



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

► **What does UNRWA want to achieve with this conference?**

Young people comprise nearly half of the Palestine refugee population in the Middle East. For the first time in its history, and based on its own experiences with Palestine refugees, UNRWA wants to conduct a reflection on young refugees, and on its own actual and potential contributions to helping them address their challenges, and build a better future.

UNRWA works with youth in all its core programmes (link to <http://www.unrwa.org/etemplate.php?id=18>). Through the provision of education, vocational training, health, microfinance, infrastructure, camp improvement, relief and social services, the Agency plays a significant role in facilitating the transition from childhood to adulthood. UNRWA schools prepare half a million children across the region for entry into adulthood, family life and employment. A series of projects, including the Engaging Youth Project in Syria and co-operation with UNICEF, particularly address young Palestine refugees.

Youth are bringing changes to UNRWA's operational environment. With this conference UNRWA aims to engage in an open discussion with partners on the issue of Palestine refugee youth in order to strengthen UNRWA's strategic focus and programming related to youth. To that aim, the conference will focus on such issues as investing in participatory processes, human capital, modernizing education, and introducing a more meaningful and effective approach to poverty alleviation.

► **Is this conference open to the public or by invitation only?**

UNRWA aims at engaging with its key partners and supporters in a dialogue on Palestine refugee youth. Attendance to this conference is therefore by invitation only, but discussions and debates will be broadcast live and made available after the event via UNRWA's website (www.unrwa.org) and the conference website (www.engagingyouth.eu).

► **What is UNRWA's definition of youth?**

The United Nations, for statistical purposes, defines youth as persons between 15 and 24 years of age. It further acknowledges that age bands may vary across countries or regions due to socio-cultural, institutional, political, legal and economic considerations. Accordingly, youth is a social construct which is best understood as the period when an individual leaves childhood behind and gradually takes on a series of adult roles and responsibilities. UNRWA, like other institutions, has adopted the age range of 15 – 29, mainly to better reflect the challenging period of employment, and to provide a more appropriate framework for the Agency's programmatic and policy responses.

▶ **Will youth be represented at the conference?**

Some 30 Palestine refugee youth from Gaza, West Bank, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan will come to Brussels. They will participate in all panel sessions, and bloggers will be present at the event to engage with a young audience throughout the conference. Furthermore, key European youth groups and organizations are also invited.

▶ **Does UNRWA want to expand its activities in the area of youth? How will this conference affect UNRWA programmes?**

UNRWA seeks to sharpen the focus and strengthen the impact of its current interventions. A strategic debate on issues specifically related to Palestine refugee youth will help the Agency to align its current reform objectives with a more explicit and strategic approach to youth.

▶ **Does this event replace the Host and Donors Meeting (HDM)?**

The event does not replace the HDM. However, as UNRWA cannot hold two large-scale events within a short time frame, the HDM has been postponed. Our hope for this conference is to use the fundamental idea of the HDM to have broader consultations, with the key difference being that the discussion in this case would focus on refugee youth.

▶ **Is this a fundraising event?**

This conference is not a fundraising event. It is expected that the conference will support the Agency's efforts to formulate a more strategic approach towards youth.

▶ **Will the focus be more political or developmental?**

The conference will address the issue of Palestine refugee youth within the framework of UNRWA's mandate, which is non-political. UNRWA does not seek to engage its partners in a political discussion on the refugee question.

▶ **Who is funding this event?**

The event has been made possible thanks to the support of the European Union and the Government of the Kingdom of Belgium.

▶ **Why is the event taking place in Brussels rather than in the region?**

UNRWA aims at high-level attendance from capitals for which Brussels is very convenient.

It is also an acknowledgement of the importance of the support the EU and its Member States provide to UNRWA.

▶ **When and where is the event taking place? How do I get to the venue?**

The event will take place at the Egmont Palace in Brussels on 19 and 20 March 2012 (see <http://www.engagingyouth.eu/programme.php>). The nearest metro station is Louise / Louiza or Porte de Namur / Naamsepoort.

Please click here (<http://www.engagingyouth.eu/practinfo.php>) for information regarding transportation in Brussels.

▶ **Does UNRWA provide transportation?**

UNRWA does not provide transportation from abroad to Brussels or within Brussels. The nearest metro station to the Egmont Palace is Louise / Louiza or Porte de Namur / Naamsepoort. Please click here (<http://www.engagingyouth.eu/practinfo.php>) for information regarding transportation in Brussels.

▶ **Does UNRWA provide accommodation? Is there a specific hotel that you can recommend?**

UNRWA does not provide for hotel accommodation in Brussels. Please click here (<http://www.engagingyouth.eu/practinfo.php>) for information on hotels and booking. As there is constant pressure for accommodation in Brussels, delegations are requested to make reservations as soon as possible. We advise you to make your hotel booking by Thursday 1 March 2012 at the latest, as we cannot guarantee hotel accommodation thereafter. In order to book your accommodation with preferential rates, you need to first register on the conference website.

▶ **Where do I park my car?**

Three public parking spaces involving a fee are located near the venue.

1) **Parking deux portes** - 2A, Boulevard de Waterloo, 1000 Brussels
(<http://www.interparking.com/Public/ParkingDetails.aspx?parkingId=682>)

2) **Parking Toison d'Or** – 20, Avenue de la Toison d'Or, 1000 Brussels
(<http://www.interparking.com/Public/ParkingDetails.aspx?parkingId=2086>)

3) **Parking Sablon/Poelaert** -Place Poelaert, 1000 Brussels
(<http://www.interparking.com/Public/ParkingDetails.aspx?parkingId=683>)

If you have queries, please contact us on info@engagingyouth.eu.

▶ **I am not invited. Can I attend the conference?**

Attendance to this conference is by invitation only. If you are not invited but would like to attend, please contact registration@engagingyouth.eu.

▶ **I am invited but cannot attend the conference. How can my delegated colleague register ?**

Please contact registration@engagingyouth.eu.

▶ **How can I register for the conference? Is there a deadline? Can I register on-site in Brussels?**

For security reasons, all participants without any exceptions are requested to register online (<http://www.engagingyouth.eu/registration.php>). It will not be possible to register on-site in Brussels for security reasons. Deadline for registration is Thursday 8 March 2012. If there are any problems with registration please contact us on registration@engagingyouth.eu.

▶ **Which keynote speakers have confirmed participation?**

Please consult the programme on <http://www.engagingyouth.eu/programme.php>.

▶ **What level of attendance are you expecting? When and where can I find the list of participants?**

UNRWA has invited high-level government officials as well as representatives from UN agencies, NGOs, the private sector and academia to ensure the diversity of views on Palestine youth refugee issues. We expect up to 300 participants. The list of registered participants will be uploaded on this website a few days before the event.

▶ **Can I request a speaking slot?**

We do not foresee speaking slots other than keynote statements (see <http://www.engagingyouth.eu/programme.php>). We welcome therefore active participation in the Q&A part following each high-level panel.

▶ **Will there be question and answer sessions as part of the panel discussions?**

We have planned for and look forward to an engaging Q&A session following each panel.

▶ **Will all presentation be on the record or do “Chatham House Rules” apply?**

Presentations will be on record. Whereas the conference is organized by invitation only, UNRWA believes that the discussions and deliberations will provide very insightful and relevant material for future use, which should be available publicly.

▶ **How do I get a letter of invitation for my visa?**

Letters of invitation for visa purposes can be provided upon request. Please contact us on registration@engagingyouth.eu.

▶ **Does UNRWA provide logistical or financial support to delegations?**

No. UNRWA cannot provide logistical or financial support to delegations other than recommendations on hotels and transportation (link <http://www.engagingyouth.eu/registration.php>).

▶ **Is there an UNRWA focal point in Brussels that I can get in touch with?**

For general information regarding the conference, please contact info@engagingyouth.eu. For information regarding the conference registration, please contact registration@engagingyouth.eu. You can also call us at +32 (0)52 65 00 24.

▶ **Whom do I contact in order to reserve a room at the venue for a separate meeting?**

Until further notice, please direct your queries to info@engagingyouth.eu. Please include the term “side meeting” in the subject line of your message.

▶ **When will I receive my delegate pack and name badge?**

An electronic version of the conference pack will be available on the event website in advance of the Conference. Registered participants will receive the hard copy conference pack and the badge (ID required) at the Welcome Desk, at the **Egmont Palace**-Place du Petit Sablon/ Kleine Zavel 8 (Bis), open on Monday, 19 March from 13:00 to 19:00, and on Tuesday, 20 March, from 08:30 to 16:00.

In addition, there will be a conference welcome desk at THE HOTEL BRUSSELS (former Hilton-Boulevard de Waterloo 38, 1000 Brussels) where registered participants can pick up their badge (ID required). It will be open on Friday, 16 March from 12:00 to 17:00, and on Sunday, 18 March, from 14:00 to 18:00.

▶ **I would like a copy of the publications and speakers' presentations from the conference. Whom do I contact?**

The publications and speakers' presentations will be published online under <http://www.engagingyouth.eu/documentation.php>.

▶ **Do I need to pay to attend the conference?**

There is no fee to attend the conference. Please note that UNRWA does not provide financial support for accommodation and transportation.

▶ **What should I wear?**

There is no dress code for the conference, however we recommend business attire.

▶ **How is security assured for this event?**

The conference is organized at a venue under custody of the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. UNRWA follows the Ministry's security protocol.

▶ **Is there a VIP access to the venue?**

There will be a VIP access to the venue. VIPs will be contacted individually in order to ensure timely coordination. If you have any queries, please send them to info@engagingyouth.eu.