overview

Arroub camp is located in the southern part of the West Bank, between Bethlehem and Hebron. It is situated mainly in Area B, although the section along Road 60 falls within Area C. The camp is adjacent to a section of Road 60 – the main road that links Jerusalem and Hebron, and is used daily by both Israeli settlers and Israeli Security Forces (ISF). The ISF have also installed a large military tower directly opposite of the camp. Many clashes and confrontations between Palestinian residents of Arroub and the ISF occur in and around Road 60 and the military tower. The camp is located near the Israeli settlements of Efrat and Migdal Oz to the north, and Gush Etzion and Beit el Baraka to the west. In addition, Arroub is one of the most targeted camps of ISF search operations, resulting in arrests and exposure to tear gas, sound bombs and use of live ammunition. This volatile situation creates multiple protection concerns and disrupts UNRWA services in the camp including its four schools.

As with other camps in the West Bank, Arroub is characterized by high unemployment, overcrowding and poor living conditions. Unemployment rates remain a challenge inside all camps with 17% recorded by PCBS’s Labour Taskforce Report, Q4 2022. Moreover, many refugees continue to live in substandard shelters. Arroub’s sewerage network is also in need of rehabilitation as it contributes to floods in some parts of the camp during the winter months.

15,642 Registered population

4,782 Children 0-18 year (2,296 female 2,486 male)

education

There are four UNRWA schools in the camp, serving 1,899 students based on 2021/22 scholastic year data. In 2014, and through the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD), UNRWA reconstructed the Arroub Preparatory Boys’ School and added an additional block with extra classrooms to address overcrowding issues. The schools in Arroub have libraries and computer and science laboratories. UNRWA school psychosocial counsellors are also present to provide the needed support for school children.

4 Schools

2 girls’

2 boys’

1,899 Students

915

984

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

health

The health centre was reconstructed in Arroub in 2007. It provides primary health care services including reproductive health, infant and child care, oral health, immunizations, screening and medical check-ups, and treatment of communicable and non-communicable diseases. Psychosocial counselling services are also provided at the health centre, while no physiotherapy or x-ray services are available. Residents can access such services only in Hebron or Bethlehem.

1 Health centre

15 Health staff (Doctors, Specialist, Pharmacists, Dental Surgeons, Nurses and Paramedics)

905 Patients with non-communicable diseases provided with care

410 Pregnant women provided with Antenatal Care

1,458 Children 0-5 years provided with Child Health Care

*all data presented is unrwa annual data for 2022 unless stated otherwise
Reconstruction of the solid waste transfer station to enhance solid waste management in the camp.

Rehabilitation of the rain water system inside the camp. The current system in Arroub camp is mostly blocked by the expansion of the houses to the natural track of the storm water.

Shelter rehabilitation for the most vulnerable with a total of 20 shelters in need of rehabilitation.

Machinery and equipment for sanitation and infrastructure works.

3,102 Tons of solid waste removed in camps

100% Sewerage connection

13 Sanitation labourers

Arroub camp had by far the highest number of confrontations and ISF operations in 2022. The number of detained children has always been amongst the highest in refugee camps in the West Bank. The experience of detention can be a frightening experience for children, resulting in trauma. In response to this, UNRWA has built the capacity of its staff to address the needs of these children, combining health and psychosocial needs, and including the use of UNRWA’s inclusive education tools and peer support to reintegrate the children back to normal school environment. The rate of tear gas incidents is currently the highest in UNRWA refugee camps. Tear gas use has impacted UNRWA installations, and refugees living in houses close to the road and other clash points are chronically exposed to tear gas, causing health concerns. Periodic prolonged closures of the main entrance of the camp by ISF make everyday life in the camp harder for residents and also have an impact on UNRWA operations and staff access. While often linked to the volatile security situation, such measures can be considered as collective punishment of camp residents which is illegal under international law.

26 Injuries caused by live ammunition

202 ISF Operations 81 Detainees

121 Teargas incidents 161 Confrontations

Camp needs

- Reconstruction of the solid waste transfer station to enhance solid waste management in the camp.
- Rehabilitation of the rain water system inside the camp. The current system in Arroub camp is mostly blocked by the expansion of the houses to the natural track of the storm water.
- Shelter rehabilitation for the most vulnerable with a total of 20 shelters in need of rehabilitation.
- Machinery and equipment for sanitation and infrastructure works.

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