Establishment and Development
Amman New Camp (ANC), locally known as Wihdat, was one of the four original camps established to accommodate some of the 750,000 Palestine refugees who were displaced as a result of the 1948 Arab-Israeli War. The camp was established in 1955 on an area of 0.48 square kilometres in southeast Amman. Initially, the refugees were housed in 1,400 shelters constructed by UNRWA, and in 1957, an additional 1,260 shelters were created in response to rising needs. Since then, the shelters have been upgraded, although many remain in poor condition and in dire need of rehabilitation.

The outbreak of the 1967 War in Israel-Palestine displaced an additional 250,000 Palestine refugees. Some of them, including a portion from the Gaza Strip, relocated to ANC. This accelerated the camp’s transformation into a bustling urban community, and over time, the adjacent neighbourhoods became de facto part of the camp.

Aided by its proximity to central Amman, ANC is the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan’s second most populous Palestine refugee camp. Today, there are over 61,795 registered Palestine refugees in the camp, with thousands more living in the adjacent neighbourhoods. A high population density, coupled with an intricate arrangement of bazaars and kiosks, has amplified major disorganization on crowded streets, and has left little room for the development of green areas or playgrounds for children.

UNRWA Services
UNRWA provides a diverse assortment of services in Amman New Camp. These include education, health, relief and social services and infrastructure and camp improvement.

Education
- Three elementary and Four preparatory schools, are operating in single shift system.
- 6,494 students in grades 1-10 and 204 educational staff members.

Health
- One UNRWA health centre serves approximately 43,010 people inside and outside of Amman New Camp.
- Seven UNRWA doctors and one specialist each provide an average of 80 consultations per day.

Likewise, the implementation of a new version of the UNRWA e-Health system replaced manual, labor-intensive, costly and time consuming processes with a paperless electronic system. The e-Health system reduced the workload of health staff and improved the quality of health assistance mainly by enhancing doctor-patient communication.

In 2020, UNRWA health department launched the electronic platform for patients with non communicable diseases and started telemedicine services at the agency’s health centres, in response to COVID-19 pandemic.

Relief and Social Services Programme (RSSP)
Under the RSSP’s Social Safety Net Programme (SSNP), 1,503 individuals (336 families) -43.5% are aged below 18-years-registered Palestine refugees in ANC Camp live in abject poverty and receive critical needed assistance. UNRWA Jordan Field Office (JFO) has assigned one relief worker to serve and follow up with the registered SSNP beneficiaries reside inside ANC Camp.

In April 2016, the Jordan Field Office revised its food distribution programme by introducing e-cards. The new modality replaced food with cash assistance distributed to families under the SSNP, giving them the autonomy to select their food from predesignated shops according to their individual needs.
The RSSP also provides guidance and technical support to one Community Based Rehabilitation Centre (CBRC) and one Women’s Programme Centre (WPC) in Amman New Camp. The WPC provides a unique and socially acceptable venue for women to participate in cultural and recreational activities, as well as educational and technical training courses in order to increase their marketability and self-confidence.

**Infrastructure and Camp Improvement Programme (ICIP)**

Given that ANC was established in the 1950s with less than ideal building materials, many of its structures are in poor condition and in desperate need of replacement or comprehensive rehabilitation. The increasingly limited amount of space in the camp has led residents to expand vertically their living quarters, albeit failing to adhere to local regulations and obtaining the appropriate building permits.

In collaboration with Infrastructure and Camp Improvement Programme in UNRWA’s Amman Headquarters, the Jordan Field Office (JFO) has developed a masterplan for the restoration of the ANC school compound and South Amman Area Office. The primary objectives are to reconstruct and develop facilities in order to convert all schools towards a single shift system, reposition latrines and bathroom facilities inside of the schools and improve access for all students, especially those with disabilities. Three school buildings will undergo extensive reconstruction and repairs should funding be secured. Thus, these key upgrades will provide a safer and more protective school environment.

In February 2016, UNRWA signed an agreement with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia through the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) to fund a number of projects in Jordan, including the comprehensive maintenance, upgrading and equipping of furniture and equipment in ANC Preparatory Boy’s School 3&4. The project was completed in September 2016. In addition, SFD has signed a new agreement with UNRWA to reconstruct and provide new furniture and equipment for additional school in ANC compound which was completed in 2020.

UNRWA employs sanitation staff in ANC Camp, who play a crucial role in upholding the living conditions for the camp residents of by collecting waste, maintaining regular vector control and monitoring the quality of water supplies. The environment health service also works towards reducing the risk of outbreaks of diseases.

**Major Socio-Economic Challenges**

ANC suffers from a number of pressing socio-economic challenges. For instance, unemployment is rampant throughout the camp, where approximately 24 per cent of females and 15 per cent of males were unemployed. ANC ranks second of the ten Palestine refugee camps in Jordan in terms of poverty levels, with 34 per cent of residents living below the national poverty line (816 JD per annum).

Another major socio-economic challenge concerns the residents’ health. ANC has the highest rate of chronic health issues out of all camps in Jordan. Perhaps most troubling, more than half of it’s residents do not have any form of health insurance.

Only 91 per cent of students in ANC are fully enrolled in primary school, the lowest rate of all ten camps in Jordan. In addition, a mere 12 per cent of males and 16 per cent of females in ANC completed post-secondary education. This, coupled with a significantly lower rate of academic attendance compared to other camps, represents a serious hurdle in advancing the camp’s educational status.


**Camp Map**

[Map of ANC camp]