

## UNRWA Lebanon Field Office SitRep



### Report #8 on the situation in Ein el Hilweh camp, Lebanon

Tuesday 12 September 2023, 1700 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

While relative calm was observed in Ein el Hilweh camp from the evening of Monday 11 September into the morning of Tuesday 12 September, heavy clashes were again reported from approximately 1000hrs on 12 September. The hours of calm had followed the reported agreement of a ceasefire during a meeting between Lebanese and Palestinian security and political officials on Monday afternoon. Security conditions have not allowed a comprehensive damage assessment, but shelters and infrastructure in northern, central and southern sectors of the camp, as well as adjacent areas, are understood to have sustained severe damage.

As reported in the 11 September sit-rep, four designated emergency shelters to accommodate internally displaced persons (IDPs) have been established in UNRWA installations:

- Nablus School (Saida), which is currently accommodating 60 families comprising 221 people, and is being managed in conjunction with Naba'a.
- Siblin Training Centre (Siblin), which is currently accommodating 237 individuals and is being managed in conjunction with Al Jana.
- Bir Zeit School (Siblin), which is currently accommodating 50 families comprising 186 individuals, and is being managed in conjunction with Tadamon.

A fourth UNRWA installation, Beit Jala School in Siblin, has opened as a designated emergency shelter on Tuesday 12 September. The Saida municipality building has been sheltering approximately 180 IDPs, who will be relocated to the Beit Jala School emergency shelter on 12 September.

Other IDPs who had been sheltering at informal cluster points have also been relocated to UNRWA designated emergency shelters. Finding suitable and available locations for possible additional emergency shelters continues to prove difficult, despite engagement by the UNRWA leadership and the Saida municipality with property owners across the Saida area. As a result, the total capacity of available designated UNRWA emergency shelters remains approximately 1,000 people.

In addition to the UNRWA designated emergency shelters, some families remain at el Musali mosque on the northern side of the camp, where emergency operations are being managed by Tadamon. UNRWA has been liaising with Tadamon to transport any IDP who wish to leave Musali mosque to safer locations. Large numbers of displaced persons are also understood to be staying with relatives in private homes across the Saida area, while some have reportedly relocated to other Palestine refugee camps and areas throughout Lebanon.

## Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management and Assessment

- UNRWA is finalizing a matrix document to serve as a central repository in which humanitarian needs can be recorded and responding organisations can log their assistance. UNRWA will hold overall responsibility for maintaining this coordination mechanism, with the support of OCHA.
- Weekly coordination meetings for the humanitarian response will be convened, with dates to be advised shortly.
- Essential items, services and other support for IDPs are being provided by Al Islah Association, Al Jana (ARCPA), Cap Anamur, 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, Solidarités International, Tadamon, UNICEF, UNRWA, Yad el Aoun and private donors.

## Humanitarian response

In addition to the items and services noted in previous sit-reps, the following assistance has been provided to IDPs and designated emergency shelters in the Saida area:

- **Health:** UNRWA continues to provide primary medical assistance to displaced persons and is coordinating with the PRCS on the provision of medication and hospitalisation referrals. MSF, Cap Anamur and UNRWA are carrying out medical check-ups and providing treatment. MAP is providing support for displaced pregnant women.
- **Food security:** Naba'a, the Embassy of Palestine in Lebanon, Islamic Relief and the Islamic Scouts are providing hot meals for those sheltering in Nablus School. The Embassy of Palestine in Lebanon and Al Islah Association are distributing hot meals for those in Bir Zeit School and Siblin Training Centre respectively, while the Embassy is also providing infant milk formula. Drinking water is being provided by NRC, Naba'a, MSF, and individual donors. From Wednesday 13 September, Solidarités International will provide lunch for the three UNRWA emergency shelters in the Siblin area.
- **Non-food items:** NRC has provided mattresses for Bir Zeit school, having distributed 1,250 mattresses in total since 8 September, while Naba'a has provided 250 mattresses for Nablus School. Save the Children has provided laundry detergent to those sheltering at Siblin Training Centre.
- **Hygiene and sanitation:** UNRWA, Naba'a, Save the Children, Tadamon and MSF have conducted hygiene awareness sessions in designated emergency shelters, while NRC and Save the Children provided hygiene kits for those sheltering at Bir Zeit School. A WASH coordination mechanism between Save the Children and NRC is being established in conjunction with UNRWA.
- **Emergency shelter infrastructure:** NRC will provide rechargeable lamps and solar-power lights for rooms, bathrooms and public spaces in Nablus and Bir Zeit Schools, as well as water heaters. UNRWA's engineering team is carrying out necessary repairs and maintenance of sanitation, ventilation, and electrical systems in the designated emergency shelters.

- **Protection:** UNRWA relief workers continue to record those arriving at UNRWA designated emergency shelters including identifying those with particular vulnerabilities and protection needs. Case management services and psychosocial support (PSS) are being provided by UNRWA and the partners managing the respective emergency shelters. Tadamon has deployed a psychologist to Bir Zeit School, where both Tadamon and MSF are conducting psychological first aid. UNRWA has devised and distributed a code of conduct for dissemination in all emergency shelters to ensure occupants' safety.

### 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.
- 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.
- Repair and maintenance of shelters and critical infrastructure in the camp based on an integrated planning approach across affected camp and non-camp areas.

