

United Palestinian Appeal

Summer 2003



A mother and son sit by the ruins of their home in the Jenin refugee camp.

UPA Programs Bring Hope to Palestinians

Aid for the Poor and Unemployed

United Palestinian Appeal is marking its twenty-fifth anniversary with a campaign to raise \$250,000 on behalf of poor and unemployed Palestinians by the end of the fall. The aim is to increase our

"The number of the poor has tripled from 637,000 in September 2000 to nearly two million today."

aid to the West Bank and Gaza at a time of critical need among Palestinians. Our programs support the renovation of schools, provide scholarships to low-income students, encourage sustainable income-generating businesses, give unemployed workers a chance to earn a decent wage and feed their families, provide poor children with more nutritious diets, and support the vital health and emergency services of hospitals and clinics across the West Bank and Gaza.

These services are needed now more than ever. The current crisis has sent the Palestinian economy into a tailspin. According to a recent World Bank report, 60 percent of the population of the West Bank and Gaza now lives under a poverty line of \$2 per day. The number of the poor has tripled from 637,000 in September 2000 to nearly two million today. Over half a million Palestinians are now dependent on food aid. Per capita food consumption has declined

by 30 percent in the past two years. A Care International study found that over one fifth of Palestinian children under the age of five are now suffering from either acute or chronic malnutrition.

In this newsletter, we review our current programs in food aid, job creation, health care, education, and community development and discuss how these programs are helping Palestinians recover from the military siege and economic collapse of the past year. To encourage you to help us reach our fund-raising

goal, we invite you to indicate in the enclosed envelope the program area towards which you would like to see your donation go.

Food Drive and Job Creation

UPA Delivers Where the Need Is Greatest

In response to the ongoing crisis, UPA is supporting programs that are creating jobs for unemployed workers and bringing emergency food aid to hungry children.

In our last campaign UPA launched a food drive to help poor families in areas of the West Bank and Gaza especially hard hit by unemployment. The positive response to this campaign shows the generosity, humanity, and commitment of our donors to help Palestinians persevere through this terrible crisis. The campaign



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will deliver food packages to needy families in each target area while boosting the local economy by stimulating consumer demand. If you would like your contribution to support our food drive, please check the appropriate box in the enclosed envelope. To read more about the campaign, please visit our Web site at

www.helpupa.com.

As a result of closures, unemployment in the Palestinian Territories is at over 60 percent. To make up for lost wages, Palestinians have been borrowing money and selling assets at a record rate. But now even these resources are drying

up. Putting workers to work is essential to combating rising poverty rates and ending malnutrition among children. UPA is now implementing a \$2.7 million USAID-funded job creation program in the West Bank and Gaza in cooperation with the Welfare Association in East Jerusalem. The program has a dual aim: it provides immediate income to unemployed workers in poor areas of the West Bank and Gaza, while investing in long-term development through job training and the renovation and construction of buildings, roads, and parks.

The program is spending over sixty percent of its budget directly on wages for workers. Moreover, it is hiring the poorest and most chronically underemployed workers in the labor market. Many projects will build or renovate community centers, hospitals, playgrounds, youth and women's centers, kindergartens, and schools. Other projects will train unemployed youth in computer skills, construct income-generating stores, improve sports grounds, and clear land for public parks and gardens.

This program is bringing renewed hope to unemployed workers and their families. Together with the food drive, it constitutes a major relief effort on behalf of Palestinians caught in the current crisis. ■

UPA's Program Services

Providing Immediate Relief and Long-Term Investment

The political crisis in the Occupied Territories has meant military occupation, large numbers of wounded, destruction of houses and shops, prolonged closures, shortages of basic food and medical supplies, and high unemployment. During times of crisis, UPA gives funding priority to program services that address the most urgent needs of Palestinians. At the same time, we aim to invest in projects that contribute to the long-term development of Palestinian society. Each year our funding strategies seek to strike a balance between these competing but ultimately complementary goals.

Health and Emergency Services

In health care, UPA helps meet the immediate need for emergency medical supplies and services while also making long-term investments in the basic health care infrastructure. Over 2,300 Palestinians have been killed in al-Aqsa Intifada and over 20,000 injured. The conflict has placed a severe strain on an already overburdened health care system. In view of this situation, UPA is currently concentrating its funding in the area of emergency relief and supplies. We have awarded grants from our emergency fund to many established hospitals and clinics that are on the front lines in treating the wounded such as al-Awda Hospital in Gaza, al-Makassed Hospital in Jerusalem, and the Union of Palestinian Medical Relief Committees.

Meanwhile, we are making long-term investments in health care by helping hospitals and clinics to purchase or upgrade basic diagnostic and surgical equipment. Further, we are funding primary health clinics and public health education programs. Last year we gave the Patient's Friends Society in Tulkarem funds towards the purchase of a fluoroscopy/radiogra-



Workers build a community center as part of a UPA-Welfare Association project in Gaza.

"Our job creation program is a major relief effort on behalf of Palestinians caught in the current crisis."

phy x-ray unit, and we helped the Patient's Friends Society in Jerusalem continue their pioneering program providing health education and cancer and bone screening to women in the Jerusalem area.

Education

In our education programs, we are committed to providing talented Palestinian young people from low-income families with the opportunity to reach educational goals that would otherwise be beyond their grasp. Last year, we supported the Hope Fund Corporation's program to offer university scholarships to six deserving refugee students from the West Bank, Gaza, and Lebanon. And we expanded our scholarship program, which now helps over 100 disadvantaged Palestinian students to attend West Bank and Gaza universities. Many of those who received financial assistance are studying in technical fields whose skills can contribute to the long-term development of the Palestinian economy.

In addition to providing scholarships, we are continuing our long-standing commitment to helping modernize the educational resources and infrastructure available to Palestinians. To this end, we awarded a grant to the Zafer Masri Foundation in Nablus for its community education facility, the Educational Mall, and another to the Rawdat al-Zuhur elementary school in East Jerusalem.

Community Development

UPA's community development programs invest in the infrastructure of civil society and in sustainable economic growth. UPA is currently funding an innovative bee-breeding project in Hebron designed to train women farmers to run small honey-producing businesses from their homes. Women were

chosen from families whose main breadwinners have been laid off. Bee-breeding will give these families an extra source of income to help compensate for lost or inadequate wages.

We are also supporting the renovation of a kindergarten in the Jabalia refugee camp in Gaza and a program at the al-Amal Society for Children Care to provide physical and eye exams to 1,800 children aged 3-5 from twenty kindergartens in Khan Younis. The program has identified over 150 children with eyesight and hearing problems and provided them with free glasses and hearing aids (see the photo below).



A child in UPA's child sponsorship program

"UPA's program services address both the immediate and long-term needs of Palestinian society."

Child Sponsorship

UPA is continuing to expand its child sponsorship program. The program now has over 600 adult sponsors who correspond with and help support poor children throughout the West Bank and Gaza. The program grew

over the course of last year by over 100 new sponsors. Children in poor circumstances use their sponsorship donations to purchase food, clothing, school supplies, medicine, and other basic necessities that would otherwise be unaffordable. ■



As part of a UPA-funded primary health care program, these children received glasses at the al-Amal Society for Children Care in Khan Younis.

A Special Gift for a Special Occasion

Honor your Loved Ones with a Gift on behalf of Palestinians in Need

On the occasion of UPA's twenty-fifth anniversary, we would like to invite our donors to participate in a new donor program designed to give your act of generosity an even more special meaning. To mark the special occasions of family members, friends, or loved ones, you can give a donation to UPA in their name. We will record the information that you provide us with about the special occasions and the persons to be honored. Then, on the appropriate date, we will mail them a card describing the gift being given on their behalf and wishing them the best on their special occasion. As an expression of our thanks, we will include a complimentary cloth bookmark embroidered by Palestinian women living in refugee camps in Jordan, Lebanon, and Palestine. The card itself will



feature scenic photos of Palestine.

As we stated, UPA's current campaign is a response to the terrible economic collapse and poverty Palestinians are now experiencing. If you wish to contribute, we would like to invite you to check off the box in the enclosed envelope that indicates which program area you wish to donate to. UPA will designate your donation as being for our program services in that area.

Please help us meet our goal and continue the worthy programs we have described above. As always, we would like to express our sincerest gratitude to you for your generosity towards Palestinians in need. ■

Please help support our mission by contributing using the envelope enclosed for your convenience.

1. Become a "Monthly Pledger" and sign up to contribute a designated amount each month.
2. Make a gift to UPA through the Combined Federal Campaign. UPA is listed as #1451.
3. Remember UPA in your will or estate.
4. Make a tax-wise gift by donating appreciated securities or real estate.
5. Make a donation in remembrance of a loved one.



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