Tulkarm camp, established in 1950, is located in Tulkarm City in the north-west of the West Bank. Tulkarm camp has an area of 0.18 sq km and it is one of the most densely populated refugee camps in the West Bank. The camp was severely affected during the second intifada by incursions, arrests, raids and curfews. Incursions still take place, though on a more irregular basis. The main challenges in the camp include overcrowding and high unemployment rates with 17% recorded inside all camps by PCBS’s Labour Taskforce Report, Q4 2022. Poor infrastructure pose another challenge as the sewerage network is especially overburdened and experiences frequent blockages. In accordance with the Oslo Accords, the camp is located in Area A and is thus under the control of the Palestinian Authority. However, incursions and detentions of residents by Israeli security forces (ISF) occur on a frequent basis.

27,228 Registered population

6,932 Children 0-18 year (3,382 female 3,550 male)

Education

Tulkarm camp has four UNRWA schools that serve 1,347 students based on 2021/22 scholastic data. The two UNRWA girls’ schools share a building that was constructed in 2000. UNRWA conducted an assessment and identified a need for comprehensive maintenance to the school building, and is currently looking for funding. The UNRWA boys’ schools are divided between two buildings. The Elementary Boys’ School was reconstructed in 2019, while educational premises have been added to the Preparatory Boys’ School in the same year. The schools in Tulkarm have libraries and computer and science laboratories. Psychosocial support is also available.

4 Schools
2 girls’
2 boys’

1,347 Students
606
741

50 Education staff: teachers, school principals, deputy school principals and school counselors

Relief & Social Services

Two social workers in the camp conduct home visits, provide counselling, and refer residents to additional services when needed. They also work closely with community based organizations (CBOs) in the camp. The Community Based Rehabilitation Centre (CBRC) has been particularly successful in assisting children with its Speech Therapy Unit. Through the Social Safety Net Programme, UNRWA provides cash assistance to some 1,138 impoverished refugees, which is equivalent to 4.1 per cent of registered persons in the camp.

all data presented is unrwa annual data for 2022 unless stated otherwise
Shelter rehabilitation for the most vulnerable with more than 100 shelters in need of repair.

Rehabilitation of storm water and sewerage network.

Establishment of waste transfer station.

Rehabilitation of camp alleys and pavements around the school.

Rehabilitation of Tulkarem health centre.

Rehabilitation of CSO office.

Equipment for solid waste management and infrastructure works.

2,965 Tons of solid waste removed in camps

100% Sewerage connection

19 Sanitation labourers

Overcrowding, poor living conditions and inadequate infrastructure are characteristics of Tulkarm camp. Since it cannot expand beyond its original boundary, residents have built upwards to accommodate the growing population. Since 2013, UNRWA has been constructing and rehabilitating shelters in the camp, yet needs continue to increase and additional funding is required.

The sewerage network in the camp is overburdened because most residents connect their storm water drainage to it, causing regular blockages that require continuous maintenance. The storm water network is also in need of rehabilitation since residents use it to dispose of rainwater.

UNRWA Sanitation Foreman conducts daily water examinations, residual chlorine tests (three samples per day) and microbiological testing (five samples per month), and manages a team of 19 sanitation labourers (5 temporary staff through various sources of funds), who collect waste five days a week from shelters and streets. The ten containers located outside the camp must be emptied several times a day, which increases the burden on the sanitation labourers.

11 ISF Operations

12 Detainees

- Shelter rehabilitation for the most vulnerable with more than 100 shelters in need of repair.
- Rehabilitation of storm water and sewerage network.
- Establishment of waste transfer station.
- Rehabilitation of camp alleys and pavements around the school.
- Rehabilitation of Tulkarem health centre.
- Rehabilitation of CSO office.
- Equipment for solid waste management and infrastructure works.

* Poor Households are identified using UNRWA’s standard criteria, the Proxy Means Testing Formula (PMTF).