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التقرير اليومي



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

Situation of Palestinians of Syria Exacerbated by Price Leap

- Residents of Jaramana Camp Launch Distress Signals
- Palestinians from Syria Rally Outside of UNRWA Office in Beirut
- Palestinian Journalist Becomes Member of Media Policy-Making Commission in The Netherlands



Latest Developments

As Syria has been engulfed by a devastating war since 2011, the conflict has since brought misery and death to Palestinian refugees sheltered in the country.

Prices of food and non-food items have skyrocketed and the exchange rate of the Syrian pound has further deteriorated.

The price of a one liter of olive oil has reached up to 30,000 SP while a kilogram of rice is sold at 7,00. A kilogram of flour is estimated at 12,000.

As the economic situation continues to deteriorate, its impact is acutely felt by everyone, not only the poorest or displaced families. The majority of families say they are eating less, cutting meals and going into debt to meet their basic needs.

At the same time, there is a significant increase in rent prices as opposed to meager salaries and great greed by landlords.

A large number of tenants have been forced to vacate their homes because they are unable to pay rents after the increase in prices, which led to great displacement during the unparalleled economic crisis that the country is going through.

A report by the UN World Food Programme revealed that in February 2022, the national average price of a standard reference food basket¹ increased by two percent since January 2022, reaching SYP 231,004. The national average food basket price was 34 percent higher than that of August 2021 (six months ago) and 71 percent higher compared to February 202.

According to UNRWA estimates, around 40 per cent of the Palestine refugee population in Syria remain in protracted displacement.

The deteriorating Syrian economy and rising inflation is giving rise to a real threat of hunger. A drastic loss of purchasing power has increased fears amongst the population, including Palestine refugees, about their ability to meet their basic needs, in particular food.



An UNRWA survey found that 82 per cent of the refugees interviewed now live on less than US\$ 1.9 a day and that 48 per cent of total household expenditure was spent on food, indicating severe distress within families.

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.

The conflict between Russia and Ukraine has been causing knock-on effects globally. The situation of Palestinian refugees, particularly those sheltered in war-torn Syria, has been greatly impacted.

UN data indicates that over half of the Palestine refugees in the country have been displaced at least once because of the brutal conflict that ensued, including 120,000 who have sought safety in neighbouring countries, mainly Lebanon and Jordan, and beyond; 438,000 Palestine refugees remain in the country – 91 per cent of whom live in absolute poverty - and who have been among those worst affected by the conflict. 86% of PRS households are reported to be in debt.

Along similar lines, residents of Jaramana Camp for Palestinian refugees, In Rif Dimashq, continue to sound alarm bells over their poor services and dire socio-economic conditions rocking the area as a result of the steep rental fees, high rates of unemployment, the price hike, and poor sanitation.

Activists have called on families and CSOs to pool resources and lend a hand to the most vulnerable residents.

Jaramana camp is 8km from Damascus on the road to Damascus International Airport. The camp was established in 1948.

UN data indicates that before the start of the conflict in 2011, there were over 18,000 Palestine refugees living in Jaramana camp. During the Syrian crisis, the number of Palestine refugees in the camp and the surrounding area increased to 49,000 due to an influx of displaced Palestine refugees from other areas, including the camp of Yarmouk. As a result, Jaramana has become one of the most densely populated areas of Damascus.



Many of the refugees worked as street vendors, government employees or in nearby industrial plants. Some inhabitants find work in the informal sector through collecting garbage for recycling. The majority of women are domestic workers in Damascus to supplement family income. Like other areas in Syria, displacement, unemployment, inflation, protection and security risks are among the main concerns shared by Palestine refugees and Syrians alike.

In the meantime, Palestinian refugees displaced from Syria in Lebanon have rallied outside of the main Beirut office of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to urge the Agency to increase cash grants and enhance its services.

Members of the Committee of Palestinians of Syria in Shatilla Camp handed over a memorandum to UNRWA director in Lebanon Muneer Menah calling on the agency to disburse winter grants to all displaced Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, increase shelter grants to 100 USD and food grants to 50.

The refugees also urged the agency to hand them over student transportation allowances and deliver cash grants every month rather than every two months in order to enable them to pay their house rents and purchase food and medicines for their children.

They further called on UNRWA's protection department to coordinate with the Lebanese General Security Office in order to issue/renew visas and identity documents for displaced Palestinians from Syria and cover 100% of hospitalization fees.

As Lebanon sinks further into crisis, there seems to be a growing consensus that it will take years, and billions of dollars, for the country to recover from a multitude of shocks.

Palestinian refugees have been most affected by the crisis. At the time of writing, fears of mass homelessness among the Palestinian refugee community in Lebanon run rampant.

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In another development, the Media Policies Commission at WOS TV and Radio station nominated Palestinian writer and journalist Maher Hijazi as member of the Commission in charge of the file of refugees and migrants coming to Westland province, southwest of the Netherlands.

The board represents various segments of Dutch society in the province of Westland, namely business, arts, culture, social welfare, religious movements, education and training, ethnic and cultural minorities, sports, and agriculture.

Speaking with AGPS, Hijazi said he will do his best to speak up for refugees in Westland and work on eliminating xenophobia.