Ein el-Sultan camp is located in the Jordan Valley and borders Jericho. Originally, 19,467 refugees lived in the camp but most of them fled to Jordan during the 1967 hostilities, leaving behind only 2,000 residents. After the Israeli withdrawal from Jericho following the Oslo Accords in 1994, the population in the camp increased to more than 3,999 people. Nearly all of the original UNRWA shelters in the camp were damaged during the first intifada. Subsequent reconstruction provided larger shelters, more public spaces and wider streets. This makes Ein el-Sultan camp seem more spacious than many other camps. Many shelters have outdoor areas, which provide valuable space for recreation. However, recent population growth has forced the residents to resort to vertical expansion.

One of the most pressing issues in the camp is the lack of a sewerage network. Residents currently use percolation pits that cause a wide range of problems, including health issues and high maintenance costs. The construction of a sewerage network in Ein el-Sultan camp is one of the main priorities for UNRWA in the West Bank. UNRWA also faces challenges in solid waste management due to the large size of the camp.

Unemployment rates remain a challenge inside camps with 17% recorded by PCBS’s Labour Taskforce Report, Q4 2022.

3,374 Registered population

1,673 Children 0-18 year (827 female 846 male)

Education

Serving 915 students, the UNRWA Ein el-Sultan Coeducational School is one of the largest UNRWA schools in the West Bank. It is also one of the few UNRWA coeducational schools. The upgrading of the school was completed in September 2016 with funding from the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD). The works included adding new classrooms and air conditioners, and renovating the playground. The school has both computer and science laboratories.

1 Schools

915 Students

450 465

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

Health

The Ein el-Sultan Health Centre was reconstructed in August 2017 with a generous fund from the Saudi Fund for Development. The centre provides primary health care including reproductive health, infant and child care, immunizations, screening and medical check-ups, treatment of communicable and non-communicable diseases and psychosocial counselling services. Dental care, x-ray facility and physiotherapy services are not available.

461 Patients with non-communicable diseases provided with care

193 Pregnant women provided with Antenatal Care

1,018 Children 0-5 years provided with Child Health Care

*all data presented is unrwa annual data for 2022 unless stated otherwise
UNRWA Sanitation Foreman conducts daily water examinations and manages a team of four sanitation labourers (2 temporary staff through various sources of funds), who collect waste from shelters. Ein el-Sultan camp is the second largest camp in the West Bank by surface area, which makes waste collection challenging. As the population in the camp grows, the pressure on waste collection also increases. With only four sanitation labourers and one compactor serving all residents, solid waste accumulates quickly, and residents often resort to burning the waste. The smell from the uncollected and burning waste creates health issues for residents.

As Ein el-Sultan camp does not have a sewerage network, residents rely on percolation pits. These are costly to empty and can only be used for a limited time. Pits are also built in the backyards of shelters or in public spaces, creating safety and health issues, as well as conflicts with neighbours and authorities. Flooding due to full percolation pits, aggravated by the occasional influx of storm water, presents a health risk. The haphazard covering of pits is also extremely dangerous for children, tragically highlighted in 2011 when a 5-year-old child fell into a poorly covered pit and drowned.

A construction project for a new sewerage and drainage system was implemented benefiting 432 (76.6%) households connecting them to the newly constructed network in Jericho. Further projects will be required to connect the remaining refugee households in the camp.

UNRWA provides cash assistance to around 216 impoverished refugees each year, which is equivalent to 6.4 per cent of the registered population in the camp. Moreover, through the Emergency Appeal (EA), an additional 153 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.

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