

United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA)

Despite its intended function, UNRWA, the UN organization responsible for providing aid to displaced Palestinian-Arabs, values perpetuating Palestinian-Arabs' refugee statuses over resettling them. Furthermore, UNRWA promotes violence by coordinating with U.S.-designated terrorist organizations and indoctrinating children to hate Israelis and Jews. This is damaging to Israelis and Arabs alike, as it encourages hatred and discourages peace and dialogue

Overview:

- UNRWA was established in 1949 to aid Palestinian-Arabs displaced during the 1948 War of Independence,¹ which saw five Arab countries attack Israel to destroy the fledgling Jewish state.
 - Rather than allowing these refugees to receive aid from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) -- the internationally recognized organization that aids refugees around the world -- Palestinian-Arab refugees receive aid from UNRWA. UNRWA is the only UN organization that exclusively aids refugees of one nationality -- Palestinian-Arab nationality.
 - While there were initially 750,000 Palestinian-Arab refugees, there are now 5 million UNRWA-defined Palestinian-Arab refugees worldwide² because of UNRWA's unique refugee definition, as well as its non-committal approach to resettling refugees.
 - Palestinian-Arabs are the only group with an increasing refugee population after a war has ended. **The UN resettles all other refugees upon resolution of conflict.**

Rather than resettling Palestinian-Arab refugees, UNRWA perpetuates Palestinian-Arabs' refugee statuses, thus retaining poor living standards and maintaining the status quo.

- While UNHCR focuses on resettling all other world refugees, UNRWA abides by definitions and principles that differ from UNHCR's standards.
 - The UN's definition of a refugee is an individual who, "owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted... is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable to... avail himself of the protection of that country."³ According to this definition:
 - Upon resettlement, a refugee does not maintain his/her refugee status.
 - Refugee status cannot merely be inherited from one's ancestors.
 - UNRWA's definition of a Palestinian refugee includes Palestinian-Arabs that were displaced as a result of the 1948 War. However, unlike UNHCR, UNRWA's definition of a refugee includes Palestinian-Arabs that have been resettled in other countries.

¹ UNRWA Official Website. *Who We Are*.

² UNRWA Official Website. *Who Are Palestinian Refugees?*

³ UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency. *Refugees*.

Palestinian-Arab refugee status can merely be inherited through an individual's paternal ancestor (although individuals have inherited refugee status from maternal ancestors).

- Palestinian-Arab refugee status is the only refugee status that is inheritable regardless of resettlement.

UNHCR	UNRWA
Organization for international refugees	Organization specific to Palestinian-Arabs
Focuses on providing aid to refugees	Perpetuates Palestinian-Arabs' refugee statuses
Refugees lose refugee status upon resettlement	Allows Palestinian refugees to maintain refugee status upon resettlement
Refugee status not inheritable	Refugee status inherited throughout generations, even if sufficiently resettled.

UNRWA's unique method of assigning refugee status demonstrates its focus on perpetuating Palestinian-Arabs' refugee statuses rather than resettling refugees.

U.S.-designated terrorist groups, including Hamas, control UNRWA's affairs at the expense of Palestinian-Arab refugees and civilian welfare.

- Hamas misuses UNRWA's funding and infrastructure to launch terrorist attacks against Israeli and Palestinian-Arab civilians.⁴
 - Hamas uses UNRWA schools, among other civilian locations, as headquarters and storage for weapons. This crime is known as using human shields, which violates international human rights law.⁵ By storing weapons in civilian locations, Hamas strategically deters Israel's defense capabilities and endangers its Arab civilians.
 - UNRWA formally condemns these actions, but relinquishes weapons back to their source, Hamas, rather than safely disposing of them.⁶ Furthermore, UNRWA's missile coordination with Hamas reinforces this malicious practice.
 - UNRWA receives more per-capita funding than all other UN organizations,⁷ yet the population of Palestinian-Arab refugees is increasing, unlike other refugee populations from resolved conflicts. This increase in refugee population occurs for two main reasons:
 - Refugee status is inheritable
 - The capital UNRWA receives is allocated to corrupt organizations, such as Hamas, rather than fulfilling the basic needs of refugees.

UNRWA schools in Palestinian territories incite hatred and murder of Jews.

- UNRWA schools often use textbooks promoted by Hamas, which incite hatred and discourage peace. For example, the sources omit historical agreements between the Israeli and Palestinian leaderships during the Oslo Accords and eliminate the possibility of a two-state solution, disregarding Israel's right to exist and claiming that Zionists are racist and evil.⁸
- Children in UNRWA schools learn that Jews are wolves that must be eliminated "by missiles."⁹

⁴ The Times of Israel. *Rockets found in UNRWA School, for Third Time*. July 30, 2014

⁵ International Committee of the Red Cross. *Rule 97. Human Shields*

⁶ Ibid

⁷ Forbes, *Gaza Bedfellows UNRWA and Hamas*. January 8, 2009.

⁸ The New York Times. *To Shape Young Palestinians, Hamas Creates Its Own Textbooks*. November 3, 2013

⁹ Youtube. *i24 News EN. 12/20: Controversy about Palestinian School Curriculum*. December 21, 2015