



Photo by Dominiek Benoot

## profile: ein el-sultan camp

### jericho governorate

#### Overview

Ein el-Sultan camp is located in the Jordan Valley and borders Jericho. Originally, 20,000 refugees lived in the camp; however, most camp residents fled to Jordan during the 1967 hostilities, leaving behind only 2,000 residents. After the Israeli withdrawal from Jericho following the Oslo Accords in 1994, the population in the camp increased to more than 3,500 people.

Nearly all of the original UNRWA shelters in the camp were damaged during the first intifada. Subsequent reconstruction provided larger shelters, more public spaces and wider streets. This makes Ein el-Sultan camp seem more spacious than many other camps. Many shelters have outdoor areas, which provide valuable space for recreation. However, recent population growth has forced the residents to resort to vertical expansion.

One of the most pressing issues in the camp is the lack of a sewerage network. Residents currently use percolation pits that cause a wide range of problems, including health issues and high maintenance costs. The construction of a sewerage network in Ein el-Sultan camp is one of the main priorities for UNRWA in the West Bank. UNRWA also faces challenges in solid waste management due to the large size of the camp.

#### UNRWA in Ein el-Sultan camp

##### General information

- **Established:** 1948
- **Size:** .87 sq km
- **Population before 1967 (OCHA):** 19,467
- **Estimated population (PCBS):** 3,800
- **Registered persons (UNRWA):** 2,500
- **Estimated density:** 4,022 per sq km
- **Places of origin:** Villages in Ramleh, Lydd and the area of west Hebron

##### UNRWA in Ein el-Sultan camp

###### Main UNRWA installations:

- One school
  - One health centre
  - One distribution centre
- UNRWA employees working in Ein el-Sultan camp:** 61
- Education: 43
  - Health: 8
  - Relief and Social Services: 3
  - Sanitation services: 5
  - Administration: 2

#### Education

Serving more than 1,000 students, the UNRWA Ein el-Sultan Coeducational School is one of the largest UNRWA schools in the West Bank. It is also one of the few UNRWA coeducational schools. In 2014, UNRWA reconstructed the oldest sections of the school, some of which were constructed as early as 1952. This reconstructive work added new classrooms and air conditioning and renovated the playground. The school has both a computer and science laboratory. Remedial classes in Arabic and mathematics are offered on Saturdays. However, there is a lack of after school activities in the camp, which might otherwise benefit the children. The dropout rate of boys at the school is also a concern. School staff members work closely with psychosocial counsellors and parents to encourage these students to return to school.

#### Relief, Social Services and Emergency Response

One social worker conducts regular home visits in the camp to identify families requiring special assistance, including counselling and referrals for additional services as needed. UNRWA also works with community-based organizations in the camp to provide services for vulnerable persons. The Women's Centre, for example, focuses on awareness-raising and income-generating projects for poor women. One such project is a kitchen funded by the UNRWA women's programme that prepares food for the community, as well as for the UNRWA training centre.

Through its Social Safety Net Programme, UNRWA provides food parcels to approximately 985 impoverished refugees in Ein el-Sultan camp and Aqbat Jabr, the second camp in the Jericho area. The Emergency Cash for Work Programme assists food insecure families by offering three-month work opportunities inside the camp. The family receives a cash subsidy in return for their work, helping them to meet their basic food needs. The projects themselves are designed to benefit the camp community as a whole. These have included the construction of pavements and sidewalks, as well as the maintenance of office space for the Camp Service Office.



Photo by Dominiek Benoot

## Health

The Ein el-Sultan health centre provides primary health care, including reproductive health, infant and child care, immunizations, screening and medical check-ups, and treatment for communicable and non-communicable diseases. Psychosocial counselling and family and child protection services are also provided at the health centre. Dental care, x-ray facilities and physiotherapy services are not available.

The health centre has recently implemented the Family Health Team approach. This new approach focuses on the family with the aim of providing comprehensive, continuous care. The Family Health Team has improved patient flow and reduced the number of daily consultations that each doctor performs, though this number remains above 100. An electronic health information system for patient files has also been implemented. This system has increased the accuracy of data and health information, as well as health service efficiency in the centre.

The main constraint for the health centre is the lack of space and unsuitability of important functions such as laboratory tests. As a result, laboratory tests from Ein el-Sultan camp are often sent to Am'ari camp and Kalandia camp, a costly and time-consuming solution. UNRWA has therefore prioritized the reconstruction of the health centre.

A health risk specific to the Jericho area is leishmaniasis, a disease caused by the bite of sand flies. UNRWA cooperates with the Jericho municipality each year to eradicate these flies.

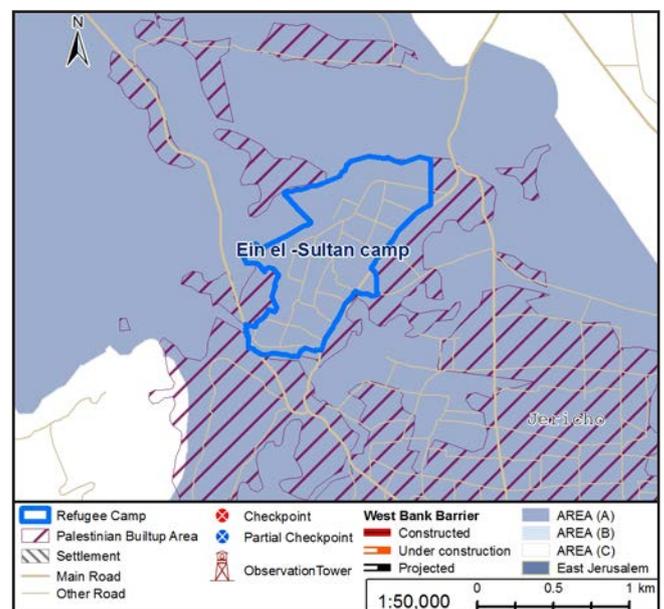
## Environmental Health

The sanitation foreman conducts daily water examinations and manages the team of sanitation workers. There are four sanitation workers in the camp who collect waste from shelters and maintain sewerage pipes. Ein el-Sultan camp is the second largest camp in the West Bank by surface area, which makes waste collection challenging. As the population in the camp grows, the pressure on waste collection also increases. With only four sanitation workers and one compactor serving 3,500 residents, solid waste accumulates quickly and residents often resort to burning the waste. The smell from the uncollected and burning waste creates health and dignity issues for the residents.

## Main Challenges

### Sewerage and stormwater networks

As Ein el-Sultan camp does not have a sewerage network, residents rely on percolation pits. These are costly to empty and can only be used for a limited time. Pits are also built in the backyards of shelters or in public spaces, creating safety and health issues, as well as conflicts with neighbours and authorities. Flooding due to full percolation pits, aggravated by the occasional influx of storm water, presents a health issue. The haphazard covering of pits is also extremely dangerous for children, tragically highlighted in 2011 when a 5-year-old child fell into a poorly covered pit and drowned. The construction of a new sewerage network in the camp, which could be connected to the newly constructed network in Jericho, would significantly improve living conditions in the camp.



## Spotlight: Shelter Rehabilitation in Ein el-Sultan

UNRWA considers the provision of adequate shelter to be a fundamental right and need of Palestine refugees. One of the goals of UNRWA is to ensure that the most vulnerable of refugees are targeted and aided in the process of securing adequate shelter and living conditions.

In 2012, the UNRWA West Bank Field Office received funds from the Saudi Fund for Development to rehabilitate and reconstruct standard shelters. In Ein el-Sultan, 15 shelters were rehabilitated and 10 shelters were completely reconstructed. Most new shelters consist of two bedrooms, a kitchen, and a bathroom. Shelters chosen for the project are selected on the basis of need, a process that involves the Camp Service Officers, UNRWA engineers and social workers.



Photo by Dominiek Benoot

## “A house to be proud of.”



Photo by Dominiek Benoot

Najwa Ismail leads her guest through a ramshackle front door, sidestepping a percolation pit on her way. Her house has two rooms, no more than twenty square meters combined; a small kitchen; and an outdoor shack used as a water closet. All that remains of a third room is its northern wall – a large pile of mud brick and wood now fills the space the room once occupied before collapsing.

The 37-year-old mother of six tries to make the best of it. Her ingenuity, however, can only go so far. Eleven-year-old Ahmed complains that he can't study because of the noise and overcrowding, while 19-year-old Yasmine says she is keen to have a room of her own. Nine-year-old Salsabil admits that she spends most of her time at her aunt's house, which is warm and dry when the rain comes.

When floods occur during the winter, sewage-infested floodwaters enter the house. Najwa worries this endangers the life of her youngest daughter, 3-year-old Sadine, who suffers from several disabilities, making her more susceptible to illness. In fact, she says it is this same danger that infected her eldest daughter, Yasmine, with viral meningitis when she was less than 2 years old, leading to a permanent loss in hearing. Najwa sighs, “I feel that the children are tired from the conditions, both physically and mentally, so I worry about them.”

The house itself is not her only worry; economic conditions in the camp are poor and two of her children require expensive, specialized medical treatment. Najwa explains that even with emergency assistance from UNRWA and her salary from the three months per year she works with the UNRWA Job Creation Programme (JCP), the money is never sufficient. Najwa notes that even though her work as a cleaner with JCP wasn't exciting, she liked the feeling of earning her own wage.

The family uses the little money they have to invest in their children; “We use a lot of money for Yasmine's cosmetology training,” says Najwa, “because she wants to support herself and maybe even support us.” Najwa's husband, Ismail, also adds that he spends over 100 shekels per month, more than 5 per cent of his monthly salary, to drain the sewage from their percolation pit. Since the family can only afford this process once a month, the smell of waste lingers in the air.

However, the situation of Najwa and her family may soon turn brighter. Their family has been approved for a full house reconstruction by the UNRWA shelter rehabilitation programme. The new house will be more spacious and reliably connected to electricity and water networks.

Looking with apprehension at the roof of her kitchen, which appears ready to collapse, Najwa adds that the new house will most importantly be safe and stable. After only narrowly saving her youngest daughter when the third room of her current house collapsed, this concern is paramount.

The family looks forward to the new shelter; Yasmine is clearly enthused and speculates as to how the new house will be: “It should be nice, with real floors – preferably brown tile – and enough space to invite my friends.” Continuing, she states proudly that when she opens her own salon, she will be able to give her mother and father an even better house, one of which they can be proud.

# General Overview West Bank Refugee Camps

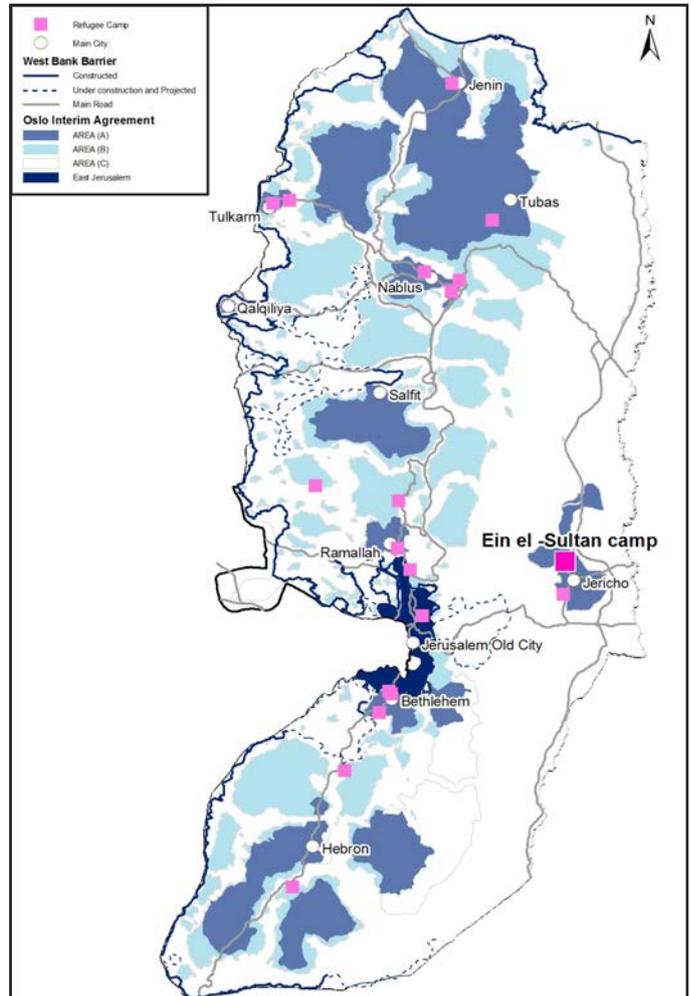
## Who is a Palestine Refugee?

A Palestine refugee is defined as any person whose normal place of residence was Palestine during the period from 1 June 1946 to 15 May 1948, and who lost both home and means of livelihood as a result of the 1948 conflict. The descendants of Palestine refugee males, as well as legally adopted children, are also eligible to register as refugees.

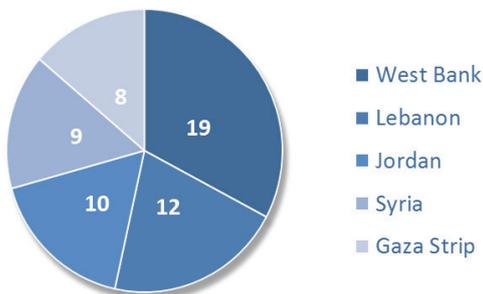
## Palestine Refugee Camps

There are 58 Palestine refugee camps located in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Gaza and the West Bank. The camps were first established as temporary tented cities for Palestine refugees who fled their homes during the 1948 conflict. For more than 60 years, this unresolved situation has challenged the camps and its residents.

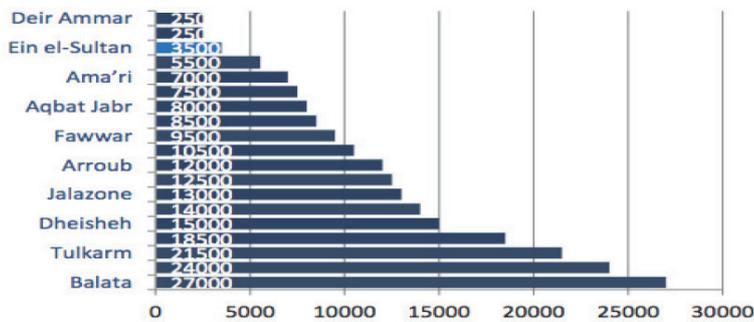
The 19 Palestine refugee camps throughout the West Bank have since developed into urban areas home to more than 200,000 people (almost a quarter of the total registered persons with UNRWA), with the population in each camp varying from 2,500 to 27,000. The camps face challenges related to overcrowding, poor infrastructure, high levels of unemployment, food insecurity, and protection issues.



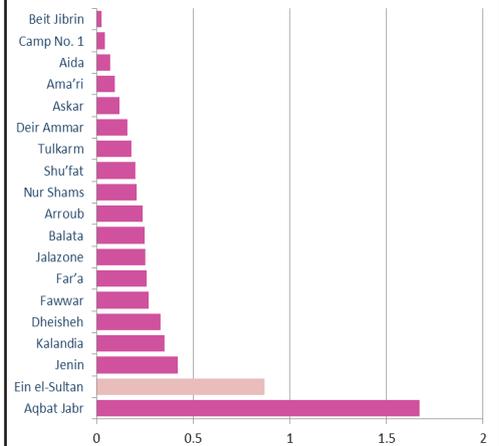
Number of UNRWA Refugee Camps per Field



West Bank Refugee Camps Estimated populations  
Total population West Bank camps: 222,500



West Bank Refugee Camps Camp surface in square kilometer



united nations relief and works agency  
for palestine refugees in the near east

[www.unrwa.org](http://www.unrwa.org)

UNRWA is a United Nations agency established by the General Assembly in 1949 and is mandated to provide assistance and protection to a population of registered Palestine refugees. Its mission is to help Palestine refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, West Bank and the Gaza Strip to achieve their full potential in human development, pending a just solution to their plight. UNRWA's services encompass education, health care, relief and social services, camp infrastructure and improvement, microfinance and emergency assistance. UNRWA is funded almost entirely by voluntary contributions.