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the un agency for
palestine refugees

وكالة الأمم المتحدة
لللاجئين الفلسطينيين

UNRWA's Summer Games 2011

School's Out! Now What?

Children make up the majority of the 1.5 million people in Gaza. For these children, life is overwhelmingly characterised by conflict, poverty and despair. Throughout the school year, refugee children in UNRWA schools spend their days in overcrowded classrooms. Outside of school, years of destruction and deprivation have left few or no spaces in which children can participate in recreational or artistic activities, particularly during the long, hot, summer months.



Making Summer Fun

Now in its fifth year, Summer Games 2011 will give 250,000 children in Gaza an experience typical for most children on summer holiday – a safe place for playing, making friends, learning and expressing themselves freely. UNRWA is building on lessons learned over the past four years and on feedback from children, parents and resident educators to provide experiences that will create lasting benefit and happy memories. Summer Games is a key pillar in UNRWA's human development programming in Gaza, promoting human rights and gender equality through action on the ground. Through art, theatre, sports, beach games, music and dance, the children will participate in camps across the Gaza Strip at almost 300 locations, in schools, on beaches and in orphanages and hospitals.

Ready, Set, Go!

Children from each of Gaza's five governorates will kick off the 2011 Summer Games in a torch relay on June 15. The activities will continue for six weeks with each child attending two weeks of activities, including two days at the beach. Each of the three camp cycles will end with festivals and an attempt to break a Guinness World Record. In 2009 and again in 2010, the children broke Guinness World Records, one the first year and two records last year. Not content with this success, the children aim to break four world records in 2011.

Schedule of Events

Olympic Style Torch Relay - Kickoff to Summer Games	15 June
Cycle One Start	18 June
World Record Attempt #1 - Parachute Games	30 June
Cycle Two Start	2 July
World Record Attempt #2 - Most Football Dribblers	14 July
Cycle Three Start	16 July
World Record Attempt #3 - Largest Handprint Painting	21 July
World Record Attempt #4 - Most Kites Flyers	28 July

Fun Facts

4 – World Record Attempts
290 – Swimming Pools
302 – Fun Locations
8,000 – Jobs for Graduates
60,000 – Handmade Kites
250,000 - Happy Children
3 million – Tasty Snacks

2011 Guinness World Record Attempts

Attempt	Aim	Current Record
Most playing parachute games	3,500 children	1,547
Most dribbling a football	2,024 children	none
Largest handprint painting	5,400 m ²	4,355.85 m ²
Most flying kites simultaneously	9,000 children	UNRWA, 6,198

Stay Connected

Follow Summer Games activities on Facebook or www.unrwa.org/summergames. We will be posting photos each day and stories each week.



2011 Gaza Summer Games Schedule of Events

15 June, The Festivities Begin, Olympic Style!

A torch relay involving five teams of children from each of Gaza's governorates will kick off the 2011 Summer Games on 15 June.

Each team will start from a beach location in their area, running with a torch along a course that will end in Gaza City. Some 57 children, all of whom were participants in the first-ever Gaza marathon, will run in the relay covering a distance of either 1 or 2 kilometres. A blend of elementary and preparatory age students, boys and girls will participate.

Local sports figures have been invited to light and hand off each of the five torches to the starting runners. Nader El Masri, the winner of the Gaza marathon and a 2012 Olympic marathon hopeful, will be among those.

Olympic Style Torch Relay and Opening Ceremony

Area, Beach Location	Distance	Start Time	Participating
Rafah, Beach	34 Km	3:00 pm	24
Khan Younis, Qarara	22 Km	4:20 pm	15
Middle, Nusierat Beach	11 Km	5:35 pm	8
North, El Waha Beach	9 Km	5:50 pm	7
Gaza, Beach	3 Km	6:30 pm	3
Opening Ceremony, UNRWA Field Office		7:00 pm	

The torch relay will conclude at about 7:00 pm at the UNRWA field office where relay participants will mark the official opening of the 2011 Summer Games by lighting the main Summer Games torch together with Nader El Masri, the winner of the Gaza marathon and a 2012 Olympic hopeful. A balloon release, music and dance performances are planned. Christer Nordahl, Acting Director of Gaza Operations, will officially open the Games.

Building a Torch, Gaza Style

Creating a torch for the Gaza Summer Games, something portable and safe enough to be held by the many children in the relay, is no easy feat. Jamal Diab, the blacksmith who created the torches, had to design and fashion prototypes using recycled household items. His first design weighed 1 kilo, 850 grams. "I wanted to create something light and safe while also having a flame that would last and be visible to spectators. I liked the gas torch and realized that stainless steel would make a lighter torch that would stay cool to the touch," said Diab. The final design consists of a stainless steel bowl, cup and chair leg, weighing 1 kilo, 150 grams. Diab built 7 torches – 1 for each of the relay teams, plus two spares.

18 June, Summer Games Start

The Summer Games lasts for six weeks - three, two week cycles. Each child attends for one cycle of activities. Each cycle ends with a festival and the children attempting to set a Guinness World Record. In 2009 and again in 2010, the children broke Guinness World Records, one the first year and two records last year. Not content with this success, the children aim to break four World Records in 2011.

30 June, With Feet Firmly Planted – Most People Playing Parachute

They won't be falling from the sky but 3,500 of Gaza's school children are expected to break a Guinness World Record playing parachute games at the Khan Younis Stadium on June 30. The children will gather at about 5:00 pm to celebrate their final day of Summer Games with their heads in the clouds but their feet on the ground. They will play games with 175 multi-colored parachutes. The current record was set by school students at Plymstock School,



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Plymouth, UK when 1,547 children played with 58 parachutes. Each parachute will be carried by 20 children. The stadium will be divided into 5 specific areas while each area will be split into squares, one square per parachute. Each square will be supervised by one Palestinian Summer Games staffer, called an Animator. International witnesses will be on hand to count, including two judges who will be in charge of signing the official statement for the Guinness organization.

14 July, KICK IT: Gaza's Children to Establish a New Record – Most People Dribbling Footballs

Estimates are for 2,024 children to take part in this World Record event. Scheduled to start at 5:00 pm at Kherbit El-Addas in Rafah, the stadium field will be divided into 46 squares; each square will host 44 children. The main objective is for each child to dribble the ball back and forth around three cones over a period of five minutes. 46 national and eight international witnesses, including two judges, will be on hand to monitor the record attempt.

21 July, The Best in the World, Hands Down - Creating the Largest Handprint Painting

A group of special needs children will create the largest handprint painting, attempting to break a record set in 2010 by the Lebanese Red Cross in Beirut. The painted canvas is projected to measure 5,400 square meters while the current record stands at 4,355 m². Around 6,000 children will take part in this attempt. Thirty-five community based organizations (CBO) active in Gaza civil society will assist with the attempt. Each CBO will receive one or two pieces of fabric and children will use paint to print their hands on it. All pieces will be collected and sewed into one large banner which will be held by children during the ceremony at the stadium. Four international witnesses, including two judges and five Palestinian referees will be present to monitor.

28 July, The Sky is the Limit - Set to Break their own Kite Flying Record, Again

For the third year, Gaza's children will gather to break the world's kite flying record. In 2009, 3,710 children participated in this World Record and in 2010, 6,198 children participated. This year 9,000 children plan to participate in the latest kite-flying goal. The beach will be divided into 200 sectors supervised by Summer Games Animators. A total of 200 national witnesses are required, 17 international referees and two judges. The objective is to fly the highest number of kites during a 30 second period.

2011 Guinness World Record Attempts

Attempt	Specifics	Current Record	Venue	Date
Most playing parachute games	3,500 children	1,547	Khan Younis Stadium	30 June
Most dribbling a football	2,024 children	none	Kherbit El-Addas (Rafah)	14 July
Largest handprint painting	5,400 m ²	4,355.85 m ²	Palestine Stadium, Gaza	21 July
Most flying kites simultaneously	9,000 children	UNRWA, 6,198	Beach, El-Waha (North)	28 July

For more information please contact:

Adnan Abu Hasna
UNRWA Media Advisor, Gaza
Mobile: +97(0)59 942 8061
Office: +97(0)8 288 7531
a.abu-hasna@unrwa.org

Christopher Gunness
UNRWA Spokesperson
Mobile: +972 (0)54 240 2659
Office: +972 (0)2 589 0267
c.gunness@unrwa.org

Sami Mshasha
UNRWA Arabic Spokesperson
Mobile: +972 (0)54 216 8295
Office: +972 (0)2 589 0724
s.mshasha@unrwa.org

Please note: Dates, details could change. Follow Summer Games on Facebook or www.unrwa.org/summergames