



## التقرير اليومي



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



**On World Health Day, Palestinian Refugees Subjected to Medical Neglect in War-Ravaged Syria**

- Residents of Khan Dannun Camp for Palestinian Refugees Denounce Mistreatment at UNRWA Clinic
- Majority of Palestinian Refugees Suffering Food Insecurity in Syria
- UNRWA to Deliver Cash Aid for Palestinian Refugees



## **Latest Development**

Eleven years into the Syrian conflict, Palestinian refugees in Syria have been denied access to life-saving healthcare services and much-needed medicines.

This has resulted in an increased number of deaths, abortions, and neonatal (newborn) deaths, particularly with the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic.

A gynecologist told AGPS that inappropriate medical diagnosis, shortage in staff and equipment, along with medicines dearth has resulted in increased death rates among the Palestinians of Syria.

Several health centres, including those run by the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) have either been damaged or completely gone out of operation due to unabated shelling and bloody shootouts.

Limited access to running water, pharmacies and medical facilities mean displacement camps for Palestinian refugees and displaced Syrians are more susceptible to the spread of fatal diseases. Displacement camps set up in northern Syria are especially vulnerable as most hospitals and medical facilities have been bombed, rendering them out of order.

Conflict in Syria over the past decade has caused immense challenges for Palestine refugees, including deaths and injuries, continued internal displacement, large-scale migration to other countries, loss of livelihoods, and mounting humanitarian needs for basic survival.



Along similar lines, residents of Khan Dannun Camp, in Rif Dimashq, have spoken out against the mistreatment they have been subjected to by staff members at the UNRWA-run clinic in the camp.

A number of residents leveled heavy criticism at the clinic director for dragging his feet over a mother's appeal to sign a document proving her son's diagnosis with cardiovascular disorders. In a video circulated on social media, the mother said her 26-year-old son is unable to provide for his family due to a cardiovascular disease he has been suffering.

The residents have urged the UN refugee agency, the General Authority for Palestinian Arab Refugees, and all other concerned authorities to take immediate action in response to the mistreatment they have been facing at the facility.

In a statement emailed to AGPS, the residents slammed the medical staff at the clinic for their apathy regarding the appeals of a number of patients for much-needed treatment and medicines, along with psychological support.

Living conditions in Khan Dannun have sharply deteriorated due to the lack of financial resources and high unemployment rates wrought by the unbridled warfare.

According to UN data, Khan Dannun camp was built several centuries ago to give overnight accommodation to trading caravans on the ancient route between Jerusalem and Constantinople (modern day Istanbul). In 1948, the ruins of the city provided shelter for refugees from villages in northern Palestine.





The camp, which lies 23 km south of Damascus, was officially established in 1950-1951 on an area of 0.03 square kilometers. The camp was home to 10,000 Palestine refugees by 2011, almost all of whom were living in irregular housing, constructed without any formal approval from the municipality.

Before the conflict in Syria, the camp was already one of the poorest camps in Syria. The conflict exerted additional pressures. The camp was surrounded by armed opposition groups and many refugee families displaced from other areas of Damascus took refuge in the camp, tripling the number of residents to some 30,000 during the crisis. Currently, the camp is home to 12,650 Palestine refugees. The increase of the camp population has had a negative impact on the camp's infrastructure.

In the meantime, as the conflict in Syria continues into its 11th year, Palestinian and Syrian families across the country are facing unprecedented levels of poverty and food insecurity. More Palestinian refugees and Syrian nationals are struggling to put food on their tables today than ever before.

Large-scale hostilities and mass displacement across the northern governorates, combined with a severe economic downturn, mean that the overall food security situation is rapidly deteriorating across the country, and families require support to meet their needs and rebuild their lives.

The World Food Programme (WFP) estimates that 12.4 million Syrians are now food insecure. This is an increase of 4.5 million in the last year alone and the highest number ever recorded.



Years of conflict, displacement, soaring food prices and a decline in the value of the Syrian Pound have put additional pressure on families who are now struggling to afford the basics.

Syria's continuous crisis has depleted community assets, erased livelihoods and eroded household and community resilience. Food systems have been severely disrupted across many areas, leading to widespread food insecurity and the need for food assistance to fight hunger and malnutrition.

In another development, UNRWA in Syria said it will be disbursing the second batch of its emergency cash aid for 2022 as of April 10.

The grant covers the months March, April, and May and will be handed over to the most vulnerable families registered with UNRWA. Every concerned refugee will be receiving 112,500 Syrian pounds.

Refugees registered under other categories will obtain a grant of 82,500 SP.

UNRWA called on families who have not received the first aid batch for 2022 to reach out to the Agency.

The protracted conflict has devastated human security and left 91 per cent of the 438,000 Palestine refugees estimated to remain in the country in absolute poverty and 40 per cent displaced.

As the coronavirus pandemic has rebounded around the MENA region and the globe, Palestinian refugees in war-torn Syria continue to struggle with growing poverty and economic hardship. Many PRS have lost their sources of income; refugee camps have



seen unprecedented levels of destruction; rental prices have dramatically gone up; undernourishment and poverty have been a daily nightmare.