



## profile: far'a camp

tubas governorate

### Overview

Far'a camp is located in a rural area 17 km northeast of Nablus. The camp is geographically isolated, thus 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 centres makes the land surrounding the camp affordable in price, unlike most other camps located next to urban centres. This gives some Far'a camp refugees the opportunity to move outside the camp. As such, Far'a camp has fewer issues than other camps in relation to overcrowding.

Unemployment is a major concern for the residents of Far'a camp. While the agricultural land that surrounds the camp provides some economic relief for the area, the residents of Far'a consistently name unemployment and poverty among the most pressing of the camp's issues.

Far'a has an active civil society with numerous community-based organizations (CBOs) in the camp.

### UNRWA in Far'a Camp

#### General Information

- **Established:** 1950
- **Size:** 0.26 sq km
- **Population before 1967 (OCHA):** 7,060
- **Estimated population (PCBS):** 7,100
- **Registered persons (UNRWA):** 8,500
- **Estimated density:** 32,692 per sq km
- **Places of origin:** Areas north-east of Haifa

#### UNRWA in Far'a Camp

##### Main UNRWA installations:

- Three schools
- One health centre

##### UNRWA employees working in Far'a camp: 110

- Education: 72
- Health: 19
- Relief and social services: 3
- Sanitation services: 11
- Administration: 5

### Education

There are three schools in Far'a camp: two UNRWA girls' schools that serve over 750 students and one UNRWA boys' school that serves over 800 students. Facilities in the schools include libraries and computer and science laboratories. UNRWA psychosocial counsellors are present in the schools and remedial classes in Arabic and mathematics are offered on Saturdays. There is a lack of after-school activities in the camp, the addition of which would have a positive social and academic impact.

The difficult socioeconomic conditions of the camp have had a negative impact on the students' overall well-being. In order to contribute to their families' incomes, many students miss school during the harvest season.

### Health

The UNRWA Health Centre in Far'a camp serves the residents of the camp as well as refugees living in the surrounding areas. The Centre provides primary health care, including reproductive health, infant and child care, immunizations, screening and medical check-ups, and treatment of communicable and non-communicable diseases. Psychosocial counselling and family and child protection are also available at the health centre. A dentist is available twice a week. The centre lacks an x-ray machine and physiotherapy is not available in the health centre but is provided in the Community-Based Rehabilitation Centre.

The Centre has recently implemented the Family Health Team approach. This new approach focuses on the family with the aim of providing comprehensive, continuous care. The Family Health Team has improved patient flow and reduced the number of consultations

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that doctors perform, though this number remains above 100 consultations per day.

Built in 1993, the Health Centre is in need of reconstruction. It is a small structure and, consequently, overcrowding is an issue. In order to compensate for the lack of space, staff members at the Far'a health centre have divided up rooms so that each room serves multiple purposes. This results in a stressful, sometimes chaotic environment with little privacy for the patients. Therefore, UNRWA has prioritized the reconstruction of the Health Centre.

## Relief, Social Services and Emergency Response

Three UNRWA social workers conduct regular home visits in the camp to identify families who require special assistance. Every three months, UNRWA provides food parcels to approximately 640 impoverished refugees in the camp (approximately 7.6 per cent of the registered persons in the camp) through the Social Safety Net Programme. In addition to direct aid, UNRWA works with community-based organizations in the camp to support development programs for women, children, youth and persons with disabilities.

The Emergency Cash-for-Work Programme assists food-insecure families by offering three-month work opportunities inside the camp. The family receives a cash subsidy in return for their work, helping them to meet their basic food needs. The projects are designed to benefit the camp community as a whole. Cash-for-Work labourers have been involved in construction and maintenance work for the camp's Disabled Centre and the Women's Centre, and have also helped paint and repair the Youth Centre.

In recent years UNRWA has rehabilitated 45 shelters and reconstructed 12 shelters in Far'a camp.

## Environmental Health

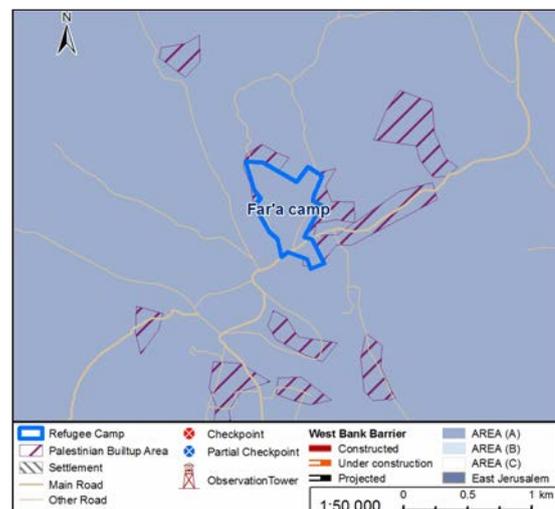
The sanitation foreman conducts daily water examinations and

manages the team of sanitation workers. Ten sanitation workers collect waste containers throughout the camp four times a week and maintain the camp's sewerage network. There is no proper sewerage system in Far'a camp, but rather an ad-hoc system built by the residents themselves. There are also cesspits still in use in the camp. Sewage is disposed of in the nearby valley, which occasionally results in conflicts with owners of the farmland. The camp houses an UNRWA water testing laboratory that tests the water quality of all camps in the northern West Bank on a monthly basis.

## MAIN CHALLENGES

### Location

Far'a camp is surrounded by rural agricultural land and is thus isolated from many services. This isolation forces residents to



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travel to Nablus or Jenin in order to access facilities such as x-ray machines, a process that is both time-consuming and expensive. Furthermore, the one available ambulance in the area is not always able to respond in a timely manner when emergencies arise in the camp.

While Far'a is not located near any Israeli settlements, it is located near a highway that is utilized by the Israeli security forces (ISF). The camp has been subject to multiple ISF incursions that have resulted in arrests and shelter damages.

## Unemployment

The unemployment level in Far'a camp is high, and the camp's remoteness renders access to the job market difficult. While the agricultural area surrounding the camp does provide camp residents with employment opportunities, these opportunities are limited to the months of harvest. UNRWA and the Palestinian Authority (PA) are the primary employers of Far'a camp residents.

## Spotlight: Far'a Women's Centre

The Far'a Women's Centre was established in 1996 and is among the more active women's centres in the West Bank refugee camps. The centre, an UNRWA partner, is home to a library, a fitness centre and a cosmetology instruction course. The centre also offers afternoon courses for a total of six hours per week in subjects such as poetry reading, story-telling and pottery.

Among the more successful of the Far'a Women's Centre projects is the production of handmade goods and crafts. Adorning the walls of the centre are beautifully hand-crafted beaded goods such as baskets, keychains, and vases. There are also jars containing homemade jams and cheeses. Three to four times a year, the women from the centre sell these goods at various events. The proceeds are used to fund activities such as workshops and speaking events, all of which aim to empower the women in Far'a camp.



## "I Consider All of My Students My Children."



Muhammad Mustafa Jaiza leads his guests up the stairs of the UNRWA Boys' School in Far'a camp. He can't hide his smile as it spreads across his face. "This is my first interview," he gleams, and he kindly ushers us through the doorway of his classroom. We are trailed by a following of young boys, keen to see their teacher discuss his prize-winning computer program that helps students learn math and Arabic.

A father of four, 40-year-old Muhammad was born and raised in Far'a camp. His childhood was difficult, as he and his family had very little money and often had no access to water or electricity. His suffering did not dull his ambition, and as a young man he dreamed of studying the sciences. He enrolled in an UNRWA school in Ramallah with the intention of studying science, but was halted in his attempts when he was told that he could only enter as an education major. This change in plan proved indicative of Muhammad's future, and he

quickly fell in love with the world of education.

Knowing that he ultimately wished to work in the UNRWA school in Far'a camp where he grew up, Muhammad took his first teaching job in a neighbouring village. After one year he was transferred to the UNRWA Boys' School in Far'a, where he has taught ever since.

"I consider all of my students my children," he says, "and so I strive to be the very best that I can be for them." His passion for his students is evident in the atmosphere of his classroom. It is filled with maps, charts, educational pictures and games – all of which Muhammad created with his own two hands. His creativity is clearly his strong suit, and it is not limited to the arts and crafts that furbish his classroom.

A number of years ago Muhammad began working on an educational computer program in his free time. He wanted to create a programme that would educate his children while simultaneously entertaining them. "The school books don't hold their attention," he says. "They aren't interactive." With no computer training, Muhammad began creating a program that is based on the books his school utilizes to teach math and Arabic. Employing the inspiration of YouTube and various iPhone applications, Muhammad created an interactive, colourful and effective educational program. His 12-year-old daughter, Ru'a, is the voice behind the animation and instruction.

In 2012, his program caught the attention of 'Inspire Palestine', a Palestinian award in teaching that is sponsored by various governmental and non-governmental organizations, including UNRWA. The recognition changed Muhammad's life. "I received so much support from my community," he says. "My morale is very high right now." As a recipient of the award, Muhammad was awarded a small cash prize. More importantly, however, 'Inspire Palestine' assisted Muhammad in the rehabilitation of his classroom. The organization installed a projector and speakers in his classroom for a better viewing experience of his program. They also installed curtains so that the program's projection can be seen easily.

As Muhammad takes us on a virtual tour of the program, his daughter Ru'a's voice echoes throughout the classroom. But hers is not the only voice; Muhammad's student audience whispers the program's theme song and instructions under their breath. "You see," Muhammad smiles, "it attracts their attention – they know it by heart."

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## General Overview West Bank Refugee Camps

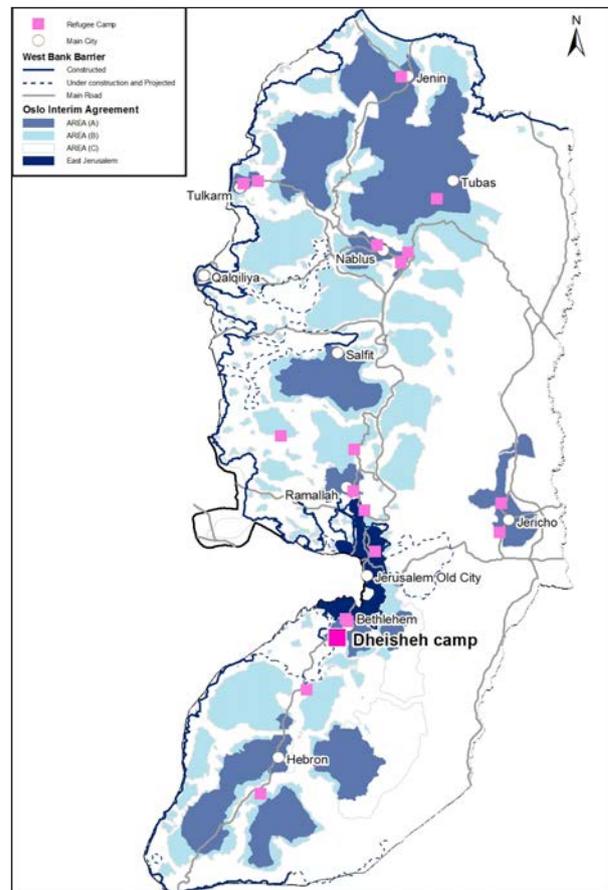
### Who is a Palestine Refugee?

A Palestine refugee is defined as any person whose normal place of residence was Palestine during the period from 1 June 1946 to 15 May 1948 and who lost both home and means of livelihood as a result of the 1948 conflict. The descendants of Palestine refugee males, as well as legally adopted children, are also eligible to register as refugees.

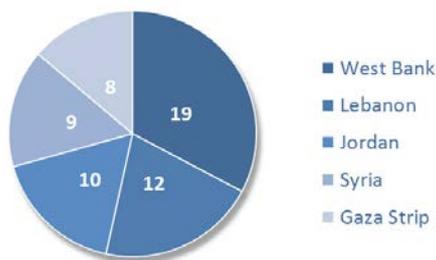
### Palestine Refugee Camps

There are 58 Palestine refugee camps located in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Gaza and the West Bank. The camps were first established as temporary tented cities for Palestine refugees who fled their homes during the 1948 conflict. For more than 60 years, this unresolved situation has challenged the camps and its residents.

The 19 Palestine refugee camps throughout the West Bank have since developed into urban areas home to more than 200,000 people (almost a quarter of the total registered persons with UNRWA), with the population in each camp varying from 2,500 to 27,000. The camps face challenges related to overcrowding, poor infrastructure, high levels of unemployment, food insecurity and protection issues.

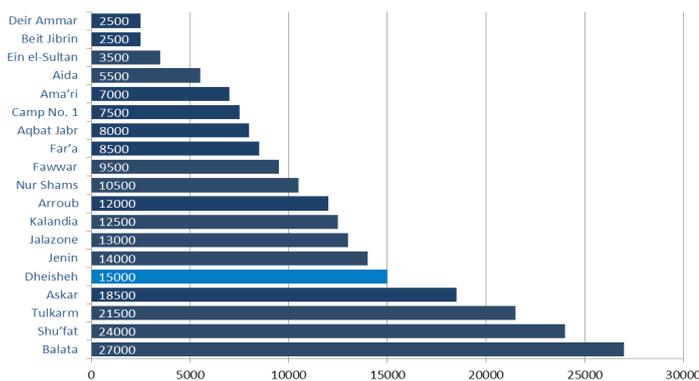


Number of UNRWA Refugee Camps per Field

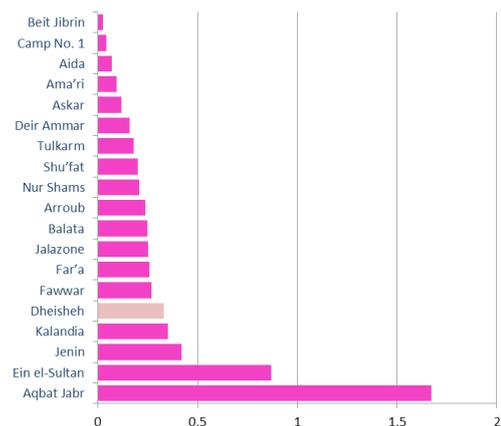


West Bank Refugee Camps Estimated populations

Total population West Bank camps: 222,500



West Bank Refugee Camps Camp surface in square kilometer



united nations relief and works agency  
for palestine refugees in the near east

[www.unrwa.org](http://www.unrwa.org)

UNRWA is a United Nations agency established by the General Assembly in 1949 and mandated to provide assistance and protection to some 5 million registered Palestine refugees. Its mission is to help Palestine refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, West Bank and the Gaza Strip achieve their full human development potential, pending a just and lasting solution to their plight. UNRWA services encompass education, health care, relief and social services, camp infrastructure and improvement, and microfinance.