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Action Group For Palestinians of Syria



التقرير اليومي



الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية
The situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria

UNRWA Says It Faces \$100m Funding Shortage for 2022

- **Palestinian Refugees Slam Apathy of Political Factions**
- **Insect-Staffed Bread Sold in AlNeirab Camp for Palestine Refugees**
- **Syrian Red Crescent Distributes Food Baskets in Deraa Camp for Palestinian Refugees**



Latest Developments

The UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) is entering a “danger zone” due to a \$100 million budget shortage for 2022, according to the agency’s spokesperson.

UNRWA Spokesperson Tamara Al Rifai told The Jordan Times that UNRWA’s annual core budget for programmes like health, education and social protection is \$817 million for 2022.

“Until now, between what UNRWA has already received and what is expected to be received, including the amounts which were announced at the pledging conference in New York last week, we expect a shortage of more than \$100 million this year,” Rifai said.

While donors pledged about \$160 million for UNRWA during the pledging conference in New York last week, Rifai warned that if the required funds are not raised, it will be very difficult to maintain all the services for Palestinian refugees.

“The UN member states who gathered at the UNRWA pledging conference recognised that UNRWA is irreplaceable and that services should not and cannot be interrupted,” she added.

Rifai said that UNRWA is calling for funding and financial resources that are equal to the political recognition the agency receives.

“Political support is huge but we need matching funding,” Rifai continued.

According to UNRWA, the organisation still needs over \$100 million to support education for more than half a million children, to offer primary healthcare for around two million people and to provide emergency cash assistance to the poorest refugees.

UNRWA Commissioner General Philippe Lazzarini said during a press conference on Thursday that the pledges will enable UNRWA to run its operations through September.

“I do not know if we will get the necessary cash to allow us to pay the salaries after the month of September,” he said.

“We are in an early warning mode,” Lazzarini said.



“We have to avoid a situation where UNRWA is pushed to cross the tipping point, because if we cross the tipping point that means 28,000 teachers, health workers, nurses, doctors, engineers, cannot be paid,” he added. The agency, officially known as the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, currently helps some 5.6 million Palestine refugees and their descendants in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria as well as in West Bank and Gaza, by providing education, primary health, and social protection.

In another development, families displaced from Yarmouk and those who have remained in the camp have slammed Palestinian factions, including the Palestine Liberation Organization, for dragging their feet regarding their appeals for urgent humanitarian assistance and reconstruction projects.

Refugees said instead of paying huge sums of money on celebrations and commemorations, Palestinian factions should rather work on rehabilitating vital services and bringing life back to normal in the camp.

In February this year, Damascus Governorate said that 2,000 families returned to Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees, south of Damascus, over recent months and that 4,000 entry permits were issued to families wishing to return to the camp and retrieve their property.

Entering its 11th year, the Syrian warfare has had disastrous fallouts on Yarmouk Camp and other displacement camps set up across the ravaged country.

In 2014, the Syrian regime cut off water in the camp, leaving hundreds of families at the risk of death.

Before the crisis started in 2011, Yarmouk was a bustling home to almost 30 percent of the Palestine refugee population in Syria.

Today, the weight of displacement, hardship and the loss of loved ones add to the difficult living conditions in Yarmouk.

Meanwhile, residents of AlNeirab Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Aleppo, continue to denounce the poor-quality bread sold in the area, saying worms and insects have been spotted inside bread loafs.



In live photos circulated on social media network Facebook, insects and flies appear inside bread loafs.

The locals said bread is unfit for human consumption, holding the government's quality control staff and Ministry of Supply responsible for the crisis and calling for serious action in response.

Meanwhile, the Syrian Red Crescent distributed food boxes to Palestinian families in Deraa Camp for Palestinian refugees, south of Syria.

Over 700 Palestinian families sheltered in the camp benefited from the humanitarian drive.

All the way through Syria's eleven-year conflict, residents of Daraa Camp have been grappling with dire humanitarian conditions owing to the high rates of unemployment and absence of vital facilities.

UN data indicates that Deraa refugee camp is located inside Deraa City, in southern Syria. Palestinian refugees came to the Deraa area in two waves in 1948 and in 1967.

However, as the recent conflict unraveled, the camp became engulfed by violence and 90 per cent of the camp population had to leave the camp and seek safety in other areas such as Deraa city, Damascus or Jordan. Most UNRWA services were moved to alternative premises in Deraa city.

Deraa camp was home to 10,500 Palestine refugees before 2011. As of November 2018, only 400 Palestine refugee families have returned since the camp returned to government hands. As of February 2020, some 800 families had returned to Daraa camp and 750 students to the UNRWA schools, according to UNRWA.