unrwa west bank – camp profile: far’a camp*

overview

Far’a camp is located in a rural area 17 kilometres north-east of Nablus. The camp is geographically isolated and many services can only be accessed in Jenin and Nablus. Though Far’a camp’s isolation is in many ways detrimental to the residents’ livelihoods, the lack of nearby city centre makes the land surrounding the camp affordable unlike most other camps located next to urban centres. This gives some of the Far’a camp refugees an opportunity to move outside the camp. As such, Far’a camp has fewer overcrowding issues than other camps. Unemployment is a major concern for the residents of Far’a camp where it also remains a challenge inside camps with 17% recorded by PCBS’s Labour Taskforce Report, Q4 2022. While the agricultural land that surrounds the camp provides some economic relief for the area, the residents consistently name unemployment and poverty among the most pressing issues.

Registered population

10,868

Children 0-18 year (1,621 female 1,791 male)

3,412

education

There are three schools in Far’a camp: two UNRWA girls’ schools and one UNRWA boys’ school that serve 1,369 students—based on 2021/22 scholastic year data. In 2016, Far’a Basic Girls’ School was reconstructed with funds from the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD). In addition, upgrading to the other two schools was completed through the SFD. Facilities in the schools include libraries and computer and science laboratories.

The difficult socioeconomic conditions of the camp have had a negative impact on the students’ overall wellbeing. In order to contribute to their families’ income, many students miss school during the olive harvest season. UNRWA school psychosocial counsellors are present to respond to the students’ needs.

Schools

3

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

51

Health centre

1

Health staff (Doctors, Specialist, Pharmacists, Dental Surgeons, Nurses and Paramedics)

12

Patients with non-communicable diseases provided with care

943

Pregnant women provided with Antenatal Care

265

Children 0-5 years provided with Child Health Care

1,002

*all data presented is unrwa annual data for 2022 unless stated otherwise

The health centre implements the Family Health Team approach which focuses on the family with the aim of providing a comprehensive and continuous care. This approach has improved patient flow and reduced the number of daily consultations per doctor. An electronic health information system for patient files has also been implemented thus increasing the accuracy of data and health information, as well as health service efficiency at the centre.

The UNRWA health centre in Far’a camp was reconstructed in 2018 and serves the residents of the camp and refugees living in the surrounding areas. The health centre provides primary health care services including reproductive health, infant and child care, immunizations, screening and medical check-ups, treatment of communicable and non-communicable diseases and psychosocial counselling. A dentist is working twice a week. The health centre is not equipped with an x-ray machine and does not offer physiotherapy but the latter is provided at the Community Based Rehabilitation Centre.
Rehabilitation of the sewage and water networks.

Rehabilitation of main streets in the camp.

Reconstruction of the Camp Services Office.

Shelter rehabilitation for the most vulnerable as there are currently 30 families on the waiting list.

**Camp needs**

- Rehabilitation of the sewage and water networks.
- Rehabilitation of main streets in the camp.
- Reconstruction of the Camp Services Office.
- Shelter rehabilitation for the most vulnerable as there are currently 30 families on the waiting list.

**Infrastructure & Camp Improvement**

There is an UNRWA water testing laboratory in Far’a Health Center, in which water quality tests are conducted on monthly basis for all camps in the North. In Far’a camp, UNRWA Sanitation Foreman conducts daily water examinations (residual chlorine test) and manages a team of eleven sanitation labourers (3 temporary staff through various sources of funds), who collect waste five times a week and maintain the camp sewerage network. There is no proper sewerage system in Far’a camp, but rather an ad-hoc system built by the residents themselves. Sewage is disposed in the nearby valley, which occasionally results in conflicts with the owners of the farmland.

Since 2013, UNRWA has been constructing and rehabilitating shelters in the camp yet needs continue to increase and additional funding is required.

**Relief & Social Services**

Through the Social Safety Net Programme, UNRWA provides cash assistance to approximately 634 impoverished refugees each year, which is equivalent to 5.8 per cent of the registered population in the camp. Moreover, through the Emergency Appeal (EA), an additional 141 individuals received 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.

| 799 | Identified poor households* (3,713 individuals) |
| 134 | Female-headed household identified poor |
| 18% | of the identified poor households benefit from the e-card (Social Safety Net Programme and Emergency Cash Assistance) |
| 145 | Households |
| 775 | Individuals |
| 34 | Female-headed household |

**Protection & Neutrality**

While Far’a is not located near any Israeli settlements, it is located near a highway that is utilized by ISF. Due to this, the camp experiences ISF incursions that have resulted in arrests and shelter damages. ISF raids often take place during the night, or in the early morning hours as soldiers enter homes, break doors, and wake up children. As a result, high levels of anxiety, hyper-arousal and psychological distress are common among camp residents. The isolated location of the camp limits access to specialized services for most of the camp residents, especially women and girls.

| 8 | ISF Operations |
| 4 | Confrontations |
| 19 | Detainees, including one minor |
| 3 | Teargas incidents |
| 6 | Injuries caused by live ammunition, including one minor |
| 1 | Fatality |

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