinian territories, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria, such as the Microcredit Community Support Program, UNRWA Graduate Training Program, and Microfinance and Microenterprise Program (MMP),

Cognizant of the lack of youth representation within UNRWA governance and operations that hinders the agency's ability to provide targeted aid to Palestinian refugee youth,

Expressing concern for the high unemployment rate of Palestinian refugees in UNRWA fields of operation, exemplified by the Palestinian refugee youth employment rate of 73%,

Deeply concerned with the state of 300,000 Palestinians living without adequate access to healthcare as reported by the World Health Organization's (WHO) Covid-19 Response Plan for Palestine,

Commending UNRWA Surgical Bridge Programs on addressing the lack of surgical education within Palestinian territories,

Recognizing that technical vocational training and higher education could keep helping students develop their talents and strengthen their self-confidence,

1. *Recommends* investing in data collection to show the benefits of securing employment for Palestinian youth following higher education compared to post-secondary employment by cooperation and sharing information with the Palestinian Ministry of Education and Higher Education and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in order to:
 - a. Encourage current and new donors to donate to UNRWA's Scholarship Programme, as high tuition fees prevent many Palestinian refugees from attending university, and potentially by using Amnesty International campaigns and fund allocation;
 - b. Encourage other MENA universities to offer scholarships, especially for Palestinian refugees students;
2. *Encourages* collaboration between UNRWA, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), and the Ministry of National Education (MoNE) to expand the formal education and non-formal educational programs such as:
 - a. A formal education initiative through non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to increase the number of teachers, better learning environments, and accessibility to essential school resources in order to facilitate learning environments for refugee children;
 - b. The Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP), which gives refugee children a second chance to participate in formal education who previously had a hiatus from schooling;
3. *Establishes* a semi-annual UNRWA youth forum, held twice a year, titled Future of Youth Forum (FYF) based off the formal EU and UNRWA Joint Youth Conference held in 2012 to ensure representation with UNRWA representative bodies, such as the Advisory Commission that is held at the UNRWA Headquarters Amman, Jordan, which discusses:
 - a. Referencing the UN Youth Delegates Programme to create a system within the UNRWA region operates specifically for youth in Palestine;

- b. Fulfilling a minimum quota of 25 youth representatives from each of the UNRWA's five fields of operations, to be selected by the UNRWA regional offices;
 - c. Allowing for youth to address various concerns such as youth unemployment, educational training, and actionable and attainable goals for the next upcoming year;
 - d. Promoting the creation of panels and discussion groups for youth representatives to share their experiences and outline specific needs for UNRWA's focus;
 - e. Encouraging youth to pick a conference theme that most accurately affects their reality, such as job security, educational reform, humanitarian response to conflict;
 - f. Selects candidates by calling for applications followed by an interview process to determine which concerns are most dire;
4. *Encourages* youth participation and representation in decision-making processes at the UNRWA by:
- a. Appointing a youth representative within each UNRWA Regional Office;
 - b. Creating a youth unit within the UNRWA Relief and Social Services Department replicating the work of the youth units of UNICEF in Lebanon and the World Food Program in Jordan;
 - c. Opening a school of diplomacy for youth leaders within UNRWA regions that will help to produce future leaders;
5. *Advocates for* expansion of the DLP to:
- a. Develop from recognizing only two languages—English and Arabic, currently—to additional languages, facilitating Palestinian youth participation in the diverse global economy and workforce;
 - b. Include Psychosocial support (PSS) to help youth cope with the additional stress of the COVID-19 Pandemic through the help of the After School Activities project which aids in decreasing stress in youth;
6. *Calls for* the expansion of UNRWA's EiE programme which ensures access to quality, inclusive education to actively provide a wider array of educational opportunities and combat active challenges within the region, including:
- a. Virtual exchange opportunities that foster exchange with students internationally;
 - b. The expansion of virtual learning opportunities to help ensure continued delivery of quality education amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic;
7. *Recommending* new or renewed partnerships with non-governmental organizations and social enterprises such as Digital Explorer to support teachers and pupils to engage with and take action on critical global issues from cultural conflict to climate change;
8. *Acknowledging* that learning resources must be offered to students who are in need due to unequal access to various tools that are essential, such as an electronic device that can use the DLP and a stable internet connection;
9. *Supports* increased outreach for the Palestinian National Volunteer Service Programme that aims at engaging Palestinian youth of all ages;

10. *Calls upon* Member States to increase funding for invaluable educational and career programs in the State of Palestine, such as the Technical and Vocational Education and Training Program (TVET) and MMP;
11. *Suggests* implementing a regular evaluation of UNRWA vocational courses every five years to make sure that they meet the changing demands of the job market;
12. *Encourages* the creation of the Youth Empowerment and Employment Taskforce (YEET), comprised of UNRWA representatives, UNRWA vocational schools teachers, professors, and leading market researchers in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, which shall:
 - a. Review the UNRWA schools' curricula on a biannual basis, according to the market requirements, as stated by the aforementioned professors and researchers;
 - b. Request reports from recent UNRWA schools graduates who have finalized an internship and include the findings of these reports into the review;
 - c. Ensure that the curricula is up-to-date and provides students with skills that are useful in the job market such as computing skills or mechanical skills;
13. *Suggests* involvement with global medical exchange programs such as the International Federation of Medical Student Associations which provides medical students with the opportunity to undertake medical research internationally with the hope that these opportunities will produce culturally sensitive medical professionals;
14. *Encourages* the recreation of Surgical Bridge Programs, similar to one formed in 2012 through the UNRWA, which welcomes surgeons-in-training into national universities to accelerate their medicinal education and facilitate rapid entry into hospitals in their home countries.



National Model United Nations • NY

Code: UNRWA/2/2

Committee: United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees

Topic: Promoting Career Opportunities for Youth

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees,

Deplores that despite gaining university-level education, three out of every five Palestinians remain unemployed, according to a World Bank report on *Rethinking Job Creation for Palestinian Youth* (2019),

Commending the success of the Education Cannot Wait (ECW) program, where over 14,000 Palestinian youth have been provided with supplies to return safely to UNRWA schools during the COVID-19 pandemic,

Noting with deep concern the importance for youth to acquire the abilities necessary to get jobs, as education and employment are underlined by the 2018 *World Youth Report* as fundamental to overall youth development,

Recognizing the lack of education tailored to the market's requirements, such as limited experience and education skillset, and discrepancies between the school curricula and market requirements that hinders the ability of youth to gain optimal jobs as shown by the World Bank's Palestinian Digital Economy Assessment from 2021,

Acknowledging that in 2019, prior to the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, 42% of Palestinian youth were unemployed, and in 2020 the percentage of unemployment in the Gaza Strip stood at 49%, one of the highest in the world as per the survey conducted by UNRWA in 2021,

Emphasizing the different security, educational and economic situations in the Gaza Strip compared to other affected regions and the need to differentiate between them in order to assure efficient implementation of support measures,

Acknowledging the Islamic Finance Project and Go For it Project that aim to provide youth in the Middle East with job opportunities by investing in small and medium enterprises,

Highlighting the importance of strong partnerships between the UN and the private sector for sustainable development in the context of the 2030 *Agenda for Sustainable Development*,

Understanding that according to a United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)-led survey published in February 2021, 64% of people living in the Gaza region and 30% of people living in the West Bank are currently living in poverty,

1. *Suggests* international financial institutions such as World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to support projects similar to the Islamic Finance Project that aims to increase the operational capacity of small and medium enterprises to stimulate employment opportunities and productivity;
2. *Supports* projects similar to the Go For it Project to provide soft skills courses and technical vocational educational training (TVET) courses to women and youth to improve their chances of obtaining a sustainable job in various industrial and economic sectors;

3. *Calls upon* the expansion of UNRWA's training program TVET through its Department of Education in order to enhance youth Palestinian refugee employability by focusing on the skills required for job applications, such as but not limited to:
 - a. Refining communication abilities;
 - b. Practicing interview questions and responses;
 - c. Providing courses on producing efficient and adequate resumes and cover letters;
 - d. Expanding knowledge about financial responsibility;
4. *Calls* for the implementation of partnerships between the UNRWA and private sector businesses that would:
 - a. Be interested in opening and maintaining branches in Palestine or the five operational regions of UNRWA;
 - b. Improve technical and vocational training by receiving input from private businesses in order to tailor trainings in regard to the needs and the required skills for private sector work;
 - c. Increase the number of vocational training centers to expand the capacity to reach refugee students;
 - d. Offer paid internships for graduates to gain industry-specific experience;
5. *Requests* the strengthening of the Infrastructure and Camp Improvement Programme (ICIP) by means of:
 - a. Providing generators to increase accessibility to electricity to ensure that refugee youth have the opportunity to access online learning platforms;
 - b. Establishing a working group that focuses on expanding electrical resources to refugee camps;
 - c. Creating designated cooperative study programs together with university institutions, infrastructure related corporations, and government-owned entities aiming to aid highly educated young Palestinians in this critical industry;
6. *Draws attention* to the expansion of UNRWA's partnership with the Education Cannot Wait (ECW) program in terms of funding and the creation of dedicated youth spaces by:
 - a. Ensuring all Palestinian youth have the appropriate resources to access the fund;
 - b. Inviting collaboration with non-governmental organizations (NGO) such as Oxfam International and Amnesty International in order to bring awareness to the plight of Palestinian youth amidst poverty and violence;
7. *Supports* efforts to diversify vocational skills to cultivate an entrepreneur mindset through classes and providing safe and stimulating environments such as coworking spaces, as:

- a. These places could contribute to sharing new ideas and new projects that could be fundamental in order to create new local realities as well as social and economic development opportunities;
 - b. This could constitute a substantial incentive for new employment in every working field;
8. *Recommends* the expansion of out-of-school learning opportunities such as but not limited to:
- a. Creating summer school programs in order to narrow the education gap created by health and political crises;
 - b. Establishing a digital component to UNRWA's Youth Unit Innovation Lab Social Unit Entrepreneurship training (Innovation Lab) aiming to increase accessibility within UNRWA's five fields of operations.