



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



"AGPS: Child Labor Rates Soaring among Palestinian Refugee Children in Syria"

- Residents of Jaramana Camp Denounce Bread Crisis
- Injuries Reported as Fires Break Out in AlNeirab Camp
- Palestinians in T'seil Town Raise Concerns over Unexploded War Ordnance
- UNRWA Launches Vocational Training Session in Deraa Camp

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Latest Developments

The conflict and humanitarian crisis in Syria are pushing an ever increasing number of children, including Palestinian refugees, into exploitation in the labour market.

Scores of children continue to toil for long hours with little pay, often in extremely hazardous and unhealthy environments, to contribute to the family income.

A spiralling number of children whose families are taking shelter in displacement camps in northern Syria are also employed in harmful working conditions, risking serious damage to their health and wellbeing.

In neighboring countries such as Jordan and Lebanon, a number of children who fled war-torn Syria with their families are the joint or sole family breadwinners. Children as young as six years old are reportedly working.

The most vulnerable of all working children are those involved in armed conflict, sexual exploitation and illicit activities including organized begging and child trafficking.

The Syria crisis has dramatically reduced family livelihood opportunities and impoverished millions of households in the region, resulting in child labour reaching critical levels.

AGPS calls on the international community, host governments, and civil society to undertake a series of measures to address child



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labour inside Syria and in countries affected by the humanitarian crisis.

All concerned parties should join forces in order to improve access to livelihoods including through making more funding available for income-generating activities and to provide quality and safe education for all children impacted by the crisis.

In another development, residents of Jaramana camp for Palestinian refugees said they continue to line up for hours under the scorching summer beams to receive bread.

Civilians also denounced manipulation of prices and supplies and appealed for urgent action by the concerned authorities.

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

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.

Meanwhile, a number of Palestinian refugees in AlNeirab Camp, north of Aleppo, sustained injuries after fires broke out at AlZahira Restaurant in the camp due to a gas leak. Material damage was also reported.



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In the meantime, landmines, explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices (IEDs), which are particularly unpredictable and difficult to detect, continue to put millions of people, including Palestine refugees, at risk.

Palestinian refugees taking shelter in T'seil town, west of the southern Syrian province of Deraa, said their children's safety is at high risk due to landmines and other dangerous items.

UN data indicates that in Syria, approximately 1 in 2 people are at risk from explosive contamination and 1/3 of the communities are potentially contaminated. Contamination severely impacts lives, livelihoods and amplifies the social and economic crisis aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

People displaced or returning home are at high risk as they have limited information on safety issues in the areas they are going to.

This threat is particularly high for Palestine refugees in Syria, especially in newly-accessible or difficult-to-reach areas. These include areas that Palestine refugees have recently returned to areas such as Yarmouk, Ein el Tal and Dera'a camp.

Children on their way to and from school are highly exposed to the dangers of explosive ordnance.

Palestine refugees living in Syria are not the only Palestine refugees at risk from unexploded ordnance. In the Gaza Strip, unexploded ordnance from the 2014 conflict continue to pose a direct threat.



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In the meantime, UNRWA will hold vocational training courses in building construction.

The Agency said it will rehabilitate Tiberias School, the Women's Centre, and the water and sanitation networks.

Applications for joining the course will be accepted between June 7 – 14 for those aged between 18 and 30 years-old. Priority will be given to camp residents.

The UNRWA technical and vocational education and training and youth programme provides practical training to young Palestine refugees. It equips them with the relevant skills and expertise for Middle Eastern labour markets.

The Agency runs eight vocational and technical training centres with a capacity about 7,500 trainees.

A range of specializations at different levels, are covered, such as mechanics, building construction, plumbing, refrigeration, electrical installations, auto electrical and electronics, communication systems, mobile maintenance, hair dressing and fashion design, graphic design, accounting, assistant pharmacist, nursing, medical records and physiotherapy.

Despite their overall good performance, UNRWA training centres face challenges because of the Agency's budgetary constraints, including only limited places are available despite an increased number of applicants each year.