
IN WORLD HUMANITARIAN DAY EVENT, MOHAMMED ASSAF CALLS FOR SUPPORT FOR HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATIONS WORKING TO PROTECT REFUGEES

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UNRWA Goodwill Ambassador Mhammad Assaf participated as a special guest at the World Humanitarian Day (WHD) event in New York City on Friday. In his speech to the attendees – which was translated by renowned television actor Yasmine al-Massri, the daughter of a Palestinian refugee – he urged attendees and the broader international community to take action towards ending the violence in Syria and support humanitarian organizations working to support refugees and displaced peoples. On 19 August every year, World Humanitarian Day commemorates the humanitarian workers who risk their lives on the front line and aims to mobilize people to advocate for humanitarian action.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

UNRWA is confronted with an increased demand for services resulting from a growth in the number of registered Palestine refugees, the extent of their vulnerability and their deepening poverty. UNRWA is funded almost entirely by voluntary contributions and financial support has been outpaced by the growth in needs. As a result, the UNRWA Programme Budget, which supports the delivery of core essential services, operates with a large shortfall, projected for 2016 to stand at US\$ 96.5 million. UNRWA encourages all Member States to work collectively to exert all possible efforts to fully fund the Agency's Programme Budget. UNRWA emergency programmes and key projects, also operating with large shortfalls, are funded through separate funding portals.

UNRWA is a United Nations agency established by the General Assembly in 1949 and mandated to provide assistance and protection to some 5 million registered Palestine refugees. Its mission is to help Palestine refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, West Bank and the Gaza Strip achieve their full human development potential, pending a just and lasting solution to their plight. UNRWA services encompass education, health care, relief and social services, camp infrastructure and improvement, protection and microfinance.

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