

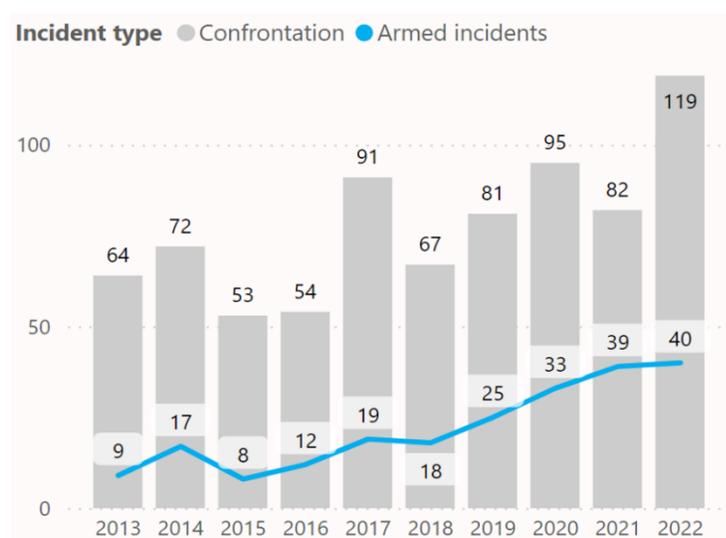
Arroub Camp- Protection focus

November 2022

Context

- Among the 19 Palestine Refugee Camps in the West Bank, Arroub Camp has for long been the most impacted by confrontations, ISF (Israeli Security Forces) Operations, and tear gas use. While levels have been high before, 2022 has topped the previous record-breaking year, even before the completion of the year.

Figure 1: Armed Incidents and Confrontations by year in Arroub Camp

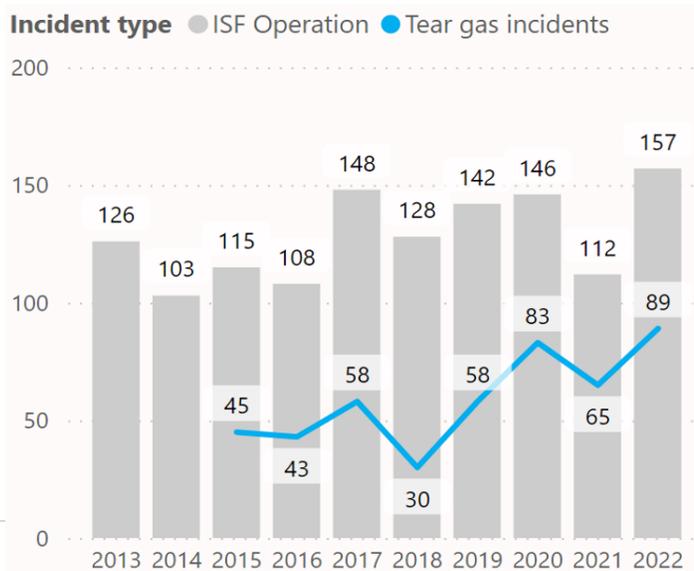


- 2022 has been record-high in terms of confrontations with the ISF. Clashes usually occur at the camp's main entrance or opposite the military tower on road 60.
- In 2022, there have been 44 injuries recorded in the camp, more than 40% of them with live ammunition.
- There have been two fatalities inside the camp in 2022.
- In addition, in March 2022, an 18-year-old refugee man from the camp was shot dead in a forested area nearby the camp where he had been taking a walk. UNRWA documentation of the incident found that

he had not posed a threat to life, nor had he engaged in clashes.

Figure 2: ISF Operations and Tear Gas Use by year in Arroub Camp

- While the number of ISF operations have for long been high in the camp, in 2022 the number further increased with a 35% increase compared to 2021
- There have been 69 detentions recorded in Arroub in 2022, of whom 16 were children.
- UNRWA Camp and Community Services Office and Environmental Sanitation Office are near the main entrance and are regularly exposed to clashes taking



place nearby, disrupting work at the office. Sanitation laborers working in the streets, including near road 60, are particularly exposed.

- Palestine Refugee houses near Road 60 are especially vulnerable to tear gas use. Tear gas enters homes via doors and windows, and sometimes canisters have landed inside homes and balconies, causing damage.

UNRWA Protection Response

- UNRWA Protection and Neutrality Department monitors the human rights situation in the camp, and documents serious violations with focus on live fire injuries and fatalities and has regular discussions with the ISF on proportionality of use of force.
- UNRWA Crisis Intervention Unit supports refugees in the camp with emergency social services; case management, psychological first aid, and assistance to repair home damage after ISF operations.
- In 2017, UNRWA commissioned a study on tear gas with University of California, Berkeley, focusing on the health impacts of chronic exposure to tear gas in crowded settings such as refugee camps.
- With historically high numbers of child detention, UNRWA programs (education, health, protection) have pioneered a comprehensive response to the situation, which consists among others of:
 - Referrals for legal assistance of detained children
 - Training children on their rights during detention
 - Health checks of children that were detained
 - Peer support from UNRWA school parliament and organizing activities that support psycho-social wellbeing
 - School counsellor intervention
 - Using UNRWA inclusive education tools to also support children that have been released from detention
 - Cooperation with NGOs that specialize in supporting children that have faced conflict-related violence