Establishment and Development
Souf Camp is one of the original six emergency camps established in order to house some of the 250,000 Palestine refugees and displaced persons from the West Bank and Gaza Strip after the 1967 Arab-Israeli War.

In October 1967, harsh winter conditions and heavy rainfall pushed residents to move to a tented camp in the Jordan Valley; however, they returned to Souf Camp after military hostilities escalated in the area. Upon their return, UNRWA constructed 1,650 prefabricated shelters for the residents.

Today, there are almost 22,166 registered Palestine refugees in Souf Camp on an area of 0.5 square kilometers.

UNRWA Services
UNRWA provides a diverse assortment of services to registered Palestine refugees in Souf Camp. These include education, health, relief and social services and infrastructure and camp improvement.

Education
- Four schools, which operate on a double-shift system.
- 2,597 students in grades 1-10 and 89 educational staff members.

Souf Camp exhibits some of the strongest academic performance of all ten Palestine refugee camps in Jordan, where 23 per cent of men and 33 per cent of women aged 25-34 completed post-secondary education. Furthermore, almost 70 per cent of children aged four and five were enrolled in kindergarten.

Health
- One UNRWA health centre serves approximately 20,980 people living inside and outside of Souf Camp.
- UNRWA medical staff each provide an average of 72 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.

In 2019 UNRWA health department launched the electronic platform for patients with non communicable diseases. In 2020, in response to COVID-19 pandemic, UNRWA started telemedicine services at the agency’s health centres.

The improved system has rationalized the average number of daily medical consultations per doctor, and improved the consultation time with regard to quality of consultation and increased the time of contact between the care provider and the patient.

Relief and Social Services Programme (RSSP)
Under the RSSP’s Social Safety Net Programme (SSNP), 857 individuals (242 families) -43% are aged below 18-years- registered Palestine refugees in Souf Camp live in abject poverty and receive critical needed assistance. UNRWA Jordan Field Office (JFO) has assigned one relief worker to serve and follow up with the registered SSNP beneficiaries reside inside Souf 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 which is distributed to families under the SSNP, giving them the autonomy to select their food from predesignated shops according to their individual needs. To date, 279 e-cards have been distributed in Souf Camp.

The RSSP also provides guidance and technical support to one Community Based Rehabilitation Centre (CBRC) and one Women’s Programme Centre (WPC) in Souf 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 employability and self-confidence.

### Infrastructure and Camp Improvement Programme (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 Souf 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.

In collaboration with Infrastructure and Camp Improvement Programme in UNRWA’s Amman Headquarters, the Jordan Field Office (JFO) is currently developing a master plan for Souf Camp compound. A number of the existing UNRWA installations are incompatible with the services they provide. Although plans are focused on existing buildings and available land within UNRWAs compounds, Jordan Field faces challenges such as a shortage of land. With the support of the Department of Palestinian Affairs, Jordan Field continues to reach out to allocate available plots of land suitable for UNRWA operations.

In 2019, with the contribution of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia through the Saudi Fund for Development, two of UNRWA schools in Souf Camp were subjected to comprehensive maintenance.

### Major Socio-Economic Challenges

One of the most significant socio-economic challenges in Souf Camp is the disproportionately large household sizes relative to the other nine Palestine refugee camps in Jordan. On average, there are 5.3 individuals per household and 17 per cent of residents live in dwellings comprising three persons or more per room.

Unemployment is also a major problem in Souf Camp, where around 17 per cent of all residents are unemployed — 24 per cent of females and 16 per cent of males are unemployed, respectively. Thus, around 23 per cent of Palestine refugees living in the camp earn an income below the national poverty line (816 JD per annum).

Although Souf Camp has the lowest incidence of severe chronic health problems of all Palestine refugee camps in Jordan, 27 per cent of Palestine refugees living in the camp do not have any form of health insurance to protect them in the event of future ailments.¹