Establishment and Development

Established in 1951, Irbid Camp was one of the four original camps in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan which originally accommodated 6,929 of the 750,000 Palestine refugees and displaced persons as a result of the 1948 Arab-Israeli War.

By 1954, the residents began using materials provided by UNRWA to replace temporary tents with mud shelters. Since then, significant strides have been made in replacing these mud shelters with concrete shelters. As a result, the camp's aesthetic now resembles other urban quarters in Irbid.

Today, there are almost 30,935 registered Palestine refugees in Irbid Camp, rendering it Jordan's sixth most populous Palestine refugee camp. Furthermore, UNRWA's installations also provide services for registered Palestine refugees living in the camp's adjacent neighborhoods.

UNRWA Services

UNRWA offers a number of services to registered Palestine refugees both inside and outside of Irbid Camp. These include education, health, relief and social services, infrastructure and camp improvement and microfinance.

Education

- Four schools, which operate on a double-shift system to accommodate all students.
- 3,796 students in grades 1-10 and 124 educational staff members.

Health

- The Irbid Health Centre serves approximately 122,343 people inside and outside of Irbid Camp.
- UNRWA medical staff each provide an average of 68 consultations per day.

With the aim to improve the delivery of health services, in April 2017 UNRWA launched a mobile application to track Maternal and Child Health Records. It allows mothers to easily access UNRWA Health Information System, where they can find medical information on health status and that of their children, as well as appointments and relevant contact numbers.

The recent acquisition of equipment to perform dental panoramic x-rays, in April 2017, also contributed to improve the delivery of dental care to UNRWA patients in Irbid Camp.

Likewise, the implementation of a new version of the UNRWA e-Health system replaced manual, labor-intensive, costly and time consuming processes with a paperless electronic system. The e-Health system reduced the workload of health staff and improved the quality of health assistance mainly by enhancing doctor-patient communication.

The improved system has decreased the average number of daily medical consultations per doctor, increasing consultation time, and decreasing antibiotics prescription rate.

Relief and Social Services Programme (RSSP)

Under the RSSP’s Social Safety Net Programme (SSNP), 1,236 individuals (298 families) -45.5% are aged below 18 years registered Palestine refugees in Irbid Camp live in abject poverty and receive critical needed assistance. UNRWA Jordan Field Office (JFO) has assigned two relief worker to serve and follow up with the registered SSNP beneficiaries reside inside Irbid Camp.

In April 2016, the Jordan Field Office (JFO) revised its food distribution programme by introducing e-cards. The new modality replaced food with cash assistance distributed to families under the SSNP, giving them the autonomy to select their food from designated shops according to their individual needs. To date, 237 e-cards have been distributed in Irbid Camp.
The RSSP also provides guidance and technical support to one Community Based Rehabilitation Centre (CBRC) and one Women’s Programme Centre (WPC) in Irbid Camp. The WPC provides a unique and socially acceptable venue for women to participate in cultural and recreational activities, as well as educational and technical training courses in order to increase their marketability and self-confidence.

Infrastructure and Camp Improvement Plan (ICIP)

Camps often suffer from dilapidated shelters, inadequate infrastructure and lack of facilities, compromising the Palestine refugees’ quality of life. The Infrastructure and Camp Improvement programme was introduced in Jordan in 2007 to address the substandard living conditions in Palestine refugee camps.

UNRWA employs sanitation staff in Irbid Camp, who play a crucial role in upholding the living conditions for the camp residents by collecting waste, maintaining regular vector control and monitoring the quality of water supplies. The environment health service also works towards reducing the risk of outbreaks of diseases.

Refugee Camp Population

![Graph showing the population distribution of refugees in Irbid Camp.](image)

Major Socio-Economic Challenges

The most pressing socio-economic challenge facing Irbid Camp is the high prevalence of chronic health issues. In 2013, 16 per cent of the overall camp’s population suffered from some form of chronic health issue, more than any of other camps in Jordan.

This, coupled with the fact that only 56 per cent of residents have health insurance, places the residents in a severely vulnerable position.

The adverse health situation in Irbid Camp is amplified by a poor economic climate, where around 31 per cent of residents earned an income below the national poverty line (814 JD). Hence, Irbid Camp’s sluggish economy poses a considerable hurdle in effectively improving residents’ health.1


Camp Map

![Map of Irbid Camp](image)