Overview

Jenin camp borders the Jenin municipality and is the northernmost camp in the West Bank. It has been a scene of significant suffering, having been established in 1953 after the original camp in the area was destroyed in a snowstorm. Jenin camp was also severely affected by the second intifada, when the Israeli Security Forces (ISF) occupied the camp in 2002 after ten days of intensive fighting. More than 400 homes were destroyed in the operation, with hundreds more being severely damaged. More than a quarter of the population was rendered homeless. UNRWA coordinated and implemented the reconstruction of the camp, and an additional piece of land (the size of roughly 3 per cent of the original Jenin surface area) was appended and developed adjacent to the camp, which reduced overcrowding.

Today, protection issues remain a primary concern for residents of Jenin camp. Residents are subject to many incursions by ISF, which often result in clashes, injuries, detentions and fatalities.

Jenin also experiences one of the highest rates of unemployment and poverty among the 19 West Bank refugee camps. Many residents previously relied upon work in Israel, which has been severely curtailed since the construction of the Barrier and the implementation of the permit regime. Unemployment and poverty affected youth in particular, resulting in widespread dissatisfaction and frustration, and contributing to higher school dropout rates among younger children.

Unemployment rates remain a challenge inside all camps with 17% recorded by PCBS’s Labour Taskforce Report, Q4 2022.

23,628 Registered population

7,148 Children 0-18 year (3,557 female 3,591 male)

Education

There are four UNRWA schools in Jenin camp, two girls’ schools and two boys’ schools, which serve 1,694 students in total based on 2021/22 scholastic year data. The schools have libraries and computer and science laboratories. Psychosocial support is also available. UNRWA girls’ schools require extensive rehabilitation while the boys’ schools were reconstructed in 2018.

Both violence and socioeconomic conditions experienced by the children have contributed to poor student performance and behavioural issues. The schools’ principals, teachers and counsellors target at-risk children for additional support and guidance, including remedial education and individual counselling.

4 Schools

2 girls’

2 boys’

1,694 Students

839

855

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

Health

The UNRWA health centre was reconstructed in 2014 and provides primary health care including reproductive health, infant and child care, dental care, immunizations, screening and medical check-ups, treatment of communicable and non-communicable diseases and psychosocial counselling. The centre has an x-ray machine and offers physiotherapy services.

3,399 Patients with non-communicable diseases provided with care

1,087 Pregnant women provided with Antenatal Care

3,014 Children 0-5 years provided with Child Health Care

*all data presented is unrwa annual data for 2022 unless stated otherwise
Through the Social Safety Net Programme, UNRWA provides cash assistance to around 947 impoverished refugees each year, which is equivalent to 4.0 per cent of the registered population in the camp. Moreover, through the Emergency Appeal (EA), an additional 238 individuals receive emergency cash assistance (ECA).

Social workers conduct home visits to identify cases which require additional support. In addition, the UNRWA Crisis Intervention Unit, funded by the European Union Humanitarian Aid (ECHO), provides financial assistance to residents whose shelters have been damaged after incursions to repair broken doors, windows, etc. It also refers the victims to services such as mental health counselling and legal assistance.

1,664 identified poor households* (7,470 individuals)
324 female-headed household identified poor
16% of the identified poor households benefit from the e-card (Social Safety Net Programme and Emergency Cash Assistance)
260 Households 1,185 Individuals
102 Female-headed household

Twenty-three sanitation labourers (15 temporary staff through various sources of funds) collect solid waste from the camp on daily basis, in addition to maintaining the sewerage and storm water networks. There is one tractor in the camp that assists the labourers in the collection of waste. The waste is then transported by UNRWA compactor to the nearby Zahrit al-Finjan Landfill. A Sanitation Foreman conducts daily water examinations (residual chlorine test) and manages the team of sanitation labourers.

As in other camps, residents of Jenin camp are affected by poor infrastructure and living conditions. Water and electricity shortages are common and have intensified, especially among shelters located on the hillside and during summer. Many residents continue to live in substandard shelters that lack adequate living space, ventilation and lighting. Since 2013, UNRWA has been constructing and rehabilitating shelters in Jenin camp yet needs continue to increase and additional funding is required.

1 Shelters rehabilitated/reconstructed
2,452 Tons of solid waste removed in camps
100% Sewerage connection
23 Sanitation labourers

Jenin camp residents are exposed to multiple protection threats. Jenin camp residents are exposed to multiple protection threats, linked to the frequent incursions by Israeli Security Forces (ISF) into the camp that often result in clashes. During these incursions ISF routinely deploy live ammunition, tear gas, and other forms of weaponry targeted at camp residents, often entering into the camp during the night, causing damage to Palestinian homes and property and generating fear, anxiety and high levels of stress. Another contributing factor is the presence of armed individuals in the camp and the activity of various Palestinian armed factions.

The protection situation in Jenin camp has deteriorated significantly in 2022 with increased levels of violence and ISF operations. Throughout 2022, ISF shot and killed 26 Palestinians, seven of whom were children. Further, a total of 168 Palestinians, including 19 children, were injured. Tensions also ran high in Jenin in September and October where three big ISF operations occurred that led to nine fatalities, eight of which were refugees, and more than 40 injuries including a woman and a paramedic. Additionally, some of UNRWA installations, the health centre and the four schools, sustained damage from many bullets.

40 Injuries caused by live ammunition
31 ISF Operations
16 Confrontations
11 Teargas incidents
9 Fatalities

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