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## التقرير اليومي



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

### **Palestinian Refugee Families Deprived of Heating Equipment in Syria**

- **Humanitarian Drive Launched in Khan Eshieh Refugee Camp**
- **New Residential Complex Provides Shelter to Displaced Families North of Syria**
- **Red Crescent Embarks on Humanitarian Initiative in Palestinian Refugee Camps in Syria**



## **Latest Developments**

As weather temperature have gone down, Palestinian refugee families in Syria continue to struggle with multiple hardships.

Speaking with AGPS, a number of Palestinian refugees said they have no heating equipment except for blankets and mattresses.

The families expressed fear that they won't be able to cook their food or keep the cold out of their homes this year due to fuel dearth, as a freezing winter season is about to unlock its gates.

The refugees have launched into a tirade against the malpractices of Syria's burgeoning black oil market, fuel shortages, and—most of all—the exorbitant prices of wood and fuel charged by corrupt officials and traders.

The price of a ton of wood has been raised to 180, 000 Syrian pounds while a liter of fuel is sold in the black market at over 18,000 pounds.

Families barely receive 100 liters of fuel through the smart card, which has become essential in the Syrian government-held areas. With this card, a family can obtain their small but vital allocations of heating oil, gas, bread, sugar, rice, and other goods. In early 2019, the Syrian government began the smart card system, which allegedly aimed to stop monopolization of aid and provide support to those in need.

At the same time, desperate for warmth, displaced Palestinian and Syrian families taking refuge in under-equipped camps and substandard facilities have been burning their clothes and plastic materials to stave off winter cold after they failed to afford firewood and fuel supplies.

This has resulted in heavy smokes engulfing camps from all corners and engendering civilians', particularly children's, health condition.

Activists sounded the alarm over the health hazards emanating from toxic smokes. Scores of children have sustained



costochondritis (chest inflammation) and bronchitis due to heavy smoke inhalation.

In another development, activists from Khan Eshieh Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Rif Dimashq, embarked on a move aiming to raise funds for vulnerable families in the camp.

The drive aims to establish contacts between Palestinian-Syrian expatriates and poor families in the camp in order to identify the latter's needs and assist them accordingly.

Palestinian families taking refuge in Khan Eshieh camp have been struggling with squalid humanitarian conditions inflicted by the twelve-year conflict.

According to UN data, Khan Eshieh camp lies beside the ancient ruins of Khan Eshieh, 27km south-west of Damascus. The Khan historically served as an overnight shelter for trade caravans on the road between Damascus and the southwest, and in 1948, it provided shelter for the first refugees from Palestine. The camp was established in 1949 on an area of 0.69 square kilometers with refugees originally from the northern part of Palestine.

Before the conflict in Syria, the camp was home to more than 20,000 Palestine refugees. In 2012, the farms and fields surrounding the camp became active battlegrounds in which heavy weapons were deployed, often indiscriminately. The population more than halved to 9,000.

Some of the camp's buildings and infrastructure were severely affected including some UNRWA installations; two UNRWA schools and the community centre were almost razed to the ground. In 2016, UNRWA was able to re-access Khan Esheih and the Agency was able to rehabilitate some of its installations. Residents have also slowly started to return, with the camp now accommodating 12,000 people.

Meanwhile, a new complex was opened on Monday in northern Syria to help shelter displaced families in the area.

The so-called "Haifa Al Karmal" complex, established thanks to contributions from Palestinians living in Palestinian territories occupied by Israel since 1948, comprises some 600 apartments.



Families previously sheltered in the under-equipped Deir Ballout and Muhammadiya displacement camps will now be able to have roofs over their heads.

Palestinian refugees sheltered in displacement camps in northern Syria have been enduring a tragic situation. Most of them have been crammed in poorly-equipped tents and denied their rights to vital services.

In the meantime, the Syrian Red Crescent Organization launched a humanitarian drive in the Palestinian refugee camps of AlNeirab and Hindarat, in partnership with UNICEF.

The move aims to provide healthcare and food assistance services to vulnerable families in the camp, particularly children aged between six months and five years and who are most prone to malnutrition.

As the conflict in Syria continues into its 12th 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.