



**Government  
of Flanders**



## **PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**

between

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)

and

The Government of Flanders (Belgium)

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, an autonomous subsidiary organ of the United Nations, established by General Assembly Resolution 302(IV) of 8 December 1949, Bayader Wadi Seer, PO Box 140157, Amman 11814, Jordan (hereinafter referred to as "UNRWA") and the Government of Flanders (hereinafter referred to as "Flanders"):

- i. taking into account the authority of Flanders to, as a Community and a Region within the Kingdom of Belgium, develop international relations in the field of its internal competences, amongst which numerous aspects of economic and social development, by virtue of article 167 of the Belgian Constitution;
- ii. sharing, in the exercise of their respective competences, common priorities in the sphere of international cooperation and international humanitarian aid;
- iii. with a view to further strengthening and developing their mutual relations on the basis of the cooperation already existing between them;
- iv. Referring to the Flemish Parliament Decree of 22 June 2007 on Development Cooperation and to the Flemish Government Decree of 23 October 2015 concerning the granting of a subsidy to UNRWA;

have come to the following understanding:

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## 1. Common Principles and Objectives

Multilateral cooperation is essential for 'making the world a safer and more peaceful place for the vast majority of the global population'. Flanders devotes great importance to the cooperation with multilateral organizations and strives for making this cooperation more focused, sustainable and predictable. UNRWA is mandated to provide assistance and protection to some 5.15 million registered Palestine refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, West Bank and the Gaza Strip to achieve their full potential in human development, pending a just and durable solution to their plight.

The concrete objective of this Partnership is to support the services of UNRWA, which encompass education, health care, relief and social services, camp infrastructure and improvement, microfinance and emergency assistance. The Programme Budget of UNRWA is funded almost entirely by voluntary contributions, including from UN Member States. UNRWA and Flanders conclude this agreement to reconfirm the relevance of a sustainable partnership and of predictable funding enabling UNRWA to continue providing services at a time when crises are growing throughout the Middle East.

## 2. Contribution

1. Flanders will place at the disposal of UNRWA the amount of four hundred and fifty thousand euro (450,000 €) ("Contribution") for core funding of UNRWA's Programme Budget submitted biannually to the United Nations General Assembly and to its 2016-2021 Medium Term Strategy. The contribution will be for the following period: 2016, 2017 and 2018, in accordance with the following payment schedule:
2. A first installment of one hundred and fifty thousand euros (150,000 €) will be made in the first half of 2016;
3. A second installment of one hundred and fifty thousand euros (150,000 €) will be paid in 2017 upon submission of the Report of the Commissioner-General of UNRWA 2016.
4. A final installment of one hundred and fifty thousand euros (150,000 €) will be paid in 2018 upon submission of the Report of the Commissioner-General of UNRWA 2017.
5. The annual report of 2018 will be submitted in 2019.
6. The deposit of the aforesaid funds will be made to:  
Account name: UNRWA  
Bank name: Bank Austria Creditanstalt  
Bank address: Vienna International Center, Wagramerstrasse 5, A-1400 Vienna, Austria  
IBAN AT391100000290573500  
BIC code BKAUATWW  
Reference: UNRWA Corefunding
7. Any interest accruing from the Contribution will be used to supplement the Programme Budget.

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8. UNRWA accepts the Contribution and will use it solely in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Partnership Agreement and UNRWA's Regulations, Rules, Organisation Directives, Instructions and any other parts of its regulatory framework, as well as its policies, and procedures (collectively, "the UNRWA Regulatory Framework").
9. UNRWA will administer and account for the funds in accordance with UNRWA's Regulatory Framework. The Contribution is subject exclusively to the internal and external auditing procedures of UNRWA.

### 3. Visibility and Communication

UNRWA shall take all appropriate measures to publicize the fact that UNRWA has received funding from Flanders and give due credit to Flanders, including through the UNRWA donor ranking list, the UNRWA website, and appropriate publications.

Flanders in return will take all appropriate measures to communicate on the mission and realizations of UNRWA.

UNRWA accepts that Flanders publishes in any form and medium, including on its website, the name and address of UNRWA, the purpose of the contribution as well as the amount contributed.

### 4. Internships, exchange of staff, secondments, expertise and research

Flanders and UNRWA will stimulate internships funded by Flanders' Trainee Programme. In order to reinforce their cooperation, Flanders and UNRWA will also explore possibilities to stimulate the exchange of research and studies carried out by UNRWA and the Flemish research departments involved in the impact of the refugees on our societies. Supplemental arrangements for each specific foregoing project, activity or initiative undertaken between the Parties pursuant to this provision, or as may otherwise arise in the course of cooperation between the Parties, will, as appropriate, be subject to separate written agreement, which will regulate in detail the responsibilities of the Parties in relation to the specific activity including, but not limited to, the specific arrangements that define the areas for cooperation, financing and oversight arrangements.

### 5. Correspondence

All correspondence between Flanders and UNRWA relating to this Partnership Agreement will be in writing (through normal mail or electronic means) between their designated representatives:

a) For Flanders: Mr. Koen Verlaeckt, Secretary-General, Flanders Department of Foreign Affairs, Boudewijnlaan 30 bus 80, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

b) For UNRWA: Mr. Matthias Burchard, Director UNRWA Representative Office to the EU, Residence Palace (8th floor, lift 23, box 107), Rue de la Loi 155, 1040 Brussels, Belgium

#### 6. Legal Status, Privileges and Immunities

This Partnership Agreement does not constitute a treaty. It is subject to the internal and external auditing procedures laid down in the UNRWA Regulatory Framework.

Nothing in or relating to this Partnership Agreement shall be deemed a waiver, express or implied, of any of the privileges and immunities accorded to UNRWA in international law.

#### 7. Entry into force and termination

This Partnership Agreement will come into effect on the date of its signature and will remain operational until the expiration of the funding by Flanders.

#### 8. Settlement of Disputes

Any dispute between Flanders and UNRWA related to the interpretation and implementation of this Partnership Agreement will be resolved amicably by means of consultation and negotiation between Flanders and UNRWA and will not be referred to any national or international tribunal or third party for settlement. The foregoing record represents the understandings reached between UNRWA and Flanders on matters referred to therein.

Signed in duplicate on June 16<sup>th</sup> 2016, in the English language.  
Brussels,

For the Government of Flanders

For UNRWA



Geert Bourgeois  
Minister-President of the Government  
of Flanders and Flemish Minister of  
Foreign Policy and Immovable Heritage

Pierre Krähenbühl  
Commissioner-General