



DISTRIBUTION OF UNRWA REGISTERED REFUGEES, WEST BANK AND GAZA

WEST BANK			GAZA STRIP		
District	Camp (year of est.)	Population	District	Camp (year of est.)	Population
Nablus	Askar (1950)	12,712	Gaza North	Jabalia (1948/49)	99,039
	Balata (1950)	19,196			
	Camp No. 1 (1950)	5,847	Gaza City	Shati (Beach) (1949)	74,464
Jenin	Far'a (1949)	6,312	Gaza South	Khan Younis (1949)	58,891
	Jenin (1953)	13,361		Rafah (1949)	
Tulkarm	Nur Shams (1952)	7,577	Gaza Central	Deir Balah (1949)	19,903
	Tulkarm (1950)	14,862		Nuseirat (1948/49)	59,969
Ramallah	Ama'ri (1949)	7,396		Bureij (1949)	28,946
	Deir Ammar (1949)	2,043		Al-Maghazi (1949)	21,559
	Jalazon (1949)	8,372			
	Qalandia (1949)	8,189			
Jerusalem	Shu'fat (1965/66)	8,955**	** the de facto numbers of the camp population are much higher as an estimated 4,000 refugees have moved into the camp in the past years to avoid losing their residency rights in Jerusalem.		
Jericho	Aqabat Jaber (1948)	4,775			
	Ein Sultan (1948)	2,178	(Source: UNRWA, Fact Sheet, 2000.)		
Bethlehem	Dheisheh (1949)	9,812			
	Aida (1950)	3,895			
	Beit Jibrin (1950)	1,727			
Hebron	Fawwar (1949)	6,419			
	Arroub (1950)	8,470			

LIVING CONDITIONS

Common characteristics of camp life include overcrowded housing conditions, poor infrastructure (unpaved streets and open sewers), poverty and unemployment. Schools often run on double shifts with an average of 50 pupils per classroom. Some 5.5% of all registered refugees are considered special hardship cases, with the largest shares in Lebanon (10.8%) and Gaza (8.6%).

One of the main problems Palestinian refugees face is that most of their Arab host states do not grant them full residency status and civil rights, and their attitude towards the refugee population is mainly characterized by considerations of state security. It must be said in this regard that Arab governments have often been utilizing the Palestinian plight for their own political aims and alliances in the region. Because of their problematic citizenship status, Palestinian refugees are particularly vulnerable to expulsion. Two recent examples are the over 300,000 Palestinians who were forced to leave Kuwait and other Gulf states during the 1990-1991 Gulf Crisis, and the 30,000 Palestinians in Libya, who were expelled in 1995 in response to the PLO-Israeli accords.



WEST BANK - GAZA STRIP

Although all camps in the West Bank and Gaza (except Shu'fat Camp in Jerusalem) are today under the control of the Palestinian Authority (PA), daily life has always been and still is deeply affected by the Israeli occupation.

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.

In Gaza, the majority of the population are refugees and the density in the camps is among the highest in the world. Expansion is difficult as the areas designated for refugee camps are limited and usually surrounded by urban areas. Most of Gaza's refugees fled in 1948 from the areas of Jaffa, Al-Majdal and Beersheva.