



Shining Light into Darkness

Emergency Food for Gaza

Zakat
Individual Giving
2018 Report

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In 2018, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) launched a Zakat initiative aimed at providing food and cash assistance to extremely vulnerable Palestine refugees.



\$287,937
in Zakat funding
in 2018

Over two million Palestine refugees live in poverty and **1.7 million rely on cash and food assistance** from UNRWA to meet their most basic needs.



7,577
Emergency baskets
delivered in Gaza

In the Gaza Strip, over 68% of households, or about 1.3 million people, are severely or moderately food insecure. **Over one million people are dependent on emergency food assistance**, a tenfold increase from 2000.



In the inaugural year of the Agency's Zakat initiative, over \$287,000 USD was raised from individuals. The funding allowed UNRWA to provide food baskets to **over 7,500 families impacting over 45,000 people in Gaza**.

45,462
Palestine refugees
provided with food



united nations relief and works agency
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Zakat in Action

In one of the darkest years for UNRWA, with the loss of funding from our largest government donor, funds raised from Zakat were a beacon of light for Palestine refugees.

Zakat funding supported food assistance in Gaza, ensuring families struggling with poverty had food on their tables. UNRWA provides food assistance on a quarterly basis. Palestine refugee families eligible for food assistance include households that live below US\$ 3.87 per person per day (absolute poverty) and US\$ 1.47 per person per day (abject poverty). Food baskets contain wheat flour, rice, sunflower oil, sugar, dried milk, lentils and chickpeas.



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"I hope to have a permanent job and live in dignity", states Mohammed. Mohammed is a day laborer in Gaza. When he is lucky, he finds work for the day. All too often, he does not find work for more than a week. Mohammed and his family rely on UNRWA food assistance as the main source of food for their family. Despite the family's dire circumstances, Mohammed has big dreams for his only son, 9-month-old Jawad, "I want my son to receive the best education so that he grows up to help other people."

2019 Zakat Appeal

The 2019 Zakat appeal focuses on providing food assistance to more than one million destitute refugees in Gaza and providing a social safety net to over 250,000 abject poor refugees unable to meet their basic food needs.

To learn more about our Zakat Appeal visit us at donate.unrwa.org/zakat.



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The National Zakat Foundation Worldwide certified UNRWA's food and cash assistance programme as Zakat eligible. In order to be Zakat eligible, an organization or programme must confirm that beneficiaries of Zakat meet specific eligibility criteria of being "poor and needy."

UNRWA has also obtained a fatwa from Sheikh Al-Azhar and Imam of Al-Aqsa Grand Mosque supporting the eligibility of Palestine refugees for Zakat funds.

All Zakat donations to UNRWA are segregated into a sub-account specifically earmarked to food and cash assistance and are distributed within the lunar year of the donation.



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UNRWA is a United Nations agency established by the General Assembly in 1949 and mandated to provide assistance and protection to some 5.4 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.