

EC support to UNRWA

UNRWA - United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East - was established in 1949. UNRWA's services to **4,5 million Palestine refugees in Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, West Bank and Gaza** will continue to play an important role until an agreed solution to the problem of Palestine refugees is found within an overall settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The ability of the Agency to provide its services depends on sufficient voluntary contributions made available annually. The EC's financial assistance therefore aims to enable UNRWA to operate on a sustainable and cost-effective basis and to ensure the quality and level of services provided to the refugees. The EU- EC and EU Member States - is the largest donor to UNRWA.

The EC contributes annually to UNRWA's regular budget, **the General Fund** used to pay the salaries of the Agency's teachers, doctors and social workers. The EC also regularly contributes to UNRWA's **Social Safety Net programme** providing food aid and cash subsidies to the poorest refugees. Since 2008, the EC has contributed to the **Organizational Development Plan** to strengthen and consolidate UNRWA's management capacity. In addition, the EC supports **specific projects** focused on Palestinian self-reliance through education, training and business development. ECHO – the EC humanitarian office – provides **humanitarian and food aid for UNRWA's Emergency Appeals**. This aid covers emergency employment and food aid programmes as well as shelter rehabilitation and promotion of employment. The Commission also provides assistance to UNRWA for preparation of the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the **Nahr El-Bared refugee camp in Lebanon**.

The overall EC contribution in 2008 to UNRWA is over €13 million.

EC FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS TO UNRWA 2000-2008 (in € million)									
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Contribution to General Fund	40,24	57,25	55,00	57,75	60,64	63,67	64,40	66,00	66,00
Food Aid (SHCs)	13,14	14,05	14,24	14,91	13,00	14,00	15,00	10,15	27,60
Food Security (SHCs)								4,00	5,00
ENPI Palestine (SHCs)									4,00
Organisational development									1,00
Humanitarian Assistance	15,78	18,77	2,19	11,76	8,63	8,50	21,40	7,00	5,00
Ad hoc support projects									
Camp Improvement projects	14,60			7,43				4,00	
Emergency Gaza Package					20,00				
Refugee records and data collection programme					1,00		1,00		
Employment opportunities (Leb, Syr, Jor)						10,00	10,00		
Scholarship programmes (Lebanon)						1,09		3,00	
Nahr el Bared Camp - Lebanon								8,25	5,00
TOTAL ANNUAL	83,76	90,07	71,43	91,85	103,27	97,26	111,80	102,40	113,60