



United Palestinian Appeal, Inc., is a non-profit and non-political tax-exempt American charity based in Washington, DC. Established in 1978, UPA is dedicated to alleviating the suffering of Palestinian people, particularly those living in the West Bank and Gaza. UPA is recognized by the US Agency for International Development as a private and voluntary organization (PVO) involved in foreign aid. UPA is a member of the Independent Charities of America (ICA) and a participating agency of the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC).



Ways to Support UPA:

- Contribute directly to UPA by mailing a check (address below)
- Contribute online using a credit card - www.helpupa.com
- Refer friends, relatives, and co-workers to the UPA website
- Become a “monthly pledger” to UPA
- Hold a fundraising activity for UPA. Call us and we will be happy to work with you in your area.
- Invite us to do a presentation about the situation in Palestine and what UPA is doing to support Palestinians
- Volunteer by calling or emailing UPA - contact@helpupa.com
- Contribute to UPA through the Combined Federal Campaign (UPA is listed as #1451)
- Contribute through the United Way naming UPA as a special contribution
- Remember UPA in your will or estate
- Remember a loved one by making a contribution to UPA in their honor or memory

FACTS: obtained from “Administrative Data: UNESCO Institute for Statistics”, January 2008.

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COMPOSITION

Leila

How I Learned My

A B C_s

In Palestine

United Palestinian Appeal

Leila is a composite of the students with whom UPA works throughout the West Bank and Gaza. Her story is typical and illustrative of what Palestinians must go through every day in order to receive an education. Let's follow her story.

My first day of kindergarten I had to climb over rubble blocking the only street that leads to my school.

I didn't have a pretty pink backpack full of pencils, pens, and paper like everyone else because my father lost his job.

I couldn't concentrate on my studies because the water was turned off and bathroom was closed.



For a society under occupation which is involved in the transition to an independent nation, higher education . . . is essential as a forum for critical thinking, technical expertise and community leadership.

Dr. Hanna Nasir, Founding President
Birzeit University
(exiled to Lebanon for 19 years)

UPA has helped Leila and her classmates by . . .

helping them to fulfill their dreams of higher education by providing scholarships to **482** under-graduate and graduate students at eleven universities in the West Bank and Gaza – totaling over **\$384,000.00**, during the past 3 years alone.



We celebrate their success – but we need to do more!

My first day of college, I had to get into the queue of the large Israeli checkpoint on the other side of the village - long before sunrise because it gets very crowded there and we never know when the soldiers will let us pass.

I had to walk 2 extra miles along the Separation Barrier to get to school, because I couldn't afford a taxi.

I was looking forward to my first college-level chemistry class, but that day I was not sure whether the Israelis had closed down the school. Even worse, my friend Amal, from Gaza, told me her high school was demolished during the Israeli invasion.

I was worried and preoccupied with where I could get the rest of the money for my tuition and textbooks.

I couldn't afford both breakfast and lunch every day, so I decided to skip lunch - and found myself not being able to concentrate on the lectures.



UPA has helped Leila and her schoolmates by . . .

- Shipping backpacks and clothing for **700 kindergarteners** in Gaza.
- Funding the construction of **2 classrooms** and **expanding** teaching spaces at a primary school in the West Bank.
- Funding **major renovations** and **purchasing a generator** for a school and funding the rehabilitation of **3 kindergartens** in Jerusalem.
- Funding the **remodeling** of school bathrooms in Ramallah.

FACT:

Despite many challenges, Palestinians living under the Israeli military occupation have one of the highest Literacy Rates in the world at 94.8%.

But the challenges are increasing.

My first day of high school I had to wake up before sunrise to make sure I got through the Israeli checkpoint in time for my first class.

I had to share the science textbook with 2 other students and nobody in my class received a math textbook.

My dream is to be a doctor, but my science lab didn't have all the materials for experiments to prepare me for my studies in college.



FACTS:

Despite many challenges to their ability to move within their own territories, Palestinian students continue to maintain high standards.

Their school enrollment rate is 94%; their average daily attendance rate is 92%; their primary and secondary completion rates both hover around 90%; and the average number of years a Palestinian student stays in school is 10.8 years.

UPA has helped Leila and her classmates by . . .

- Supporting K-12 education through the **Child Sponsorship Program**. During the past 3 years alone, working through a variety of partners, **611 students** in the West Bank and Gaza have received assistance for tuition, textbooks, educational supplies, medical care, transportation, and clothing – totaling over **\$407,000.00**.
- Sending over **\$600,000.00** worth of **textbooks** to schools and universities in the West Bank.

But the needs are increasing.