



## UNRWA Funding Freeze Amid Gaza Conflict

The US and eight other Western countries, which are major contributors to the [United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East \(UNRWA's\)](#) 2022 budget, have decided to pause funding for the agency.

- UNRWA was established in **1949** to provide aid to [Palestinians](#) who were displaced during the 1948 **Arab-Israeli war**.
- It operates in [Gaza](#), **Israeli-occupied West Bank, Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan**, offering education, health, relief, social services, microfinance, and emergency assistance programs.
  - The agency currently serves around **5.9 million Palestinian refugees** and plays a vital role in providing essential services to Palestinians in Gaza.
- The halt of funding is the result of Israel accusing UNRWA staff of involvement in an [attack on Israel on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2023](#) and has alleged that  [Hamas](#) uses UNRWA facilities for military purposes and teaches anti-Israel sentiment in its schools.

**Read more:** [United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East](#)

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