



التقرير اليومي



الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

The situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



Displaced Families Appeal for Rehabilitation of Deraa Camp

- WHO: 700,000 Children Facing Hunger in Syria
- Khan Dannun Camp Residents Denounce Spread of Rodents
- 15 Turkish Provinces Suspend Granting Refugee Visas, Protection Cards



Latest Development

Residents of Deraa Camp for Palestinian refugees, south of Syria, have called on the international human rights organizations to work on rehabilitating schools and vital premises, particularly healthcare facilities, which have been destroyed in the ten-year warfare.

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

Civilians continue to sound distress signals over the absence of health services and life-saving medical kit. Most of the clinics and medical centers in the area have gone out of operation in the warfare. Dozens of sick and elderly civilians face mountainous journeys trying to reach AlKashef area for treatment.

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 and its surroundings returned to government control in the summer of 2018. The camp is now largely destroyed. UNRWA was able to return to Deraa camp in November 2018 to



conduct a needs assessment. Inside Deraa camp, all premises including three school buildings and a clinic need substantial repairs or complete rebuilding.

Deraa camp was home to 10,500 Palestine refugees before 2011. As of November 2018, 400 Palestine refugee families have returned since the camp returned to government hands.

As of February 2020, some 800 families had returned to Daraa camp and 750 students to the UNRWA schools, according to UNRWA.

The camp was initially set up on an area of 0.04 square kilometers, and it now covers an area of 1.3 square kilometers. In addition to the 10,500 Palestine refugees in the camp, there were more than 17,500 Palestine refugees living in neighboring Syrian villages before the conflict. Most of them worked as farmers on Syrian-owned lands, others were employed as wage laborers, government workers and a few as UNRWA staff.

The older part of the camp was established in 1950-51 for refugees from the northern and eastern parts of Palestine following the 1948 Arab-Israeli conflict. Next to the old camp is the newer part, which was set up in 1967 for some 4,200 Palestine refugees who were forced to leave the Quneitra Governorate in the Golan following the 1967 Arab-Israeli conflict.

Along similar lines, seven hundred thousand more children face hunger in Syria due to the country's continuously deteriorating economy, especially in northeast Syria, said the World Health Organization (WHO).



In the last six months, the total number of food-insecure children across the country has risen to more than 4.6 million. After more than ten years of conflict and displacement, an unprecedented number of children in Syria are now battling soaring rates of malnutrition.

The World Health Organization and the Nutrition Sector continue to expand detection, as well as preventive and specialized in-patient nutrition services for children with acute malnutrition and ensure the availability of critical supplies.

Malnutrition refers to deficiencies, excesses or imbalances in a person's intake of energy and/or nutrients. The term malnutrition covers two broad groups of conditions. One is 'undernutrition', which includes stunting (low height for age), wasting (low weight for height), underweight (low weight for age) and micronutrient deficiencies or insufficiencies (a lack of important vitamins and minerals).

Many families cannot afford or do not have access to nutritious foods like fresh fruits, vegetables, legumes, meat, and milk.

The deterioration of health services, the economic crisis, and the decrease in purchasing power, coupled with the difficulty of accessing safe drinking water have all led to an increase in malnutrition rates.

As evidence shows, in 2022-2023 about 5.5 million people including mothers and children aged 0-59 months in Syria will need direct nutrition assistance; half of them live in Northeast Syria. Subsequent surveys have shown that the incidence of acute



and chronic malnutrition is twice as much in Northeast Syria as compared to the rest of the country.

Meanwhile, residents of Khan Dannun Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Rif Dimashq, continue to set off alarm bells over the mounds of trash and debris piled up in civilian neighborhoods and around the main access roads to the camp, resulting in bad smells and the spread of life-threatening diseases and rodents.

Pictures circulated on social media show floods of waste water and garbage piles swamping Khan Dannun's residential alleyways and thoroughfares.

The families called on the concerned authorities and relief institutions, namely UNRWA, to make urgent steps in order to clear garbage, rinse out waste water, and enhance hygiene in the area.

The residents lashed out at the local authorities for turning blind eyes to their appeals to enhance infrastructure and basic services.

Living conditions in Khan Dannun have sharply deteriorated due to the lack of financial resources and high unemployment rates wrought by the raging warfare. A transportation crisis has added bad to worse.

According to UN data, Khan Dannun camp was built several centuries ago to give overnight accommodation to trading caravans on the ancient route between Jerusalem and Constantinople (modern day Istanbul). In 1948, the ruins of the city provided shelter for refugees from villages in northern Palestine.



The camp, which lies 23 km south of Damascus, was officially established in 1950-1951 on an area of 0.03 square kilometers. The camp was home to 10,000 Palestine refugees by 2011, almost all of whom were living in irregular housing, constructed without any formal approval from the municipality.

Before the conflict in Syria, the camp was already one of the poorest camps in Syria. The conflict exerted additional pressures. The camp was surrounded by armed opposition groups and many refugee families displaced from other areas of Damascus took refuge in the camp, tripling the number of residents to some 30,000 during the crisis. Currently, the camp is home to 12,650 Palestine refugees. The increase of the camp population has had a negative impact on the camp's infrastructure.

In another development, the Directorate of Integration and Communication run by the Turkish migration authorities suspended applications for protection cards (kimlik) and visas in 15 provinces.

The list of provinces includes Istanbul, Ankara, Izmir, Antalya, Gaziantep and Urfa.

Procedures for temporary and international protection cards along with visas were also halted in 781 neighborhoods.

Unofficial statistics indicate that 10,000 Palestinians from Syria have sought shelter in Turkey, where they have been facing dire



socio-economic conditions and denied access to the local labor market.

Turkish embassies continue to prevent Palestinian refugees from Syria from obtaining visas. As a result, hundreds of Palestinians have embarked on life-threatening journeys via illegal immigration roads to reach Turkey, fleeing war-tattered Syria, among other war-stricken zones.