

UNRWA Lebanon Field Office SitRep



Report #7 on the situation in Ein el Hilweh camp, Lebanon

Monday 11 September 2023, 17:30 hrs

Camp information

- 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.

Overview

Clashes in Ein el Hilweh camp continued into Monday 11 September, with periods of relative quiet interspersed with heavy shooting and the use of explosives. With fighting taking place on multiple fronts, the majority of neighbourhoods in the camp are reported to have been affected. The impact of the clashes has therefore been more widespread than the July-August clashes, which were focused primarily on the camp's northern sector. A compound containing four UNRWA schools continues to be at the centre of the clashes. Media and social media coverage indicates that damage to property and infrastructure in multiple areas of the camp is severe. Efforts to resolve the crisis by Lebanese and Palestinian political, military, and governance actors remain ongoing.

According to media reports, at least 11 people have been killed since clashes started on 7 September and over 100 injured. On the evening of Sunday 10 September, artillery fire from inside the camp reportedly hit two Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) bases, injuring five soldiers, one of them critically. LAF released a public statement warning concerned parties about 'the consequences of exposing

military centres and their members to danger' and noting that it would take 'appropriate measures' in response.

Residents of the camp and surrounding areas continue to flee their homes, with internally displaced persons (IDPs) seeking shelter with family or in one of the five emergency shelters that have been opened to date. The emergency shelters and their current occupancy are:

- UNRWA Nablus School (Saida): Opened on Saturday 9 September and managed with support from Naba'a. Currently accommodating approximately 300 people.
- UNRWA Siblin Training Centre (Siblin): Opened on Sunday 10 September and currently accommodating 280 persons inside. The centre is being managed by UNRWA in conjunction with Al Jana.
- UNRWA Bir Zeit School (Siblin): opened on the afternoon of Monday 11 September, under the operational management of Tadamon.

- Municipality building (Saida): Accommodating approximately 180 people and managed by the Saida Municipality. On Tuesday 12 September, IDPs from this shelter will be re-accommodated at Siblin Training Centre.
- El Musali mosque (Saida): Managed by Tadamon and currently accommodating approximately 300 people.

Multiple organisations have also provided assistance to displaced families in private shelters in the Saida area. The total number of emergency shelters is unlikely to rise further due to the unavailability of suitable and available premises. Initial assessments indicate that the maximum number of people able to be accommodated in available designated emergency shelters provided by UNRWA is approximately 1,000.

Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management and Assessment

- A cluster coordination meeting facilitated by OCHA took place on Monday 11 September at UN House in Beirut involving representatives of relevant humanitarian organisations. It was agreed that UNRWA will circulate a matrix document as a central repository in which responding organisations can log all forms of assistance they are providing to enhance coordination. UNRWA will hold overall responsibility for maintaining this coordination mechanism, with the support of OCHA.
- The RC/HC visited the municipality of Saida on the afternoon of Monday 11 September to meet some humanitarian responders.
- Weekly humanitarian responder coordination meetings will be re-started, with dates to be advised shortly.
- Essential items, services and other support for IDPs are being provided by Al Islah Association, Al Jana (ARCPA), the Embassy of Palestine in Lebanon, Intersos, Médecins sans Frontières (MSF), Medical Action Palestine (MAP), Naba'a, Najdeh, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Oxfam, Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS), Save the Children, Tadamon, UNICEF, UNRWA, Yad el Aoun and private donors.

Humanitarian response and needs

- **Health:** UNRWA is providing primary medical assistance to displaced persons and is coordinating with the PRCS on the provision of medication and hospitalisation referrals. MSF is providing health services and check-ups for chronic cases to those sheltering in Nablus School and Siblin Training Centre. MAP is providing support for displaced pregnant women.
- **Food security:** Naba'a is providing food supplies for those sheltering in UNRWA Nablus School. The Embassy of Palestine in Lebanon and Al Islah Association are distributing hot meals for those in Nablus School and Siblin Training Centre respectively. Drinking water is being provided by NRC, MSF and individual donors.
- **Non-food items:** NRC has provided 800 mattresses to emergency shelters. UNICEF and Save the Children are providing a range of other items.
- **Hygiene and sanitation:** Naba'a has provided hygiene kits for displaced people in Nablus School, supported by Save the Children and NRC. Supplies previously provided by ICRC are also being distributed. Save the Children has provided hygiene kits for those at Siblin Training Centre in coordination with UNICEF. UNRWA is providing further support on ensuring the operation of hygiene and sanitation systems in designated emergency shelters.
- **Protection:** UNRWA is coordinating the recording by relief workers of those arriving at UNRWA designated emergency shelters including the identification of those with particular vulnerabilities and protection needs. UNRWA has also undertaken initial protection assessments of Nablus School and Siblin Training Centre emergency shelters. Case management services and psychosocial support (PSS) are being provided by UNRWA and the partners managing the respective emergency shelters.

Future needs

- Possible ongoing provision of emergency shelter and basic assistance to those who remain displaced by the clashes (including additional shelter options if an extended crisis develops).
- Support for the upgrading of other UNRWA schools that will temporarily accommodate students unable to attend the eight schools inside Ein el Hilweh that will be unable to open for the start of the school year in October.
- Provision of assistance, including emergency cash assistance, to support families' recovery process, including rehabilitation works to their houses partially or entirely damaged by the fighting.
- Repair and maintenance of critical infrastructure in the camp, including water supply, wells, wastewater systems and the electricity network.
- The removal of debris and rubble in the most affected areas in order to ensure humanitarian access and improve the living conditions of the community.
- Ongoing awareness-raising among residents of the camp and adjacent areas to protect individuals from physical and psychological harm posed by UXO and other remnants of war.

