



UNRWA

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Saudi Arabia Contributes \$1.2 million to UNRWA

Amman- The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has today handed over to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) a contribution of \$1.2 million towards the Agency's regular budget for 2006.

In a ceremony held this morning at the Saudi Embassy in Amman, Commissioner-General of UNRWA, Karen Koning AbuZayd, received the donation from the Saudi Ambassador in Amman, H. E Mr. Abdul Rahman Naser Al-Ohaly.

In addition to regular annual contributions, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has over the last decade contributed generously to Agency projects - particularly under the Saudi Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People, through which UNRWA received more than \$60 million in funding for projects in the occupied Palestinian territory. This amount included a grant of \$20 million made last year by the Saudi Fund for Development in response to the Agency's Emergency Appeal to construct new shelters for over 800 homeless refugee families in Rafah.

AbuZayd expressed her deep appreciation for the continued generous support given to UNRWA by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. "Saudi support sets an example that we hope other governments in the region will follow, so UNRWA can overcome the difficult financial situation it is now facing. It is critical that we continue to carry out our mission in serving more than four million Palestine refugees in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, West Bank and Gaza Strip".

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