


For over 50 years UNRWA has been responsible for providing health, rehabilitation, schooling, training, and other services to the camp population; in 2004, its general budget amounted to US\$350.9 million.

UNRWA REGISTERED REFUGEES IN THE WBGS BY DISTRICT AND CAMPS (RC)

WEST BANK			GAZA STRIP		
District	Camp (year of est.)	Population	District	Camp (year of est.)	Population
Nablus	Askar (1950)	14,450	Gaza North	Jabalia (1948/49)	106,113
	Balata (1950)	21,183			
	Camp No. 1 (1950)	6,310			
Jenin	Far'a (1949)	7,094	Gaza City	Shati (Beach) (1949)	77,358
	Jenin (1953)	14,799			
Tulkarm	Nur Shams (1952)	8,442	Gaza South	Khan Younis (1949)	61,989
	Tulkarm (1950)	16,933		Rafah (1949)	
Ramallah	Ama'ri (1949)	8,549	Gaza Central	Deir Balah (1949)	20,863
	Deir Ammar (1949)	2,311			
	Jalazon (1949)	10,052			
	Qalandia (1949)	9,566			
Jerusalem	Shu'fat (1965/66)	10,557*			
Jericho	Aqabat Jaber (1948)	5,500			
	Ein Sultan (1948)	1,696			
Bethlehem	Dheisheh (1949)	11,749			
	Aida (1950)	4,400			
	Beit Jibrin (1950)	1,956			
Hebron	Fawwar (1949)	7,330			
	Arroub (1950)	9,527			

* The de facto camp population is much higher as many refugees and non-refugees have moved into the camp in the past years to avoid losing their residency rights in Jerusalem.

(Source: UNRWA, 30 June 2003.)

“I swear by my religion,
I swear by my religion,
I know in which land
I will die,
and in which land
I will be resurrected”
Mahmoud Darwish,
Palestinian Poet

Caption: “No alternative to the right of return”

LIVING CONDITIONS AND THE STATUS OF REFUGEES IN THE CAMPS

Common characteristics of camp life include overcrowded housing conditions, poor infrastructure and environmental health (open sewers and unpaved streets), poverty and unemployment. Schools often run on double shifts with an average of 50 pupils per classroom. Some 6% of all registered refugees are considered special hardship cases, with the largest shares in Lebanon (11.4%) and Gaza (9.4%).

WEST BANK - GAZA STRIP

Most of the refugees in the West Bank stem from areas of Jerusalem, Ramallah, Hebron and the northern West Bank (Nablus, Jenin and Tulkarem), lesser numbers are from the Lydda-Ramle-Jaffa triangle or the Tiberias region. Most of Gaza's refugees fled in 1948 from the areas of Jaffa, Al-Majdal and Beersheba. According to UNRWA, there were 1,587,920 registered refugees in the WBGS as of Dec. 2003. The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), numbered 1,5932,189 refugees at the end of 2003, of which 37,619 were not registered. Thus, some refugees made up 42.6% of the WBGS population (29.4% in the West Bank and 65.5% in Gaza), and almost half of them were younger than 15 years.

Since Oslo (1994), all camps except Shu'fat Camp in Jerusalem are under the control of the **Palestinian Authority (PA)**, but daily life - like in the rest of the WBGS - is still deeply affected by the Israeli occupation as the camps were largely invisible during the Oslo process. In addition, the PA differentiates between refugee and non-refugee areas, whereby the refugee camps are excluded from any urban or infrastructural project, including all planning on municipal level. This has mainly to do with the refugees' concerns about getting involved in developmental or planning

