



**Government  
of Flanders**



***PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT***

**between**

**The Government of Flanders (Belgium)**

**and**

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

The Government of Flanders (hereinafter referred to as “Flanders”):

and

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”),

together, the “Parties”.

- 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 15 October 2021 concerning the granting of a subsidy to UNRWA;

have come to the following understanding:

## 1. Common Principles and Objectives

- 1.1. 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 5.7 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.
- 1.2. 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

- 2.1. Flanders will place at the disposal of UNRWA the amount of four hundred and seventy-nine thousand euros (479,000 €) (“Contribution”) for core funding of UNRWA’s Programme Budget, submitted biannually to the United Nations General Assembly and to its 2016-2022 Medium Term Strategy. The contribution will be for the following period: 2022, 2023 and 2024, in accordance with the following payment schedule:

	<b>Year of Payment</b>	<b>Amount in Euro</b>
First Instalment	2022	159 666,000
Second Instalment	2023	159 666,000
Third Instalment	2024	159 668,000
<b>Total Contribution</b>	<b>2022-24</b>	<b>479 000,000</b>

- 2.2. The first instalment of EUR 159 666,000 will be made upon the signature of this Agreement. Subsequent instalments for 2023 and 2024 will be transferred upon receipt of a written request for payment in the first calendar month of the year, in accordance with the Flemish Government Decree of 15 October 2021 concerning financial support to UNRWA for 2022-2024 and provided the UN General Assembly renews the mandate of UNRWA in 2022.

UNRWA will submit the annual report, the UNRWA Financial report and audited financial statements and Report of the Board of Auditors concerning the years 2022, 2023, and 2024 as soon as they become available.

2.3. The deposit of the aforesaid funds will be made to:

Account name: UNRWA HQ-Gaza  
Bank name: Bank Austria  
Bank address: Vienna International Center,  
Wagramerstrasse 5, A-1400 Vienna, Austria  
Account number: 002905735/00  
IBAN AT391100000290573500  
BIC code BKAUATWW  
Reference: Government of Flanders contribution to UNRWA Programme  
Budget

2.4. Any interest accruing from the Contribution will be used to supplement the Programme Budget.

2.5. 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").

2.6. 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.

2.7. The Parties agree to apply the final harmonised SEAH language of July 2021 as annexed to this Agreement. It is understood that the references to "Donor" in the Annex refer to the Government of Flanders and the references to "Recipient" in the Annex refer to UNRWA.

2.8. Subject to and in accordance with UNRWA's regulations, rules, directives and procedures, UNRWA commits to inform Flanders in case of credible allegations or substantiated cases of fraud or corruption affecting the Agency's program budget, provided however that such notification would not, in the opinion of the Department of Internal Oversight Services (DIOS), jeopardize the proper conduct of the investigation into such allegations or the due process rights of the individuals

involved. UNRWA will also inform Flanders on the outcome of such investigations, provided that such information would not in the opinion of the Agency, jeopardize the proper conduct of the investigation into such allegations or the due process rights of the individuals involved.

- 2.9. Flanders wants to underline the centrality of protection that should be ensured in humanitarian action and recalls in this regard the commitment taken by the humanitarian community through IASC Principals' Statement in 2013 on the centrality of Protection in Humanitarian Action, based on and in accordance with international human rights law and international humanitarian law as well as internationally recognized protection standards.

### **3. Visibility and Communication**

- 3.1. 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.
- 3.2. Flanders in return will take all appropriate measures to communicate on the mission and realizations of UNRWA.
- 3.3. 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**

- 4.1. Flanders and UNRWA will stimulate internships funded by Flanders' Trainee Programme as well as the exchange of expertise and research.
- 4.2. 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. Wouter Nachtergaele  
                              Head of Division  
                              Flanders Chancellery and Foreign Office  
                              Havenlaan 88 bus 100  
                              1000 Brussels, Belgium.
  
- b) For UNRWA:         Mr. Karim Amer  
                              Director of Partnerships  
                              Zalman Sharagi Street 21  
                              Sheikh Jarrah Neighborhood  
                              P.O Box 19149  
                              Zip Code: 1091191  
                              Jerusalem

## **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. Amendment**

This Agreement may be amended and/or extended only by written agreement signed by the authorized representatives of both Parties.

## **8. 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.

## 9. 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 2022, in the English language.

Brussels,

For the Government of Flanders

For UNRWA

Wouter  
Nachtergaele  
(Signature)

Digitaal ondertekend  
door Wouter  
Nachtergaele (Signature)  
Datum: 2022.03.01  
00:00:27 +01'00'



Wouter Nachtergaele  
Head of Division  
Flanders Chancellery and Foreign Office

Karim Amer  
Director of Partnerships  
UNRWA