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مجموعة العمل

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## التقرير اليومي



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

### **Khan Eshieh Camp for Palestinian Refugees Subjected to Negligence by Syrian Authorities**

- **Displaced Families Call for Urgent Return to Yarmouk Camp**
- **Displaced Families Fear Unabated Coronavirus Outbreak in Northern Syria**
- **First-Aid Course Held for Women in Yarmouk Camp**



## Latest Developments

Residents of Khan Eshieh Camp have denounced the apathy maintained by the local authorities regarding their appeals for enhancing vital services.

Palestinian refugee families taking shelter on the outskirts of the camp denounced the poor hygiene and absence of garbage-clearance services.

The residents called on the concerned bodies to coordinate with UNRWA in order to rehabilitate vital facilities.

The situation has been made worse by the chronic power and water cuts.

Palestinian families taking refuge in Khan Eshieh camp have been struggling with squalid humanitarian conditions inflicted by the twelve-year warfare.

According to UN data, Khan Eshieh camp lies beside the ancient ruins of Khan Eshieh, 27km south-west of Damascus. The Khan historically served as an overnight shelter for trade caravans on the road between Damascus and the southwest, and in 1948, it provided shelter for the first refugees from Palestine. The camp was established in 1949 on an area of 0.69 square kilometers with refugees originally from the northern part of Palestine.

Before the conflict in Syria, the camp was home to more than 20,000 Palestine refugees. In 2012, the farms and fields surrounding the camp became active battlegrounds in which heavy weapons were deployed, often indiscriminately. The population more than halved to 9,000.

Some of the camp's buildings and infrastructure were severely affected including some UNRWA installations; two UNRWA schools and the community centre were almost razed to the ground. In 2016, UNRWA was able to re-access Khan Esheih and the Agency was able to rehabilitate some of its installations. Residents have also slowly started to return, with the camp now accommodating 12,000 people.



In another development, residents of residents of Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees, south of Damascus, continue to call on the concerned authorities to facilitate their return to the camp and reconstruct ravaged facilities.

Lawyers warned of ongoing attempts to empty the camp of its residents, saying increasing the pace of family returns is the only means to bring life back to normal in the camp.

By the end of last year, Damascus Governor Mohamed Tarek Kreishati gave instructions to Damascus authorities to provide the residents of Yarmouk refugee camp with basic services and to rehabilitate the power and water networks.

The unabated warfare has had disastrous fallouts on Palestinian refugee camps across the Syrian territories. Palestinians who remained in Yarmouk or returned to the camp sometime later have been struggling for survival, in an area where mounds of uncleared rubble continue to block civilians' access to their homes and property.

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, concerns have mounted in Palestinian refugee camps set up across war-torn Syria as coronavirus cases have been increasingly reported.

Medical sources in Syria said deaths have been reported as a result of Omicron symptoms, including fever, sore throat, runny nose, cough, vomiting and diarrhea, which are the same symptoms.

Over recent months, AGPS has warned of an unabated outbreak of COVID-19 in Palestinian refugee camps in Syria, where limited access to running water, pharmacies and medical facilities means displacement camps are more susceptible to the spread of the highly infectious virus.

Displacement camps set up in northern Syria are especially vulnerable as most hospitals and medical facilities have been bombed, rendering them out of order.



AGPS stresses the need to supply Palestinian refugee camps with oxygen cylinders and medicines in order to help the displaced communities defend themselves against the virus.

In the meantime, the Shuhadaa Clinic, in partnership with Zahrat AlMadaen Association and the Syrian Red Crescent Society held first-aid session in Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees, south of Damascus.

The course program included first aid, treatment of wounds, fractures and burns, and implantation of intravenous catheters.

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