

## UNRWA Lebanon Field Office SitRep



### Report #9 on the situation in Ein el Hilweh camp, Lebanon

Thursday 14 September 2023, 1630 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

Intense clashes erupted again inside Ein el Hilweh camp on the afternoon of Wednesday 13 September, sparking the renewed displacement of camp residents. This followed a meeting in Beirut on the evening of Tuesday 12 September between high-level representatives of the Fatah movement and Hamas that saw the sides affirm their support for a ceasefire in the camp. This had led to a night of relative calm. However, the ceasefire collapsed on 13 September as fighting broke out across multiple flashpoint neighbourhoods in the camp, including Hittin, Baraksat, Tawariq, Taamir, Safsaf, Ras al Ahmar, Tiri and Jabal Halib. In addition, some fighting was also reported in the Saffouri sector, which had not previously been heavily affected by clashes. Machine-gun fire and the use of heavy weapons – including the first reported use of flare-bombs in this fighting – was reported across these areas, and particularly heavy destruction was reported in the Hittin sector in the south of the camp. Shells and bullets continued to fall outside the camp, with a shell reportedly landing near a barracks of the Lebanese Armed Forces.

Media reported that seven armed individuals were killed in fighting on 13 September. At least eighteen people are reported to have been killed and 140 injured since the beginning of the clashes on 7 September.

Large numbers of camp residents were reported to have fled their homes as a result of the renewed fighting. Four designated emergency shelters to accommodate internally displaced persons (IDPs) continue to operate in UNRWA installations. These are nearing their full capacity of 1,000 people across the four locations:

- Nablus School (Saida), which is currently accommodating 268 people and is being managed in conjunction with Naba'a.
- Sibliin Training Centre (Sibliin), which is currently accommodating 254 individuals and is being managed in conjunction with Al Jana.
- Bir Zeit School (Sibliin), which is currently accommodating 190 individuals and is being managed in conjunction with Tadamon.

- Beit Jala School (Siblin), which is currently accommodating 185 people and is being managed in conjunction with Tadamon.

In addition to the UNRWA designated emergency shelters, IDPs have sought shelter at a number of gathering points across the Saida area, with many new families arriving following the renewed clashes of 13 September. Médecins sans Frontières has assumed responsibility for the management of non-UNRWA gathering points. These locations included:

- Al Musali mosque on the northern side of the camp, which is hosting approximately 120 people.
- Two buildings in the Fawar area of Saida, in which hundreds are reported to be sheltering.
- A warehouse in Talaat al Mohafiz, which is reportedly hosting approximately 320 people.
- Multiple buildings in Hlaliye that are accommodating approximately 240 people.
- Additional IDPs reportedly gathered in Bab Serai square.

Some IDPs who had been sheltering at informal cluster points have also been relocated to UNRWA designated emergency shelters.

Large numbers of displaced persons are also understood to be staying with relatives in homes across the Saida area, while some have reportedly relocated to other Palestine refugee camps and areas throughout Lebanon. 1500 displaced families are estimated to be staying in private homes in the Sirop area. The Saida municipality building, which had been sheltering approximately 180 IDPs, is now empty after the relocation of IDPs to Beit Jala School emergency shelter on 12 and 13 September.

### Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management and Assessment

- UNRWA has circulated 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.
- A coordination meeting for all responding organisations will be held at 2pm on Friday 15 September at the Saida municipality building.
- Essential items, services and other support for IDPs have been provided by Action Against Hunger ACF, Al Islah Association, Al Jana (ARCPA), Anera, Ansar, 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, World Relief and Development Association, Yad el Aoun and private donors.

### Humanitarian response

In addition to the items and services noted in previous sit-reps, new assistance has been provided to IDPs and designated emergency shelters in the Saida area per the below. Please note that the attached OCHA map lists all assistance being provided by all organisations in both UNRWA and non-UNRWA emergency shelters and gathering points:

- **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. UNRWA mobile clinics, alongside MSF and Cap Anamur staff, are carrying out medical check-ups and providing treatment. MAP is providing support for displaced pregnant women.
- **Food security:** Hot meals for IDPs in UNRWA designated emergency shelters were provided by Al Islah, the Embassy of Palestine in Lebanon, Naba'a, Save the Children and Solidarités International. Drinking water was provided by MSF, Naba'a and Save the Children. The World Relief and Development Association distributed milk for infants, while Anera provided processed and canned food.

- **Non-food items:** Naba'a provided pillows for those sheltering at Nablus School. Al Jana distributed clothes among IDPs at Sibliin 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.
- **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 IDPs. Anera has provided soap and detergents.
- **Emergency shelter infrastructure:** UNRWA's engineering team is carrying out necessary repairs and maintenance of sanitation, water, ventilation, and electrical systems in the designated emergency shelters. NRC has provided rechargeable lamps and solar-power lights for rooms, bathrooms and public spaces in Bir Zeit and Beit Jala Schools, as well as water heaters.
- **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. In addition, Tadamon, MSF and UNRWA have been carrying out psychological first aid.

### 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.

