UNRWA NEWS

اخبار الاونروا

Issued by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

تصدرها وكالة الامم المتحدة لاغاثة وتشغيل اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في الشرق الادنى

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UNRWA helps Gaza flood victims

UNRWA Gaza is helping refugees in Khan Younis camp whose shelters were damaged by flooding caused by heavy rains on 19 December. In the immediate aftermath of the flooding, UNRWA sanitation staff worked overtime to help their fellow refugees, some of whose shelters had over one metre of water in them. Khan Younis municipality provided pumps and truckloads of sand to prevent further flooding of shelters in low-lying parts of the camp. The Gaza Field Office has allocated $4,000 to rebuild one collapsed shelter and $2,000 to repair the boundary wall of another shelter. After a survey by welfare staff, cash grants totalling $1,800 have been distributed to eight refugee families who sustained losses. Field Director Peter Hawkins has re-allocated $50,000 in existing funds to deal with long-term solutions to Khan Younis drainage.

Italy contributes to Gaza VTC running costs

The Government of Italy has announced that it will contribute to the running costs of UNRWA's vocational training centre in Gaza for the 1985-86 academic year. In 1985, Italy contributed $1.2 million in cash to the Agency and recently announced a donation of 3,500 tons of flour to overcome UNRWA's flour shortage. For 1986, Italy has pledged $2.9 million to UNRWA's general fund.

Emergency help to families in Fawwar camp

UNRWA has provided emergency assistance to three registered refugee families from Fawwar camp, West Bank, whose agency-built shelters were demolished by the Israeli authorities on 30 December. The families comprise 25 persons. Each family has a son who was arrested in November. The camp, south of Hebron, was placed under curfew during the morning demolition operation. On 31 December, UNRWA distributed used clothing and food rations to the families. These were the first demolitions of shelters in a West Bank camp since 1982.

Meanwhile, in the West Bank town of Bethlehem, the Israeli authorities on 26 December sealed the private houses of four Palestine refugee families comprising 34 persons. These families also have sons who were recenlty detained. In November and December, rooms were sealed in refugee shelters in Shu'fat, Jenin and Dheisheh camps in the West Bank. UNRWA is making a protest at these measures to the Israeli authorities.

Second AGFUND school under way

Work has begun in the West Bank on the second UNRWA school building being financed by the Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organisations (AGFUND). The 10-classroom school, which will cost some $410,000 to build, will occupy a 3,500-square metre site, leased from the Greek Orthodox Church near the town of Beit Jala, adjacent to Bethlehem.

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UNRWA-NGO meeting planned for Amman

UNRWA and the International Council of Voluntary Agencies are jointly sponsoring a meeting of non-governmental agencies in Amman, Jordan 3-4 February. On 2 February, NGO representatives will tour UNRWA installations around Amman. This is the third UNRWA/ICVA consultation. Previous meetings were held in Vienna.

Nurses selected for Australian training

Two UNRWA staff nurses, Miss M. Awad, Latakia, SAR and Mr. M. Minawi, Gaza have been selected to attend a one-year course in community health nursing at Cumberland College, Sydney, Australia. The course is paid for by APHEDA, Australian People for Health, Education and Development Abroad.

Former director awarded CBE

Mr. John Defrates, Director of UNRWA Affairs in Lebanon 1982-1985, has been named a Commander of the Order of the British Empire in the British Government's New Year Honours List for 1986.

Staff News

Scott Hogan, a former staff member in the Supply and Transport Division, died in England on 3 January. Mr. Hogan retired from UNRWA in 1981 but returned on a short-term assignment in 1983.

Dr. Salah Sharif has been named Field Health Officer, SAR, effective November 1985.

Mr. F. A. Evers, Field Supply and Transport Officer, Lebanon, was appointed Head, Entitlements Office, Headquarters (Vienna) effective 4 January 1985.

Mr. Karl-Otto Pleitz joinded the Agency on 2 January 1986 and is appointed Field Supply and Transport Officer, Gaza (Designate).

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This is the 100th issue of UNRWA News which began as a monthly news bulletin for UNRWA staff in July 1978. UNRWA News now appears twice a month and has a circulation of 3,800 copies in Arabic and 1,500 in English.