



التقرير اليومي



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

Guterres: Supporting UN's Palestine Refugee Agency Means 'Investing in Stability for the Region'

- Residents of Yarmouk Camp Raise Funds to Reconstruct Destroyed Property
- Palestinians from Syria in Egypt Call for Urgent Action by UNRWA, Palestine Embassy
- Maintenance Works Launched in Deraa Refugee Camp



Latest Developments

Investing in the UN agency that supports Palestinian refugees, UNRWA, is also “investing in stability” for the entire Middle East region, the UN chief Antonio Guterres told a pledging conference on Thursday.

“It means investing in the economic and social wellbeing of Palestine refugees and advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),” Secretary-General António Guterres told the UN General Assembly ad hoc committee for voluntary contributions to UNRWA.

“It means investing in the future through education of children and youth, girls and boys, young women and men and...honouring the commitment of the international community to Palestine refugees and their rights until a just and durable political solution is found”, he said.

Guterres invited participants to “imagine for a moment that we are a young man or woman Palestinian refugee living in Lebanon, or in Syria, or in Jordan, or in Gaza”.

He said for them, a political solution now seems “more far away than ever” with no active peace process and the diplomatic Quartet – consisting of the UN, European Union, United States and Russia – unable to meet, as evictions and settlements continued.

While the war in Ukraine and other global events have pushed the Palestinian question out of media headlines and political debate, he said the international community needed to “work to address all crises with determination”, including the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the plight of Palestine refugees.

The Secretary-General described supporting UNRWA as not only “a matter of justice” but also “a barrier to the progression of extremism” and terrorism.

“We are asking for your solidarity and your support,” said Guterres, appealing for pledges to bridge the gap between



UNRWA's mandate and its budget for vital services until the end of the year.

The UN chief explained the need to put the agency on “durable financial footing,” which requires stabilized financing to reach “sufficient, predictable and sustainable funding”.

“Millions of Palestine refugees are counting on us to relieve their suffering and to help them build a better future. We cannot let them down,” he spelled out.

UNRWA remains vital in supporting those in need,” he said, reminding Member States that they had “collectively committed to providing assistance to Palestine refugees” by creating and supporting the agency.

Guterres outlined how their contributions would enable over half a million children to receive quality education in UNRWA schools; allow 140 clinics to offer over eight million medical consultations each year; and provide cash, food assistance and social services to millions of people where poverty rates can exceed 80 per cent.

“Multilateralism requires not only political commitments but also resources to implement them,” the UN chief continued, vowing to pursue “every avenue to sustain services to Palestine refugees in line with the UNRWA mandate”.

In another development, a number of displaced Palestinian families who returned to Yarmouk Camp, south of Damascus, have raised funds in an attempt to help reconstruct the ravaged infrastructure and rehabilitate vital facilities.

Recently, a number of families bought solar panels to help operate the water wells in the area.

Activists and residents of Yarmouk Camp continue to slam Damascus authorities over their apathy regarding their appeals to reconstruct destroyed premises and facilitate civilians' return to the camp.

The refugees said none of the pledges made by Damascus Governorate regarding the rehabilitation of Yarmouk Camp have been materialized on the ground.



Palestinian families continue to call on the concerned authorities to allow them a safe return to their homes in Yarmouk Camp, in Damascus, and to press ahead with reconstruction projects.

The unabated warfare has had disastrous fallouts on Palestinian refugee camps across the Syrian territories. Palestinians who remained in Yarmouk or returned to the camp sometime later have been struggling for survival, in an area that has been severely affected by the deadly hostilities.

Before the crisis started in 2011, Yarmouk was a bustling home to almost 30 percent of the Palestine refugee population in Syria. Today, the weight of displacement, hardship and the loss of loved ones add to the difficult living conditions in Yarmouk.

Meanwhile, Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) in Egypt continue to rail against the apathy maintained by UNRWA and the Palestine Embassy regarding their appeals for humanitarian, legal, and socio-economic protection.

A number of refugees said UNRWA continues to turn its back on their calls for cash and in-kind assistance and denounced the mistreatment they have been subjected to by UNRWA staff.

Palestinian refugees who fled war-torn Syria to Egypt continue to call on UNRWA to take up its responsibilities and hand them over relief and cash aid.

The refugees have slammed UNRWA for dragging its feet over their calls for help on account that Egypt falls outside of its five fields of operation (Gaza, the West Bank, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria).

Palestinian refugees who fled war-torn Syria have been subjected to a volatile legal status in Egypt, where they are treated as foreigners rather than asylum-seekers fleeing war-stricken zones. Palestinians from Syria have also been denied the right to legal visas, refugee documents, safe accommodation, basic services, relief assistance, free movement, and access to education and labor, among other basic necessities.

AGPS continues to stress the need to secure the rights of the Palestinians from Syria in Egypt as per the Refugee Convention of 1951, and to hand them over cash and in-kind aid, along with



refugee cards, in order to enhance their legal status in the Egyptian territories.

In the meantime, local authorities repaired parts of the sewage network in Deraa Camp for Palestinian refugees, south of Syria.

Municipality staff workers replaced a 30-meter line of dilapidated pipes and repaired other pipes to stop the flow of waste water to civilian homes and access roads.

The residents have frequently denounced the breakdowns rocking the sewerage network in the camp, resulting in sewage overflows into residential neighborhoods. Civilian houses sustained material damage.

All the way through Syria's eleven-year conflict, residents of Deraa Camp have been grappling with dire humanitarian conditions owing to the high rates of unemployment and absence of vital facilities.

UN data indicates that Deraa refugee camp is located inside Deraa City, in southern Syria. Palestinian refugees came to the Deraa area in two waves in 1948 and in 1967.

However, as the recent conflict unraveled, the camp became engulfed by violence and 90 per cent of the camp population had to leave the camp and seek safety in other areas such as Deraa city, Damascus or Jordan. Most UNRWA services were moved to alternative premises in Deraa city.

Deraa camp was home to 10,500 Palestine refugees before 2011. As of November 2018, only 400 Palestine refugee families have returned since the camp returned to government hands. As of February 2020, some 800 families had returned to Deraa camp and 750 students to the UNRWA schools, according to UNRWA.