



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

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الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"Palestinian Refugees Facing Abject Humanitarian Condition in War-Torn Syria"

- Displaced Palestinian Refugee from Syria Appeals for Urgent Treatment in Lebanon
- Residents of AlHusainiya Refugee Camp Grappling With Transportation Crisis
- Red Cross Delegation Tours Handarat Camp

+442084530978

/Actgroup.palsyria

reports@actionpal.org.uk

www.actionpal.org.uk



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Latest Developments

After ten years of conflict, Palestine refugees continue to be one of the most vulnerable groups in Syria with immense humanitarian needs.

Palestinian refugees in Syria (PRS) continue to launch cries for help over their deteriorating humanitarian condition due to the sharp decrease in the exchange rate of the Syrian pound compared to the USD and their lack of access to the local labor market. The price leap has also overburdened the cash-stripped refugees.

The refugees continue to urge UNRWA and all other concerned parties to increase financial aid, help the displaced families return to their refugee camps, and provide much-needed relief services for Palestine refugees.

In its 2020 Syria regional crisis emergency appeal, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) said that over 90 per cent of Palestine refugee households in Syria live in poverty and 40 per cent remain in protracted displacement as a result of conflict and the damage and destruction of their homes,

UNRWA said that 126,000 Palestine refugees in Syria (PRS) are identified as extremely vulnerable; 89% live in poverty; 91% live in extreme poverty; and 80% rely on UNRWA cash assistance as their main source of income.



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UNRWA also said that 55% of PRS do not possess valid legal residency documents; 100% of PRS are in need of winterization assistance; and 86% of PRS households are reported to be in debt.

The majority of Palestinians sheltered in displacement camps set up across the Syrian territories have remained at bay from political calculations and frequently refused attempts by all warring parties to drag them into the raging warfare, saying their priority is to secure safe shelters for their children and families pending a just and lasting solution to their refugee plight and return to their motherland—Palestine.

Along similar lines, Palestinian refugee Adnan AlMaghrebi, displaced from Yarmouk Camp in Damascus to AlBadawi camp north of Lebanon has appealed to the international humanitarian institutions to help him secure surgery fees.

Adnan is in need of an urgent head surgery to remove a pituitary tumor, which costs 2,600 USD. UNRWA pledged to cover 40% of the sum and donors pledged to shell out the rest of the sum. However, the hospital administration said he should pay the entire sum on claims that it has not struck a contract with UNRWA. The latter said it will pay its share after it receives the hospital bill, leaving Adnan in distress.

UNRWA has identified PRS in Lebanon as one of the most marginalized and poorest communities in the region.

In its 2020 Syria crisis emergency appeal, UNRWA said that PRS in Lebanon continue to face high vulnerability and



marginalization, making them heavily reliant on UNRWA humanitarian support to cover their basic needs. The socio-economic hardships and unrest experienced by the country have compounded PRS' already dire living conditions.

According to a survey conducted by the American University of Beirut in 2015, nearly 90 percent of the PRS population in Lebanon live in poverty, including 9 per cent who are in extreme poverty and unable to meet even their most essential food requirements.

PRS's vulnerability is further compounded by their precarious legal status. The lack of a valid legal status, often coupled with outdated civil registration documents, results in severely restricted freedom of movement for some PRS in Lebanon due to fear of arrest, detention or forced deportation.

Meanwhile, residents of AlHusainiya Camp, in Rif Dimashq, continue to denounce the absence of means of transportation to give them lifts to and back from distant locations.

Over recent years, residents of AlHusainiya camp have denounced the absence of vital services in the area. The transportation crisis, price leap, absence of relief assistance and healthcare, power and water crises, and high rates of unemployment have made survival quite difficult for dozens of displaced Palestinian families.

Located some 15 kilometers away from Damascus, AlHusainiya Camp, like other areas in Syria, is overwhelmed by displacement, unemployment, inflation, and lack of protection among other



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major concerns shared by Palestine refugees and Syrians alike during the ongoing conflict in Syria.

In the meantime, a delegation of the International Red Cross accompanied by the water chief in Syria showed up in Handarat camp for Palestinian refugees to inspect ongoing maintenance works to repair the main water pipes.

Recently, 10 water tanks have been installed across Handarat neighborhoods.

Palestinian refugees have been grappling with dire conditions in Handarat due to the lack of humanitarian assistance and life-saving services. The majority of families have been taking shelter in buildings rented at extremely steep costs in the poverty-stricken area. A severe water and power crisis also continues to rock the camp.

Heavy shelling on Handarat and bloody shootouts between the government forces and the opposition outfits led to the destruction of over 90% of buildings in the camp. The confrontations culminated in the government's takeover of the camp along with other zones in Aleppo and the displacement of its residents on April 27, 2013.