



Photo by Dominiek Benoot

profile: fawwar camp hebron governorate

Overview

Fawwar camp is the southernmost camp in the West Bank, located approximately eight kilometres south of Hebron. The population in Fawwar camp has more than tripled since its establishment. Today, roughly 9,500 people live in the camp.

The Israeli settlement Beit Haggay and an Israeli military camp are located only a few kilometres away from Fawwar camp. An Israeli military watchtower is situated at the entrance of the camp. As a consequence, protection issues are a major concern for camp residents. Incursions, camp closures and clashes between young camp residents and Israeli security forces (ISF) have recently increased. In 2014, one minor was killed during such clashes.

Residents in Fawwar camp previously depended almost entirely on access to Israel for employment opportunities. The current inaccessibility of the Israeli labour market has thus severely affected employment levels and the economic situation in the camp. This has contributed to the camp's high levels of unemployment and poverty.

UNRWA in Fawwar camp

General information

- **Established:** 1949
- **Size:** .27 sq km
- **Population before 1967 (OCHA):** 5,056
- **Estimated population (PCBS):** 8,100
- **Registered persons (UNRWA):** 9,500
- **Estimated density:** 35,185 per sq km
- **Places of origin:** 18 villages in the Gaza strip, Be'er Sheva, and the area west of Hebron

UNRWA in Fawwar camp

Main UNRWA installations:

- Four schools
- One health centre
- One distribution centre
- One learning resource centre

UNRWA employees working in

Fawwar camp : 128

- Education: 93
- Health: 17
- Relief and Social Services: 3
- Sanitation services: 10
- Administration: 5

Education

There are four UNRWA schools in the camp, two for girls and two for boys, which serve a total of over 2,000 students. The schools include libraries and computer and science laboratories. Remedial classes in Arabic and mathematics are offered on Saturdays. However, there is a lack of organized after-school activities, which would otherwise benefit the children of Fawwar camp.

In response to the protection concerns, psychosocial counselling is available for students. In previous years, children in Fawwar camp had to travel to secondary schools outside the camp, facing soldiers and at times delays at the camp entrance. In 2005, the Palestinian Authority built secondary schools inside the camp which students now access.

Health

The Fawwar health 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 per week. The centre lacks an x-ray machine, which can only be found in Hebron. The centre also has no emergency facilities. This is problematic, as an ambulance requires half an hour to reach the camp and is often delayed at the camp entrance.

The Fawwar health centre recently received project funds for reconstruction, which will ensure that camp residents will receive services in a modern facility that offers privacy and confidentiality to both genders. The centre has also 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 daily consultations that each doctor performs, though this number remains above 100.



Photo by Dominiek Benoot

Relief, Social Services and Emergency Response

Through the Social Safety Net Programme, UNRWA provides food parcels to some 730 impoverished refugees in the camp, which is the equivalent to 8 per cent of registered persons in the camp. Social workers in the camp also conduct home visits to identify cases which require additional support. UNRWA also works with community-based organizations (CBOs) that target vulnerable groups in the camp. For example, through the Women's Programme, UNRWA has financed a hair salon for the Women's Centre in Fawwar camp to support women from poor households.

The Emergency Cash for Work Programme assists food insecure families by offering them 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, including the maintenance of public squares, street rehabilitation and sanitation repairs.

Environmental Health

The sanitation foreman conducts daily water examinations and manages the team of sanitation workers. There are nine sanitation workers in the camp that collect solid waste from shelters. This waste is then removed by UNRWA compactors and transported to dump sites. UNRWA also maintains a sewerage and storm-water network in the camp. However, this is not connected to the municipal sewerage network.

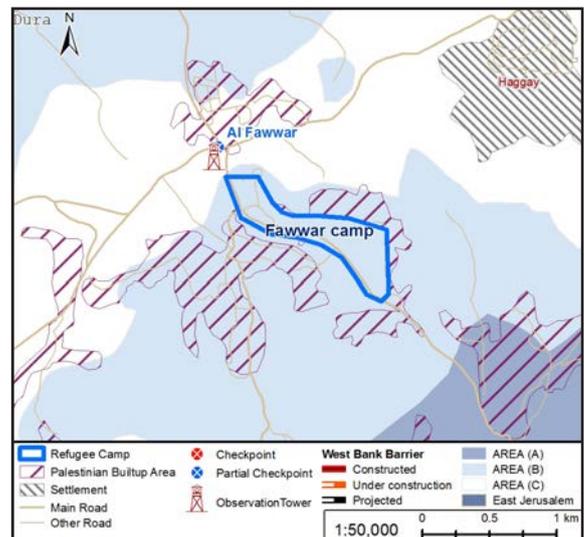
Main Challenges

Protection Issues

The ISF presence at the camp entrance results in regular protection incidents in Fawwar camp. ISF incursions and search operations have resulted in frequent clashes, at times resulting in serious injuries. Closures of the camp's main entrance will sometimes last for hours, also affecting camp life. This has a particular impact on younger children, many of whom experience emotional and behavioural difficulties.

Unemployment

Many residents of Fawwar camp formerly depended on access to work within Israel for their livelihoods. The construction of the Barrier and the associated permit regime have contributed to significant levels of unemployment and poverty in the camp. This has affected the youth in particular, contributing to growing dissatisfaction and frustration.



Infrastructure

Water shortages are a common problem during the summer months. Though camp shelters are connected to the water network, residents must still procure water brought by tank trucks. During the winter months, when electricity consumption is at its peak, power cuts are a regular occurrence. Flooding is also common during the winter, as the storm-water drainage system is insufficient to accommodate heavy rains. The camp's sewerage network remains unconnected to the municipal network. In recent years, UNRWA has rehabilitated 50 shelters and reconstructed 13 shelters in Fawwar camp.

Spotlight: Community Based Rehabilitation Centre in Fawwar Camp

The Community-Based Rehabilitation Centre (CBRC) is one of many active CBOs in Fawwar camp. Established in 1990, the CBRC assists persons suffering from disabilities. With the assistance of UNRWA and various other organizations, the CBRC in Fawwar camp supports key activities benefitting refugees with disabilities. The centre works both curatively and preventatively, involving specialists from fields such as health and education to ensure that refugees are offered the highest level of rehabilitative care.

Among the centre's activities are the provision of speech therapy courses, the donation of wheelchairs, and the provision of courses for mothers of children with disabilities. The CBRC has also assisted in the rehabilitation of shelters for persons with disabilities whose homes lack wheelchair ramps, railings and other assistive devices. Recently, the CBRC has expanded its physiotherapy services through the procurement of new equipment.



Photo by Dominiek Benoot

"I teach my sons, my relatives and my people."



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Ahmad Muhammad al-Amassi was born in 1954 in Tell es-Safi, a Palestinian village located northwest of Hebron. Though his family fled the village in his youth, he still believes that Tell es-Safi is his home. Pointing to the room in which we currently sit, approximately twenty kilometers from his beloved Tell es-Safi in Fawwar camp, he claims, "I live here, yes. But this is not my land. This is not my home."

Ahmad and his family relocated to Fawwar camp in the 1950s, roughly five years after the camp's establishment. "We had no water back then," he says. "No electricity, no sewerage system, nothing." He vividly remembers life in the tents, where he and his three brothers lived with their parents until 1961 when UNRWA began the transition to concrete shelters. "I remember it like it was yesterday," he says, and Ahmad begins to tell us his favorite childhood memory. "I was in the second grade and we had just received our marks in school. I had received the best marks and I ran home to tell my mother, only to find that our tent was gone." Ahmad smiles brightly as he continues: "I then found that my family had been moved to a real shelter, and when I found our new home I told my mother my news, and then I danced around our new home as she clapped her hands."

Ahmad continued to thrive academically, graduating from the Ramallah Men's Training Centre in 1974. Following graduation, Ahmad began teaching Arabic at the UNRWA Fawwar Girls' School. However, he was soon transferred to the UNRWA Fawwar Boys' School, the same school where he had studied as a young boy. He is very proud of his work; he says, "As a teacher in Fawwar camp I teach my sons, my relatives and my people."

After teaching for 24 years, Ahmad became principal of the Fawwar Boys' School and held the position for 14 years. In his time as principal, Ahmad worked hard to expand the school, which became the first in the West Bank to have a library, a laboratory, a computer lab, a social worker room, a learning resource centre, and a vocational training centre all in one school. "The school has everything we need," says Ahmad, "and I'm very proud to be able to say that."

In his free time, Ahmad volunteers in the Youth Activities Centre. He assists the Centre in educating and empowering the youth of Fawwar camp. When we ask Ahmad why he chose to dedicate himself to a life of public service, he says, "As a person of education I feel my people are in need of my services, and I wanted to do something for my camp."

Ahmad is a family man as well, and he and his wife, Hoda, have nine children together. "The youngest is 17 now," he says. Taking note of the surprised look on his guests' faces, Ahmad adds, "I know! I seem very young, but I'm very old!" And he lets out a loud laugh. It seems a life of service has done Ahmad well, for despite being 60 years old, he is young at heart.

General Overview West Bank Refugee Camps

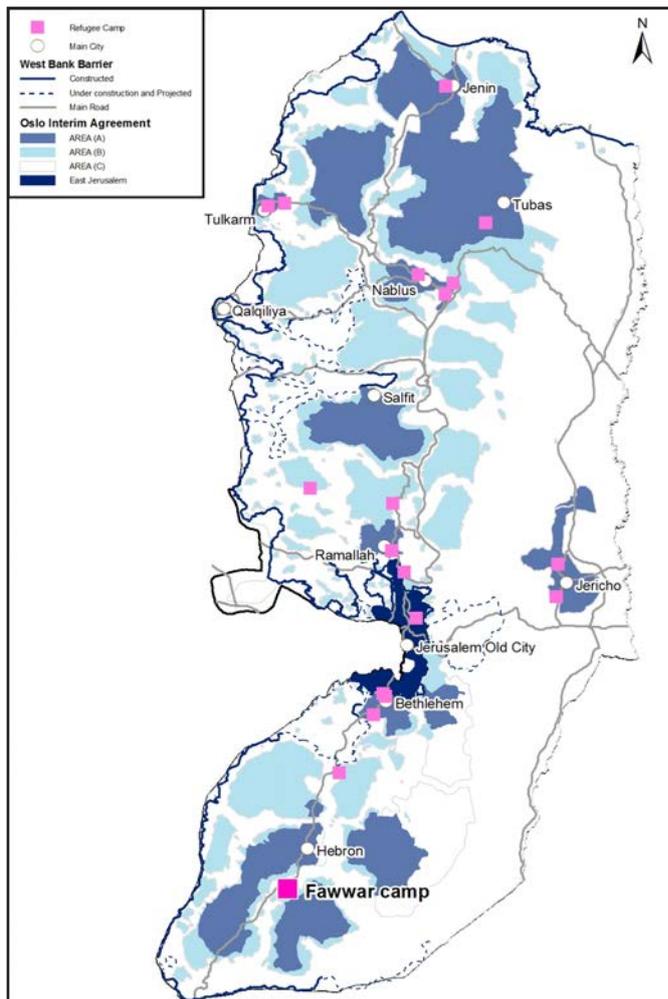
Who is a Palestine Refugee?

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.

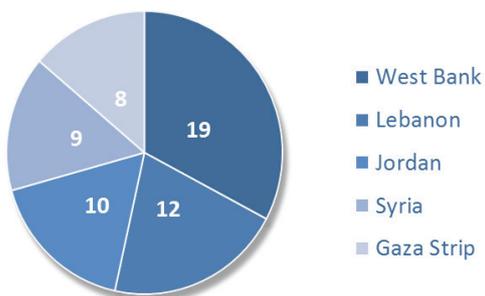
Palestine Refugee Camps

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.

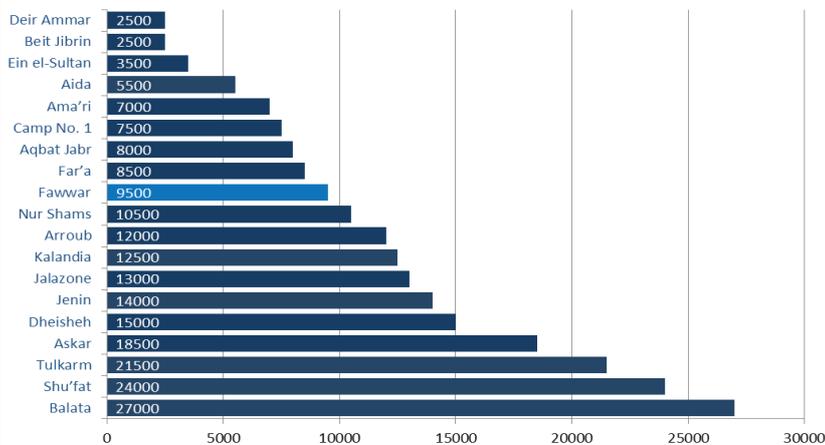


Number of UNRWA Refugee Camps per Field



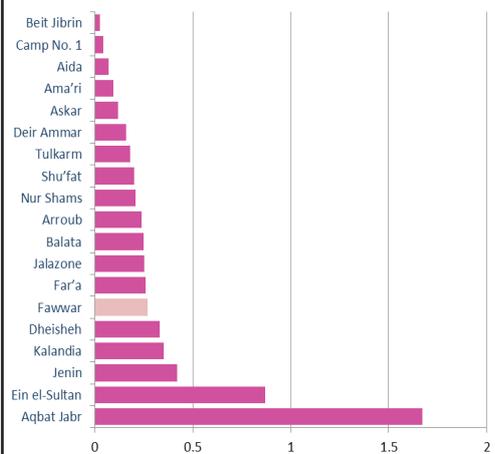
West Bank Refugee Camps

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

UNRWA is a United Nations agency established by the General Assembly in 1949 and is mandated to provide assistance and protection to a population of registered Palestine refugees. Its mission is to help Palestine refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, West Bank and the Gaza Strip to achieve their full potential in human development, pending a just solution to their plight. UNRWA's services encompass education, health care, relief and social services, camp infrastructure and improvement, microfinance and emergency assistance. UNRWA is funded almost entirely by voluntary contributions.