

## **Belgium contributes EUR 1.5 million to Palestine refugees in Syria**



**Belgium has made a contribution of 1.5 million euro to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in support of the Agency's efforts to respond to the emergency needs of Palestine refugees in Syria through the provision of cash assistance to conflict-affected households.**

The conflict in Syria, now in its fifth year, continues to have a devastating impact on civilians, including Palestine refugees. It is estimated that 450,000 Palestine refugees are still living in Syria, with more than 95 per cent reliant on UNRWA to meet their minimum basic needs. More than 50 per cent have been displaced at least once, either internally or to neighboring countries and abroad.

A critical element of the Agency's emergency response in Syria, cash assistance provides Palestine refugees with the flexibility to address their changing and most urgent needs. In a recent evaluation by UNRWA, recipients voted cash assistance as the most useful form of humanitarian support, with most recipients indicating that they spend the majority of their cash assistance (71 per cent) on food and rent.

Belgium is a major UNRWA partner and has been a member of the UNRWA Advisory Commission since 1953. Since 2007, Belgium has contributed over US\$ 89 million to support the Agency's core programs and services, as well as its emergency programs in Syria and Gaza.

*Source: UNRWA*

*Photo: © UNRWA*