overview

Camp No. 1 was established in 1950. It was the first camp established in the Nablus area and was thus named Camp No. 1. Because the camp previously received water from a nearby spring, it is also known as Ein Beit el-Mayy, meaning the “Spring of the House of Water”.

The camp is located on the main road between Nablus and Tulkarm, a road that is often utilized by Israeli Security Forces (ISF). However, ISF incursions into this camp are not as frequent as other camps. Camp No. 1 is one of the smallest camps in the West Bank, but with 9,498 registered persons, it is the most densely populated. Overcrowding has led to a lack of living and recreational space, which negatively affects residents’ mental and physical health. Unemployment rates remain a challenge inside all camps with 17% recorded by PCBS’s Labour Taskforce Report, Q4 2022.

9,498 Registered population

2,156 Children 0-18 year (1,036 female 1,112 male)

education

Camp No. 1 has two schools, a Girls’ School and a Boys’ School, serving 412 students based on 2021/22 scholastic data. Facilities in the schools include libraries and computer and science laboratories. UNRWA psychosocial counsellors are present in both schools.

Many students are affected by socioeconomic issues at home where some are forced to leave school in order to support their families. School faculty members work closely with psychosocial counsellors and parents to encourage these students to return to school.

2 Schools 1 girls’ 1 boys’

412 Students 215 197

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

health

UNRWA health centre in Camp No. 1 provides primary health care including reproductive health, infant and child care, immunizations, screening and medical check-ups, psychosocial counselling, and treatment of communicable and non-communicable diseases. In addition, a dentist is available three times a week to provide oral health services. X-ray services are also provided while physiotherapy is not available and residents must travel to Balata camp to receive this service.

The health centre implements the Family Health Team approach, which focuses on the family with the aim of providing comprehensive and continuous care. An electronic health information system (e-health) for patient files is also implemented, thus increasing the accuracy of data and health information, as well as health service efficiency in the centre.

The health centre in Camp No. 1 was built in the mid-1990s and serves both camp residents and refugees from nearby neighborhoods in the Nablus municipality. It lacks adequate space to effectively implement the Family Health Team approach, and is frequently overcrowded, which affects the privacy of patients. The health centre has been prioritized for reconstruction, but a suitable location is still needed.

1 Health centre

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

2,196 Patients with non-communicable diseases provided with care

519 Pregnant women provided with Antenatal Care

1,594 Children 0-5 years provided with Child Health Care

*All data presented is UNRWA annual data for 2022 unless stated otherwise
Through the Social Safety Net Programme, UNRWA provides cash assistance to around 533 impoverished refugees each year, which is equivalent to 5.6 per cent of the registered population in the camp. Moreover, through the Emergency Appeal (EA), an additional 188 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.

577 Identified poor households* (2,454 individuals)

117 Female-headed household identified poor

21% of the identified poor households benefit from the e-card (Social Safety Net Programme and Emergency Cash Assistance)

119 Households 721 Individuals

19 Female-headed household

UNRWA Sanitation Foreman conducts daily water examinations (residual chlorine test) and manages a team of ten sanitation labourers (4 temporary staff through various sources of funds), who collect solid waste from shelters and streets five days a week. The eight solid waste collection containers are situated outside the camp because of the lack of adequate space inside the camp. The waste is transported by the Nablus municipality to al-Siera Collection point, east of Nablus city, and then to the Zahrit al-Finjan Landfill. UNRWA sanitation team also maintains the sewerage network in the camp. All shelters are officially connected to the Nablus municipality water network, and water is delivered to the camp three days a week. Water shortage remains problematic especially during the summer. The lack of living space in the camp means that construction has increasingly encroached onto streets and open space. Many shelters in Camp No. 1 have more than four floors and are built on foundations that were originally designed to support no more than two stories. These shelters are often structurally unsound. Many shelters are also in poor condition, having deteriorated over the years, and are now subject to poor ventilation, humidity, overcrowding and lack of privacy for family members.

2,213 Tons of solid waste removed in camps

100% Sewerage connection

10 Sanitation labourers

The camp is located on the main road between Nablus and Tulkarm, a road that is often utilized by Israeli Security Forces (ISF) on their regular incursions to the city of Nablus, which leads to incursions and friction in the camp that expose the residents of Camp No. 1 to multiple protection threats. In addition, ISF occasionally attempts to arrest residents of the camp too. During these incursions ISF routinely deploy live ammunition, tear gas, and other forms of weaponry targeted at camp residents. They often enter into the camp during the night, causing damage to Palestinian homes and property and generating fear, anxiety and high levels of stress.

In October ISF imposed heavy movement restrictions of people in the Nablus area for 22 days, which also hampered the delivery of humanitarian services, including in Camp No. 1.

7 ISF Operations 5 Detainees

1 Teargas incident 3 Confrontation

- Reconstruction of Camp No. 1 Health Centre due to the centre’s limited space and location.
- Shelter rehabilitation for the most vulnerable.
- Rehabilitation of the sewerage network and the storm water drainage system
- Rehabilitation of the Camp’s main streets.

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