overview

Am’ari camp, located east of Ramallah city in al-Bireh municipality, is one of the smallest camps in the West Bank. Before the first intifada, many refugees living in the camp were able to freely move to surrounding villages and cities. However, the construction of the West Bank Barrier, expansion of Ramallah and rising property prices meant that movement has become difficult for most residents. In addition to contributing to overcrowding and poor living conditions, the growing population continues to pose a challenge for service provision and the existing infrastructure in the camp.

One of the major issues reported by residents of Am’ari is the rising unemployment rate especially among educated youth. This has increased substantially in recent years, partly due to the decrease in the number of Israeli work permits issued to camp residents. Unemployment rates remain a challenge inside all camps with 17% recorded by PCBS’s Labour Taskforce Report, Q4 2022. In accordance with the Oslo Accords, Am’ari camp is located in Area A and is thus under the control of the Palestinian Authority. However, confrontations between Palestinians and ISF often occur at the entrance of the camp. This is negatively affecting UNRWA staff and the camp residents.

15,315 Registered population

4,527 Children 0-18 year (2,224 female 2,303 male)

education

Am’ari camp has two UNRWA schools, a boys’ school and a girls’ school, located at the border of the camp. They serve 1,129 students from first to ninth grade based on 2021/22 scholastic year data. Each of the schools has a library and a computer and science laboratory. The girls’ school was rehabilitated in 2017 through a project funded by the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD). The Palestinian Authority recently built a school in the neighborhood of the camp. Although this has helped to alleviate the pressure on UNRWA schools, overcrowding remains an issue.

2 Schools

1,129 Students

45 Education staff: teachers, school principals, deputy school principals and school counselors

health

The health centre was constructed in 2013. It provides primary health services including reproductive health, infant and child care, immunizations, screening and medical check-ups, treatment of communicable and non-communicable diseases and psychosocial counselling. The centre is equipped with an x-ray machine, and has a full-time dentist. Physiotherapy is not available but it is provided at the Community Based Rehabilitation Centre.

2,891 Patients with non-communicable diseases provided with care

810 Pregnant women provided with Antenatal Care

3,261 Children 0-5 years provided with Child Health Care

*all data presented is unrwa annual data for 2022 unless stated otherwise
Improvement of the solid waste collection process
- Maintenance of streets
- Rehabilitation of storm water and sewage networks
- Reconstruction of Am’ari Camp Services Office and sanitation office.
- Shelter rehabilitation for some vulnerable families.
- General maintenance for Amari Boys’ School.

**Camp Profile: Am’ari Camp**

**Protection & Neutrality**

Am’ari camp residents are exposed to multiple protection threats, linked to frequent incursions by Israeli Security Forces (ISF) into the camp. ISF operations often result in detentions. The detention rate has increased in 2022 compared to 2021, where it jumped from 31 in 2021 detentions to 43 in 2022. ISF conducted 15 operations in Am’ari camp in 2022, and used tear gas on five of these operations.

- 43 Detainees, including one child
- 15 ISF Operations
- 2 Injuries
- 5 Teargas incidents

**Infrastructure & Camp Improvement**

UNRWA Sanitation Foreman conducts daily water examinations and manages a team of 13 sanitation labourers (5 temporary staff through various sources of funds). They collect solid waste in the camp five days per week. However, solid waste collection remains an issue in Am’ari camp. Currently, there is only one UNRWA compactor which is very old and therefore affects the efficiency of solid waste removal in the camp. The camp is located within al-Bireh municipality, which is why the sewerage and storm water networks are linked to those of the municipality. The storm water and sewerage systems are overburdened, subject to frequent blockages, causing floods in lower parts of the camp during winter months. Therefore, a large proportion of the networks are in need of rehabilitation.

Water and electricity are also supplied through the municipality, however, electricity lines are inadequate and cause frequent outages. These lines also present a public health hazard due to loose and low hanging wires.

An estimated 60 to 70 per cent of shelters in the camp require rehabilitation. Poor ventilation, lack of access to natural light and issues related to water drainage render many shelters unfit for habitation. Furthermore, most shelters were built in the 1950s and lack foundations strong enough to hold more than two stories. Despite this, many shelters have been expanded to accommodate growing families. Therefore, the infrastructure in the camp is overburdened and incapable of dealing with the increased population growth. Since 2013, UNRWA has been constructing and rehabilitating shelters in the camp yet needs continue to increase and additional funding is required.

- 1,510 Tons of solid waste removed in camps
- 100% Sewerage connection
- 13 Sanitation labourers

**Relief & Social Services**

Through the Social Safety Net Programme, UNRWA provides cash assistance to around 441 impoverished refugees each year, which is equivalent to 2.8 per cent of the registered population in the camp. Moreover, through the Emergency Appeal (EA), an additional 129 individuals receive emergency cash assistance (ECA).

Social workers conduct home visits to identify cases which require additional support. In addition, UNRWA Crisis Intervention Unit provides financial assistance to residents whose shelters have been damaged after incursions to repair broken doors, windows, etc. It also refers the victims to services such as mental health counselling and legal assistance.

- 579 Identified poor households* (2,536 individuals)
- 118 Female-headed household identified poor
- 18% of the identified poor households benefit from the e-card (Social Safety Net Programme and Emergency Cash Assistance)
- 107 Households
- 570 Individuals
- 24 Female-headed household

**Camp Needs**

- Improvement of the solid waste collection process
- Maintenance of streets
- Rehabilitation of storm water and sewage networks
- Reconstruction of Am’ari Camp Services Office and sanitation office.
- Shelter rehabilitation for some vulnerable families.
- General maintenance for Amari Boys’ School.

* Poor Households are identified using UNRWA’s standard criteria, the Proxy Means Testing Formula (PMTF).