

.....  
(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To restore funding for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for  
Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

\_\_\_\_\_  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. CARSON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To restore funding for the United Nations Relief and Works  
Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “UNRWA Funding  
5 Emergency Restoration Act of 2024”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The humanitarian crisis in Gaza has  
9 reached a catastrophic emergency level, with two

1 million Palestinian civilians suffering daily due to es-  
2 calating conflict and deprivation.

3 (2) The Integrated Food Security Phase Classi-  
4 fication (IPC) has warned of imminent famine in  
5 northern Gaza if humanitarian assistance, including  
6 food, water, and medicine, are not immediately pro-  
7 vided to Palestinian civilians. Hostilities hindering  
8 the delivery of aid in southern Gaza threaten to cre-  
9 ate a similar situation. United States Agency for  
10 International Development Director Samantha  
11 Power testified that famine is currently underway in  
12 parts of Gaza.

13 (3) The United Nations Relief and Works  
14 Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East  
15 (UNRWA) has since 1949 played a vital and central  
16 role in providing shelter, education, healthcare, and  
17 financial assistance to millions of Palestinians living  
18 in vulnerable refugee communities across Gaza, the  
19 West Bank, Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan.

20 (4) UNRWA's aid operations are essential to  
21 meeting the humanitarian needs of Palestinian civil-  
22 ians in Gaza and beyond. U.S. United Nations Al-  
23 ternative Representative for Special Political Affairs  
24 Robert Wood expressed to the United Nations Secu-  
25 rity Council that UNRWA is critical to averting a

1 famine in Gaza, stating “Other United Nations  
2 agencies and humanitarian organizations have reiter-  
3 ated they are not equipped to replace UNRWA, as  
4 UNRWA performs essential government-like func-  
5 tions their organizations do not have the capacity or  
6 structure to deliver.”.

7 (5) UNRWA remains the primary distributor of  
8 aid in Gaza and is essential to accommodating any  
9 humanitarian aid surge to the besieged population.

10 (6) Following allegations of direct involvement  
11 by individual UNRWA employee involvement in the  
12 devastating terrorist attacks of October 7, 2023,  
13 UNRWA Commissioner-General Lazzarini acted  
14 swiftly and decisively, fully cooperating with Israeli  
15 authorities, publicly disclosing the allegations, and  
16 immediately terminating all the employees involved.

17 (7) United Nations Secretary-General Guterres  
18 has taken additional corrective steps, including  
19 launching an investigation into the allegations by the  
20 United Nation’s highest oversight body, the Office of  
21 Internal Oversight Services (OIOS).

22 (8) In April 2024, an independent, outside re-  
23 view concluded that UNRWA has established a sig-  
24 nificant number of mechanisms and procedures to  
25 ensure compliance with humanitarian principles with

1 an emphasis on the principle of neutrality. This re-  
2 view included recommendations for steps to  
3 strengthen neutrality policies, all of which UNRWA  
4 immediately agreed to implement.

5 (9) Almost all parties, including the European  
6 Union, United Kingdom, Germany, Sweden, Japan,  
7 France, Switzerland, Canada, The Netherlands,  
8 Australia, Italy, Austria, Finland, Iceland, Romania,  
9 and Estonia have already restored funding to  
10 UNRWA following these strong actions taken by the  
11 United Nations and the commitments made by  
12 UNRWA toward complete accountability and reform.

13 (10) Ireland, Portugal, Spain, Belgium have  
14 since provided resources to UNRWA above their  
15 original commitments.

16 (11) The United States has historically been  
17 the largest funder of UNRWA, and plays a pivotal  
18 role in supporting the agency's critical mission, and  
19 represents 87 percent of suspended funding to  
20 UNRWA.

21 (12) Properly vetted funding for UNRWA re-  
22 mains in the comprehensive strategic interests of the  
23 United States, and its allies.

24 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

25 Congress—

1           (1) recognizes that preventing further erosion  
2 of civilian conditions in Gaza remains in the stra-  
3 tegic and moral interests of the United States;

4           (2) supports UNRWA's unique and indispen-  
5 sable contribution to immediately addressing urgent  
6 humanitarian needs in Gaza, especially in mitigating  
7 and stopping the spread of famine;

8           (3) urges the Government of Israel to assist the  
9 United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services  
10 (OIOS) investigation team in its critical work;

11           (4) urges the Administration—

12           (A) to join United States allies in restoring  
13 funding to UNRWA given the responsible ac-  
14 tions taken by the United Nations and  
15 UNRWA as well as the commitments made by  
16 UNRWA toward additional accountability,  
17 transparency, and reform; and

18           (B) to ensure continued funding to  
19 UNRWA is assessed based on UNRWA's ongo-  
20 ing execution of the recommendations of the  
21 independent OIOS investigation;

22           (5) recognizes implementation of some of the  
23 independent outside review recommendations will re-  
24 quire United Nations member state cooperation, in-  
25 cluding additional funding, and urges the United

1 States and Israel to assist UNRWA in its implemen-  
2 tation efforts; and

3 (6) supports appropriating critical funds to  
4 UNRWA for fiscal year 2025.

5 **SEC. 4. RESTORATION OF FUNDING FOR UNRWA.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Effective on the date of the enact-  
7 ment of this Act—

8 (1) title III of division G of the Further Con-  
9 solidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (Public Law  
10 118–47) is hereby repealed;

11 (2) section 308 of the Israel Security Supple-  
12 mental Appropriations Act, 2024 (division A of Pub-  
13 lic Law 118–50) is hereby repealed; and

14 (3) the Secretary of State shall, notwith-  
15 standing any other provision of law and as soon as  
16 practicable—

17 (A) rescind the temporary pause in fund-  
18 ing for UNRWA as described in the press state-  
19 ment entitled “Statement on UNRWA Allega-  
20 tions” issued on January 26, 2024; and

21 (B) resume the provision of funding to  
22 UNRWA under current authorities of the De-  
23 partment of State.

24 (b) REPORTS.—Not later than 90 days after the en-  
25 actment date of the enactment of this Act, and quarterly

1 thereafter through December 31, 2027, the Secretary of  
2 State shall submit to the appropriate congressional com-  
3 mittees of jurisdiction a report on the steps UNRWA is  
4 taking to implement any recommendations made by the  
5 United Nations's Office of Internal Oversight Services  
6 (OIOS) investigation team and the United Nation's inde-  
7 pendent outside review group.