



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

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التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"Activists Condemn "Substandard" Anti-Coronavirus Efforts by UN Palestine Refugee Agency"

- Sterilization Campaign Carried Out in Northern Syria Displacement Camps
- Palestinian Refugees Volunteer for Anti-Coronavirus Campaigns in Syria Displacement Camp
- UNRWA Transfers Cash Aid to Palestinian Refugees from Syria in Jordan

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Latest Developments

Activists have lashed out at UNRWA and the General Authority for Palestinian Arab Refugees (GAPAR) over their unresponsiveness regarding the cries for help launched by the Palestinian refugee community in Syria due to coronavirus outbreak.

The refugees said the sterilization campaigns and precautionary measures carried out by UNRWA and GAPAR do not protect civilians against COVID-19 contaminations.

“How on earth can anti-insect spray prevent coronavirus contaminations?” said a member of the sterilization team in a cynical tone.

Over recent days, UNRWA in cooperation with GAPAR has embarked on a campaign to disinfect displacement camps in Syria in response to COVID-19 outbreak.



Recently, AGPS has warned of a projected outbreak of COVID-19 in Palestinian refugee camps in Syria. Though campaigns to help spread awareness among the camps' residents have recently seen the day, limited access to running water, pharmacies and medical facilities mean displacement camps are more susceptible to the spread of the highly infectious virus.



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Along similar lines, anti-coronavirus disinfection drives have seen the day in displacement camps set up in northern Syria, where hundreds of Palestinian families have been staking shelter.

A paramedic said the campaign falls in line with initiatives launched in the country to help civilians, particularly in under-equipped displacement facilities, combat the novel coronavirus COVID-19.

AGPS is deeply concerned over an unabated outbreak of coronavirus in Syria-based refugee camps, at a time when the deadly virus continues to claim the lives of thousands of people across the globe.



Though the Syrian government reported only one case of coronavirus infection throughout the war-ravaged country, there are growing fears that a large outbreak in Palestinian refugee camps in Syria could be particularly catastrophic.

AGPS fears the coronavirus could spread quickly in overcrowded displacement camps, where neither hygiene kit nor medical equipment are accessible.

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



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Syria's healthcare system, among other infrastructure, has been ravaged by nine years of war.

Meanwhile, a number of Palestinian refugees sheltered in AlSayeda Zeinab camp, in Rif Dimashq, have formed a volunteer group to help the local community fight the novel coronavirus COVID-19.

Volunteers said their so-called “White Blood Cells” group has been inspired by a similar team founded at Jaramana refugee camp.

All the way through Syria’s nine-year war, AlSayeda Zeinab Camp, held by the Syrian government forces and their affiliated popular committees, has been gripped with dire socio-economic conditions as a result of the high rates of unemployment. Scores of civilians have fled the camp while others have been forced to join pro-government battalions.

In the meantime, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has delivered financial aid to Palestinian refugees from Syria, activists have reported.

Every member of registered families received a sum of 53 Jordanian dinars.

The refugees are now able to withdraw their cash from the Jordan Ahli Bank by April 20, 2020.

The cash aids make part of contributions made by the European Madad Fund and the United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).



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The refugees received instructions to avoid over-crowding and long queues, wear gloves before withdrawing money, keep a safety distance of at least one meter, and to regularly wash their hands and sterilize them with disinfectants.

As the conflict in Syria has entered its ninth year, Palestinian refugees have borne the brunt of its devastating consequences across the region, facing extreme danger in their camps of residence and multiple displacements.

Over recent weeks, displaced PRS in Jordan have urged UNRWA to provide them with much-needed cash and medical assistance in order to be able to combat the deadly pandemic COVID-19.

The number of PRS in Jordan has remained relatively stable for a number of years, with 17,343 PRS recorded with UNRWA as of December 2019. Of these, 349 reside in King Abdullah Park (KAP), facing movement restrictions and a number of protection concerns.

Since the opening of Jabeer-Al Nassib border between Syria and Jordan, in October 2018, UNRWA has registered the return of 624 PRS individuals to Syria. As of November 2019, of those returnees, some 227 individuals were displaced again to Jordan for a range of reasons, including the unstable security situation in Syria, problems with civil documentation, lack of economic resources and livelihood opportunities, and high levels of destruction of homes and property.

A Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment conducted by WFP in 2018 indicated that the majority (67 per cent) of PRS were food-insecure or vulnerable to food insecurity. Twelve per cent of PRS female headed households were found to be food



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insecure compared to seven per cent of male-headed households. Food insecurity was even higher (78 per cent) in PRS households where the head of household was reported to be completely illiterate. Eighty-six per cent of surveyed PRS households were also reported to be in debt.

