



**Visit of the Advisory Commission to Lebanon:  
Rebuilding Homes, Providing Prospects for the Future  
26 - 28 November 2019**

*This field visit of the Advisory Commission will offer an in-depth look at the situation of Palestine refugees in Lebanon in the context of growing challenges to their livelihood.*

*Today, less than half of all Palestine refugees in Lebanon live within the boundaries of one of the 12 official Palestinian refugee camps. However, these camps remain central to the identity and plight of Palestine refugees in this country. During this visit, we will see two different camps – one being rebuilt and one older camp which has recently been declared ‘weapons-free’ through an agreement between the Lebanese government and local Palestinian factions.*

*Irrespective of where they live, the Palestine refugee population in Lebanon faces enormous challenges, including severe restrictions on the right to employment and to own property, as well as a lack of livelihood opportunities. Compounded by widespread poverty, sub-standard living conditions and structural insecurity, these legal and socioeconomic limitations exacerbate the exposure of refugees to serious health and protection risks, including violence, exploitation and abuse, child marriage, and widespread feelings of social exclusion and lack of prospects.*

*Through its programming, UNRWA attempts to alleviate the worst of the Palestinian refugee experience by offering high-quality primary, secondary and vocational education, a limited social safety net, and shelter rehabilitation. In addition, the Agency actively engages in dialogue with Palestinian factions and the Lebanese government in an attempt to find solutions for refugees’ most urgent problems. With the active participation of youth and other social actors in addition to UNRWA staff, this visit offers reflections from a number of angles on the future for the Palestine refugees currently present in Lebanon.*



**Tuesday, 26 November 2019 – BEIRUT**

**19.50 Arrival at Rafik Hariri International Airport**

*Welcome to Lebanon. We hope you have a great trip. Please note that you can make use of the special line for diplomatic passports while entering Lebanon. If you are asked what the purpose of your visit is, you can note that you are on a diplomatic visit to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency.*

*After exiting the passport control and picking up your luggage, you will find UNRWA waiting for you inside the arrival hall. Please look for a sign with 'UNRWA' written on it.*

**20.30 -20.50 Travel from Airport to the Gefinor Hotel**

*We have arranged travel from the airport to the Gefinor hotel*

**20.50 Check-in at Gefinor Hotel**

**21.15 – 21.45 Welcome Briefing**

Location: Gefinor Conference Room, Rotana A, C Level

*Before the end of the day, we would like to invite you to a short welcome briefing. This briefing will take place in the hotel, and will take around half an hour.*

**22.00 End of Day**



## Wednesday, 27 November 2019 – NORTHERN LEBANON

### 08.15 **Gather in the Gefinor hotel lobby**

*Upon arriving in the lobby, you will receive a briefing package for the day.*

### 08:30 – 10:00 **Departure from Beirut to Nahr el-Bared Camp. Briefing on the bus.**

### 10:00 - 10:15 **Arrival at Nahr el-Bared Camp, Abdeh Checkpoint**

*Nahr el-Bared Camp (NBC) was destroyed between May and September 2007 as a result of clashes between the militant group Fatah al-Islam and the Lebanese Armed Forces. Homes, commercial properties, mosques, NGOs and community facilities were effectively obliterated and all roads, as well as water and sewerage networks, were either badly damaged or destroyed. The UNRWA compound, which housed the Agency's local health clinic, schools and relief offices, was also left in ruins.*

*When the conflict ended, the Government of Lebanon and the international community committed to rebuilding the destroyed camp. UNRWA was tasked with leading the relief and reconstruction effort. The reconstruction of NBC is the biggest single project ever undertaken by UNRWA. While multiple Palestinian refugee camps have been destroyed over the past seven decades, NBC is the first Palestine refugee camp in Lebanon ever to be completely rebuilt.*

*Unlike in several other Palestinian refugee camps, the Lebanese government retains full control of Nahr el-Bared Camp since the violent clashes of 2007. The checkpoint which we pass by is one of numerous checkpoints around the camp in use by the Lebanese Armed Forces.*

### 10:15 – 10:45 **Visit to Nahr el-Bared Camp Temporary Shelters**

*Of the original population of approximately 6,000 Palestine Refugee families (27,000 residents) displaced in 2007, just under 5,000 families are registered to return to live in final reconstructed Nahr el-Bared camp. To date, 3,157 families (12,998 residents) have been provided with new housing, and 903 shops have been provided for traders. With the available funding a total of 3,773 families (16,440 residents) will have returned to NBC by the middle of 2020.*



*UNRWA is still looking for funding for 1,166 families (about 4,438 residents) who currently remain displaced after the middle of 2020. The current funding shortfall of USD 63 million represents less than one quarter of the funds needed. UNRWA is keen to accelerate the pace of reconstruction. If UNRWA receives all of the remaining funds, it could return all of the remaining displaced refugees to their new homes within two years.*

10:45 – 11:10

**Drive to UNRWA Northern Training Center. Welcome at the Northern Training Center**

*Upon arrival to the Northern Training Center, there will be time for refreshments and a short break.*

11:10-11:45

**Visit to the reconstructed home of Mr. Ziyad Shteivi**

*From the Northern Training Center, we will walk to a recently reconstructed home. The reconstructed home of Mr. Shteivi shows the results of UNRWA's reconstruction works.*

11:45– 12:00

**View of ongoing reconstruction works**

*The roof of Mr. Shteivi's building offers a view of work-in-progress of a new apartment block of homes.*

12:00 – 13:00

**Meeting with cross-section of community representatives**

*A cross-section of Nahr el-Bared community representatives will provide an insight into the experience of community leaders and representatives on the rebuilding of Nahr el-Bared Camp, as well as the wider Palestine refugee experience in Northern Lebanon.*

13:00 – 13:20

**Light Lunch**

13:20 – 13:50

**Presentation on Progress of NBC Reconstruction**

*The project manager for the reconstruction of Nahr el-Bared Camp will offer a strategic overview of the camp re-building process.*



13:50 – 14:30

**Discussion on the Rebuilding of Nahr el-Bared Camp**

*Members of the Advisory Commission are invited to offer their view on what they have seen and heard, as well as on the way forward for the Nahr el-Bared camp reconstruction.*

14:30 – 15:30

**Drive to Batroun**

15:30 – 16:15

**Stop over at Hilmi's Restaurant**

*We will stop at this location for a short break, halfway between Nahr el-Bared and Beirut.*

16:15 – 17.30

**Return to Beirut**

17.30

**Arrival at Gefinor hotel**



## Thursday, 28 November 2019 – SOUTHERN LEBANON

### 08.15 **Meet in the Gefinor hotel lobby**

*Upon arrival, you will receive a briefing package for the day.*

### 08.30 – 09.45 **Departure from Beirut to Mieh Mieh Camp. Briefing on the bus.**

*Mieh Mieh refugee camp is located south of the city of Saida. The camp was established in 1954 and suffered extensive damage during the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon. In October 2018 there were serious clashes between Palestinian factions which affected UNRWA's installations. Today, by agreement with the Lebanese authorities Palestinian factions are not to display any weapon or military attire.*

### 09.45 – 10.00 **Pass through Mieh Mieh Camp checkpoint**

The checkpoint is a Lebanese Armed Forces checkpoint.

### 10.00 – 10.45 **Walk through Mieh Mieh Camp**

*Members of the Advisory Commission are invited to tour Mieh Mieh camp, visiting shelters and UNRWA's installations.*

### 10.45 – 11.15 **Departure to Sibliin Training Center South Campus**

### 11.15 – 11.45 **Drive to the Sibliin Training Center**

### 11.45 – 12.15 **Tour of Sibliin Training Center premises**

*Sibliin Training Center (STC) South Campus overlooks the coastal road near the village of Sibliin, some 35 kilometers south of Beirut. STC offers technical and vocational training at two campuses, one in the south and one in the north of Lebanon. During the 2019/2020 school year, a total of 889 students (523 males, 366 females) are enrolled at the center, which offers 40 trade and semi-professional courses. Lebanon field further supports the employability of Palestine refugee youth through its four Employment Service Centers (ESCs).*



12.15 – 13.00

**Meeting with Sibliin Training Center staff and Palestine refugee youth**

*This meeting with students and staff of the STC will offer an insight into the added value of STC to the employability of Palestine refugees, and its impact on the daily lives of Palestinian refugee youth.*

13.00 – 13.45

**Final discussion on general situation of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon**

*Members of the Advisory Commission are invited to offer their view on what they have seen and heard during this day and the trip as whole.*

13.45

**Departure to Hotel/Airport**