



Building better, for less

Overview

Today, almost two-thirds of registered Palestine refugees live in 12 refugee camps across the country. The original boundaries of these camps remain identical to their establishment over 60 years ago.

The fact that the camps have not been enlarged to cope with population growth has resulted in severe overcrowding which negatively impacts on refugees' quality of life and health, as well as the general environmental and sanitary conditions of the camps.

Decaying infrastructure, a complete lack of recreational spaces and insufficient access roads, as well as very limited natural light and ventilation characterise the camps in Lebanon. Shelters that were designed to be temporary are still standing and have been extended upwards, posing serious safety risks.

The high cost of materials, combined with the restrictions imposed on bringing construction materials into the camps, has meant that refugee families have been unable to carry out substantial repairs or maintenance.

UNRWA Lebanon's response

UNRWA's aim is to rehabilitate the infrastructure and shelter conditions in the camps in order to improve the quality of life for refugees. To that end, UNRWA is focusing on improving the living environment of the camps through a participatory, community-driven planning approach.

Shelter Rehabilitation

The Agency is currently piloting a self-help approach to shelter rehabilitation in which Palestine refugees are encouraged to implement improvement works themselves. In the case of vulnerable families who are unable to carry out the works themselves, they can hire local tradesmen to undertake the skilled work required to rehabilitate their shelters. In addition, families receive technical support from UNRWA engineers throughout the rehabilitation process.

Ein el-Hilweh Infrastructure

With over 66,000 inhabitants, Ein el-Hilweh is the most populous refugee camp in Lebanon. It has remained without proper infrastructure facilities for decades. Ein el-Hilweh Camp suffers severe flooding in winter while sewage leaks through the crumbling water supply pipes causing contamination. In addition, water supply sources are insufficient to meet demand. UNRWA is currently seeking funds to rehabilitate the infrastructure in Ein el-Hilweh. Due to its size and for funding reasons, Ein el-Hilweh has been divided into four packages.

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At a glance

- 55% of households lack sufficient space, meaning that more than 2 people sleep in the same room.
- Inadequate housing is concentrated in the South, particularly in Rashidieh and Ein el-Hilweh camp and in the gatherings throughout Tyre region.
- 39% of shelters are in extremely poor condition (defined as water leaking from the walls and ceiling).
- 8% of households live in shelters where the roof or walls are made of corrugated iron, wood or asbestos.
- 9% of households have no water heater or refrigerator.

Source: AUB/ UNRWA Socio-economic Survey of Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon, 2010

Budget

The budget requirements for infrastructure and shelter rehabilitation projects amounts to US\$ 65 million and relies entirely on funding through projects. This includes US\$ 14.5 million for infrastructure upgrades in Ein el-Hilweh Camp; US\$ 3 million for water interventions in eight camps, and; US\$ 47.6 for shelter rehabilitation in all camps in Lebanon.

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Water Supply Interventions

A comprehensive assessment of interventions required to improve the water supply network was completed in November 2010. Based on this assessment, UNRWA plans to implement small-scale, high impact water projects in the camps with the greatest identified needs: Shatila, Burj el-Barajneh, Mar Elias, Beddawi, Mieh Mieh, El-Buss and Wavel. Works include the improvement of wells and the quality of the well water.

Rashidieh Wastewater Network

Rashidieh camp remains without a sewerage network decades after its establishment on the Mediterranean coastline. As a result, raw sewage flows in drainage channels directly into the sea – an environmental health hazard for camp residents and for the population of Tyre municipality as a whole. UNRWA is seeking funds to construct a new wastewater network throughout the camp and to connect it to the municipal system.

Solid Waste Management

This intervention aims to improve the environmental conditions of five refugee camps in the Tyre and Saida areas in Lebanon, with a particular focus on Rashidieh Camp. The project will enhance the solid waste management systems and raise environmental awareness amongst the refugee community, thereby minimising health risks. The project also includes a feasibility study into the possibility of installing a composting facility in Rashidieh.

UNRWA's Fundraising Priorities

- **Rehabilitation of 4,127 shelters targeting in particular the most vulnerable refugees**
- **Substantial upgrading of infrastructure in Ein el-Hilweh Camp**
- **Installation of a comprehensive sewerage system in Rashidieh Camp**
- **Provision of potable water in eight priority camps (Shatila, Burj el-Barajneh, Mar Elias, Beddawi, Mieh Mieh, El-Buss and Wavel, el Buss and Dbayeh)**



UNRWA provides assistance, protection and advocacy for some 4.7 million registered Palestine refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and the occupied Palestinian territory, pending a solution to their plight. The Agency's services encompass education, health care, social safety-net, camp infrastructure and improvement, community support, microfinance and emergency response, including in times of armed conflict. Through these services UNRWA strives to help Palestine refugees achieve a decent standard of living, long and healthy lives, knowledge and skills and full enjoyment of human rights. These goals are formulated according to the UN criteria for human development.



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