Overview

At 1800hrs on Thursday 14 September, a ceasefire came into effect in Ein el Hilweh camp that remained in place at the time of this report's publication. The agreement was established following a series of high-level contacts between Lebanese and Palestinian political and military actors in the preceding days. Most immediately, talks convened on 14 September by the Lebanese Speaker of Parliament with representatives of Hamas and the Fatah movement respectively secured their agreement to the ceasefire. Media reports stated that some parties to the clashes have subsequently set a new deadline of the end of September for securing the surrender to the Lebanese authorities of those who allegedly killed a Palestinian National Security Forces commander on 30 July 2023. This incident was a key driver of the initial clashes.

Only isolated incidents of gunfire have been reported inside the camp since the ceasefire came into effect. As a result, very little additional displacement of residents of the camp and adjacent areas has been observed since 14 September. Reports indicate that an unknown number of those sheltering outside the camp have begun to return to some parts of the camp less affected by fighting, including the Saffouri area. However, many areas of the camp remain too hazardous for return due to the likely presence of unexploded ordnance.

Large numbers of residents of the camp and adjacent areas remain displaced outside the camp. Four designated emergency shelters to accommodate internally displaced persons (IDPs) continue to operate in UNRWA installations, managed in conjunction with Al Jana, Naba’a, and Tadamon under the umbrella of UNICEF. With the return of some families to their homes, UNRWA emergency shelters are currently accommodating approximately 820 people across the four locations (please see OCHA infographic below for break-down per installation) out of a total capacity of 1,000 people.

In addition to the UNRWA designated emergency shelters, OCHA is aware of approximately 800 IDPs sheltering at gathering points across the Saida area. Médecins sans Frontières (MSF) and other partners are supporting the delivery of immediate assistance in these locations. Large numbers are also

- UNRWA provides services to over 38,000 registered Palestine Refugees in Ein el Hilweh camp.
- Eight UNRWA schools in the camp have 5,900 registered students.
- Two UNRWA health centres provide primary health care including reproductive health, infant and child-care, immunizations, screening and medical check-ups and treatment.

Heavy damage observed in the Hittin sector of Ein el Hilweh camp
understood to be staying with relatives in homes in the Saida area, with OCHA aware of at least 2,300 in the Syroub, Mieh Mieh and old town areas. Others have reportedly relocated to other Palestine refugee camps and areas throughout Lebanon.

**Coordination**

- UNRWA and OCHA continue to co-lead the response to the events in Ein el Hilweh at national and sub-national levels.
- A cross-sectoral coordination meeting is being held on a weekly basis at a national level in addition to sub-national coordination with partners providing services in all locations hosting displaced populations. Thematic meetings will be held with the respective organizations as needed.
- UNRWA is directly leading the management of emergency shelters located in its installations and UNRWA and OCHA are facilitating the coordination of life-saving assistance in the other emergency shelters.
- The regular coordination meeting for all responding organisations was held on Friday 15 September at the Saida municipality building, with a focus on clarifying coordination structures.
- A Humanitarian Country Team meeting on Thursday 21 September will include discussion of the Ein el Hilweh response.
- OCHA, UNRWA and operational partners are finalizing the needs and gaps analysis for the upcoming three weeks. Further updates will be provided in upcoming sit-reps.

**Humanitarian needs, responses and gaps**

The following assistance has been provided to IDPs and emergency shelters in the Saida area, with implementing organisations also identifying the following needs and gaps. This information is presented visually in the map at the end of this document:

**Health:**

- **Needs:** Continued primary healthcare assistance to IDPs in the collective shelters. Continued hospitalisation coverage per organisational policies. Improved referral systems between NGOs and existing Primary Health Centres. Provision of fuel to al Nida’a hospital inside the camp to maintain its operations.
- **Response:** UNRWA, MSF and Cap Anamur continued to provide medical services via medical points inside shelters, including the assessment of and support relating to non-communicable diseases. UNRWA health services continued to cover all types of medical needs including the distribution of medications and health services for acute conditions.

UNRWA supports hospitalization for Palestine refugees and coordinates with partners to secure hospitalization for others staying in UNRWA shelters. UNRWA has delivered fuel to al Nida’a hospital to ensure its continued operation. In addition, MAP is providing support for displaced pregnant women.

- **Gaps:** Regular assessment of communicable diseases and acute medical conditions in the sites not managed by UNRWA, coverage of hospitalisation fees, and strengthening of referral systems between NGOs and existing Primary Health Centers.

**Food security:**

- **Response:** Hot meals for IDPs in UNRWA designated emergency shelters have been provided by Al Farah Foundation, Al Islah, the Embassy of Palestine in Lebanon, Naba’a, Save the Children and Solidarités International. Anera provided processed and canned food.
• **Gaps:** Strengthened coordination between actors providing hot meals and provision of support to those hosted by families in addition to those in designated emergency shelters or other collective shelters.

**Non-food items:**

- **Needs:** Supply of basic clothing including underwear and shoes, mattresses and pillows, and basic items like combs, toothbrushes and diapers.

- **Response:** Naba’a provided pillows for those sheltering at Nablus School. Al Jana distributed clothes among IDPs at Siblin Training Centre, while Anera and Ansar did the same at Bir Zeit school. Naba’a, NRC, Save the Children and UNICEF have provided diapers and dignity kits.

- **Gaps:** Provision of blankets, sheets, and pillows for the emergency shelters.

**Water, hygiene and sanitation:**

- **Needs:** Maintenance of personal hygiene in emergency shelters, as well as ensuring the sanitation standards of these facilities.

- **Response:** MSF, Naba’a, Save the Children, Tadamon and UNRWA have conducted hygiene awareness sessions in designated emergency shelters, while ACF, Anera, NRC, Save the Children and UNICEF have provided hygiene items for IDPs. In addition, drinking water was provided by MSF, Naba’a, Save the Children and UNICEF.

- **Gaps:** Provision of dignity kits to the emergency shelters. Separately, in those parts of the camp less affected by fighting where the majority of residents did not flee, garbage has accumulated during the course of the clashes. UNRWA is working to develop options for the collection of garbage as soon as the security situation permits.

**Emergency shelter infrastructure:**

- **Needs:** Ongoing maintenance and repair of designated emergency shelters while they remain operational in addition to shelter assessments of other collective sites.

- **Response:** UNRWA’s engineering team is carrying out necessary repairs and maintenance of sanitation, water, ventilation, and electrical systems in its designated emergency shelters. UNRWA is also undertaking ongoing disinfection campaigns and water quality testing in its shelters. NRC and Naba’a are installing shower mixers in the Bir Zeit and Beit Jala school shelters and the Nablus School shelter respectively. NRC also provided solar and portable lights for Bir Zeit and Beit Jala schools.

- **Gaps:** The two collective sites in al Fawar and Hlaliyeh require shelter assessments to ensure they meet minimum standards.

**Protection and case management:**

- **Needs:** Case management for gender-based violence and child protection cases and for others with particular vulnerabilities. Recording of all those staying at emergency shelters and identification of vulnerable individuals for follow-up support. Provision of psycho-social support (PSS), especially for children. In addition, protection assessments of the two collective sites in Hlaliyeh and al Fawar are required.

- **Response:** Case management services and PSS are being provided by UNRWA and the partners supporting the management of the respective emergency shelters. In addition, MSF, Tadamon,
and UNRWA have been carrying out psychological first aid. UNRWA is working with Moussawat to meet the needs of persons with disabilities in its designated emergency shelters. UNICEF, through its partners, has been providing PSS and recreational activities and delivering hygiene and protection messages to children and caregivers. A coordination meeting for all partners working on protection was held on Monday 18 September.

Separately, UNRWA has carried out protection assessments of all its emergency shelters to identify and mitigate risks to ensure IDPs’ dignity and safety. UNRWA has also distributed codes of conduct for those sheltering in its emergency shelters, and is carrying out safeguarding sessions for shelter personnel.

- **Gaps:** Hlaliyah and al Fawar collective sites do not meet minimum protection standards, and there is a lack of case management and protection referral mechanisms in both sites.

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