

Jenin Camp- Protection focus

November 2022



Context

-Jenin Camp and the surrounding areas are a significant focus for the Israeli Security Forces (ISF) due to the presence of armed individuals, some of whom identify as members of militant factions. Many armed clashes occur when the ISF enter the camp to try to detain such armed actors. Due to armed groups in the camp, the camp and surrounding areas are subject to routine surveillance by ISF drones.

- A “governance gap” exists in the camp and surrounding areas. While the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) has been designated as the security and civilian authority under the Oslo Accords (Area A), residents of Jenin Camp do not benefit from effective civilian policing by the Palestinian Security Forces (PSF).
- Jenin Camp experiences the highest rates of poverty and unemployment amongst the 19 West Bank refugee camps. A lack of access to employment and vocational training opportunities in Jenin and surrounding areas continues to drive certain protection risks.
- Schools in Jenin Camp and the surrounding areas experience lower attendance rates and higher school dropout rates on average than other areas in the West Bank. Prolonged exposure to violence amongst the children has impacted academic performance and led to an increase in behavioral issues.
- Water and electricity shortages are common in Jenin Camp and have intensified in recent years.

Protection Trends

- In the past, ISF operations in Jenin Camp were conducted at night or in the early hours of the morning. More recently, ISF operations into the camp have occurred during the day, posing a greater risk to camp residents.
- ISF operations in Jenin Camp frequently occur near UNRWA installations, often posing a direct risk to our beneficiaries, including children. Since September, five UNRWA installations have been damaged to varying degrees by bullets, likely fired by the ISF. Some of those installations – such as the Health Centre – have been damaged multiple times across separate operations. During an operation in the camp earlier this year, all 1,655 students were trapped inside our schools for a prolonged period, resulting in significant distress amongst the children. During an operation in September, over 120 individuals were forced to shelter inside the Health Centre.
- ISF operations in Jenin Camp also have a significant impact on the services we provide to refugee communities. ISF operations often result in the temporary closure of installations, impacting access

to the crucial health and education services UNRWA provides to often vulnerable community members.

Key Protection Figures

- So far in 2022, the ISF has conducted 25 operations in the camp, a significant increase since last year when there were 18 ISF operations. Of these 25 operations so far this year, 8 have involved the use of tear gas, and have led to 13 confrontations and 27 armed incidents.
- Of the 243 recorded cases of injuries by live ammunition in camp locations, 138 of those injuries occurred in Jenin Camp.
- Of the 33 Palestinians killed by ISF this year across all 19 UNRWA camps, 21 have been killed in Jenin Camp alone. Many of those killed have been linked to armed groups and were killed in exchanges of fire with the ISF, however others killed were also not linked to the fighting (e.g., Shireen Abu Aqleh), or in circumstances in which it is not clear that the use of lethal force was justified. Six (6) of those killed in the camp were children, including one 12-year-old and one 14-year-old. Two (2) of the fatalities were women.
- Of the total number of Palestinians killed so far in 2022 throughout the West Bank, more than 15% were killed in Jenin Camp.
- At least 40 Palestinians have been detained during ISF operations in Jenin Camp this year.