Palestinians as a people have lived as refugees for more than two generations. Without any stable self-determination, they have had to depend on the international community for support for their living conditions. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) has been the primary vehicle for this support. It has had to operate in the difficult context of conflict and high degree of political volatility, with many frustrated efforts at resolution. What has it been like to operate in this environment? What progress, if any, has been made? What have been the successes and failures of the international community to address the many questions confronting the Palestinian people?

Barbara Shenstone has just returned to Canada after serving for several years as Director of Operations in the West Bank for UNRWA. She brings a depth of up close and personal experience in managing the many contending factors affecting the daily lives of Palestinians. She will share her experiences and her perspectives on the future of people and players in this conflicted region.