



Humanitarian and Early Recovery Appeal for Jenin

July 2023



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About UNRWA

UNRWA is the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East. The United Nations General Assembly established UNRWA in 1949 with a mandate to provide humanitarian assistance and protection to registered Palestine refugees in the Agency's area of operations pending a just and lasting solution to their plight. UNRWA operates in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, The Gaza Strip, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. Tens of thousands of Palestine refugees who lost their homes and livelihoods due to the 1948 conflict continue to be displaced and in need of support, nearly 75 years on. UNRWA helps Palestine Refugees achieve their full potential in human development through quality services it provides in education, health care, relief and social services, protection, camp infrastructure and improvement, microfinance, and emergency assistance. UNRWA is funded almost entirely by voluntary contributions.

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Introduction

On 3 July 2023, Israeli forces launched a large-scale operation in Jenin, centered on Jenin refugee camp. The operation, which lasted for 48 hours, resulted in confrontations with Palestinian armed actors and came in the context of a deteriorating security environment across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, since 2022. This has seen a major increase in the frequency and intensity of operations by Israeli security forces, particularly in and around refugee camps, and record numbers of Palestinian casualties, including amongst Palestine refugees. There has also been increased activity by Palestinian armed actors and Palestinian shooting attacks, which has resulted in fatalities of Israeli citizens and foreign nationals.

Through this Flash Appeal, UNRWA seeks US\$ 23.8 million to implement a multi-sectoral response that addresses the most pressing humanitarian and early recovery needs of Palestine refugees in Jenin camp from the recent operation. The response is focused on: (i) the restoration of basic services, including education and primary healthcare; (ii) relief services to affected families, primarily through cash and shelter assistance; (iii) mental health and psycho-social support to refugees and first responders; and (iv) enhancing awareness of safety and security risks. UNRWA is coordinating closely with humanitarian partners and local authorities on all elements of the of the response, including needs assessments.

The response under this Flash Appeal contributes to the Agency's strategic objective of mitigating the effects of humanitarian emergencies on Palestine refugees and providing services in a dignified and safe manner. It comes in addition to humanitarian needs included in the UNRWA 2023 occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) Emergency Appeal, which is less than 20 per cent funded, as of mid-July 2023.

UNRWA renews its commitment to deliver humanitarian assistance to Palestine refugees in accordance with its mandate and in full respect of the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence, as outlined in the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 46/182. UNRWA will continue to advocate for greater respect for international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, with relevant stakeholders.

We underscore for all our partners that the activities presented in this appeal can only be implemented if the Agency's Programme Budget and oPt Emergency Appeal for 2023 receive contributions in the amount required to sustain staffing and infrastructure essential to the delivery of health, education, relief, environmental health and protection services, as well as the coordination and management components of the response. Requirements in this appeal are based on damage and needs assessments as at 19 July 2023. These assessments are ongoing and financial requirements may need to be updated in due course.

Situation overview

On 3 July 2023, at approximately 1:00 am, Israeli armed forces launched a major aerial and ground operation in Jenin city and the Jenin refugee camp. The operation, which lasted 48 hours, was the largest in the West Bank in almost 20 years. According to the Palestinian Ministry of Health, twelve Palestinians were killed, including four children, and more than 140 injured, including 20 critically. One Israeli soldier was killed, and another injured.¹ Over 500 Palestinian families, comprising some 3,500 people, fled their homes during the operation; at the time of writing, 41 families remain internally displaced.

The operation resulted in extensive damage to public infrastructure in the refugee camp, including to water, sanitation and electricity networks. Over 1,000 homes in the camp have been damaged; amongst these, 41 have been completely destroyed and more than 70 severely damaged.² Nine kilometres of water and sewage networks and almost four kilometres of roads were destroyed, hindering movement and access to essential services.³ Several UNRWA installations in the camp, including schools, also sustained damages, with one building in the health centre destroyed. The health centre is now unusable due to this damage and the high risk of unexploded ordnance (UXO).

This latest operation and resulting confrontations in Jenin refugee camp have added further distress onto an already traumatized population in the occupied West Bank. In addition to the severe immediate and longer-term impact on physical and psychological health and wellbeing of Palestine refugees in Jenin, the operation also further undermined livelihoods and economic resilience.



Damage to roads resulting from the Israeli operation on Jenin refugee camp. © 2023 UNRWA Photo

Humanitarian and early recovery needs

Under this Flash Appeal, UNRWA seeks funding to provide **cash assistance** to vulnerable Palestine refugee families affected by conflict-related violence, whose homes sustained damaged or were destroyed as a result of the military operation. Funds are also required to ensure continued access to **primary health care services** in the camp, including through the establishment of a temporary health centre to replace the now unusable facility, and for the reconstruction of the health centre in a safer location. Student **learning** will be supported through repairs to damaged UNRWA schools and enhanced safety measures, the provision of education materials and supplies. Child protection interventions will be expanded, as part of a range of planned **protection and mental health and psycho-social support** (MHPSS) services, including protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA).⁴ These interventions will focus on the most vulnerable, while also responding to additional needs resulting from the conflict. UNRWA is also seeking funds in this appeal for shelter rehabilitation and reconstruction, and the reinforcement of environmental health services, including solid waste management, in support of clean up and early recovery.

UNRWA will apply a **gender responsive approach** to the provision of assistance by taking into account the differing needs and situations of men, women, girls and boys. In particular, the vulnerabilities of women and girls will be considered in household vulnerability and impact assessments and in determining eligibility for cash-based responses, in construction designs of new facilities and rehabilitation of WASH facilities in schools, in establishing enhanced safety and security measures in schools, and in the provision of MHPSS services.

Interventions in this appeal will be guided by the UNRWA Environmental Sustainability Policy, to minimize damage to the environment whilst protecting Palestine refugees from future environmental hazards. Environmental conservation and protection measures will be integrated within the response, including (i) energy saving measures, such as the installation of solar panels and LED lights on new / rehabilitated UNRWA installations, (ii) incorporating grey water harvesting systems into these installations; and (iii) increasing green space within the Jenin refugee camp in the context of rehabilitation and construction works.



Humanitarian Response Coordination efforts

UNRWA is coordinating closely with partners to ensure the delivery of an effective humanitarian response in Jenin. Partners include: UNOCHA, WHO, WFP, and UNICEF, international and national NGOs, community-based organizations, the Jenin Camp Services Committee (CSC), as well as the Palestinian Authority (PA) and local municipality bodies, and the local private sector.

UNRWA will provide immediate assistance to affected families, restore essential services for refugees, rehabilitate UNRWA infrastructure in the camp, and repair and rebuild homes, while the Palestinian Authority and authorities on the local and municipal levels will reconstruct damaged water, sanitation, and electricity networks, and roads.

UNRWA has been leading multisectoral assessments for families impacted by violence and whose homes were damaged or destroyed, with support from OCHA and cluster partners. Data from these assessments is being used by other agencies to inform their response activities, most notably, by the Cash Working Group (CWG), which is providing multipurpose cash to affected families.

UNRWA and OCHA led access negotiations from the onset of fighting to advocate for the protection of civilians and restore critical services, including access to water, food, and medical care.

On 4 July, UNRWA, OCHA, WHO, and humanitarian cluster partners delivered emergency medical supplies to Jenin Hospital and met with local government and non-governmental actors in the Jenin Municipality to plan humanitarian response activities. Local government, non-government, and private-sector actors provided assistance to Palestine refugees displaced from Jenin refugee camp from 4 July and were the first to provide food and non-food items to residents inside the camp as Israeli Forces withdrew on the morning of 5 July. Local authorities started to repair electricity, water, and road networks from 5 July.

From 5 July, UNRWA has facilitated access to Jenin refugee camp to various needs assessment teams, including from UNMAS, to commence initial and prioritise response activities, including to UXO risks, with all major humanitarian clusters represented. On 8 and 17 July, UNRWA and OCHA facilitated donor visits to Jenin refugee camp.

Funding requirements

Intervention	Requirements (US\$)
Emergency cash assistance	3,770,781
Emergency health	5,553,542
Mental Health and Psycho-social Support (MHPSS)	244,200
Education in Emergencies (EiE)	1,751,723
Emergency shelter reconstruction and rehabilitation	7,226,100
WASH, environmental health and solid waste management	1,872,951
Protection	555,000
Risk awareness, safety and security	1,554,000
Programme management, support and coordination	1,315,128
Total	23,843,425

Emergency cash assistance

UNRWA has, to date, identified up to 1,300 families as affected by the Israeli security forces operation in Jenin refugee camp. The Agency will address the emergency humanitarian needs of affected families through the provision of cash-based assistance. Based on the results of household-level vulnerability and impact assessments⁵, affected families will receive a single payment ranging between US\$ 1,200 and 3,100⁶ to help repair and restore damaged homes and replace household assets. Furthermore, to alleviate the burden for displaced families - 41 to date - whose homes have become uninhabitable, UNRWA will provide rental subsidies of up to US\$ 1,800 for a period of three months while the repair or rehabilitation of their shelters is undertaken.

Emergency health

UNRWA's health centre in Jenin camp – the main provider of primary health care to Palestine refugees living in the camp and surrounding area – has been rendered unusable due to the extensive damage caused during the operation and the high risk of UXOs. The Agency has established a temporary health point on the grounds of a Palestinian Authority school, just outside of Jenin camp. UNRWA will be unable to use this temporary facility after mid-August, when the new school year starts. Funds are sought under this appeal to: (i) cover the cost of establishing and running

an interim health centre for 24 months; and (ii) build a new health centre in a safer location in Jenin camp to ensure safe access to essential health services for refugees. A green space will be created on the site of the former health centre.

Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS)

UNRWA will provide a range of MHPSS services to residents of Jenin camp with a focus on children, other vulnerable groups and Agency staff working and living in the camp. This will be accomplished through: (i) the recruitment of additional school counsellors for a period of ten months, i.e. until the end of the 2023–2024 school year; and (ii) the support of specialized service providers, to address the psychological well-being and emotional needs of the affected population. Assistance will include psychological first aid, provided to families during initial assessments, individual counselling, referrals and therapeutic activities for students and UNRWA personnel.

Further psycho-social support to contribute towards children's physical and mental wellbeing will be provided in UNRWA schools through after-school activities during the current catch-up period over the summer. In addition, school counsellors will meet regularly with children through group and individual sessions to provide MHPSS and sensitize children and the wider community on reporting mechanisms for all



Damage to a Palestine Refugee home following the Israeli operation on Jenin refugee camp. © 2023 UNRWA Photo

the wider community on reporting mechanisms for all forms of abuse, including PSEA.

Education in emergencies (EiE)

Four UNRWA schools in Jenin camp provide education to approximately 1,700 students - two boys' and two girls' schools. Following the end of the operation UNRWA immediately assessed the damage to schools in the camp and implemented temporary measures to allow children to safely resume learning from 8 July. On the first day, less than half of the student body attended, with some families reportedly fearful of children leaving their homes. Attendance levels have gradually increased since, reaching 80 per cent on 17 July. Under this appeal, UNRWA will: (i) repair damaged educational facilities in the camp; (ii) establish enhanced safety and security measures in schools; (iii) support children's learning through remote activities and dedicated education materials and supplies; and (iv) implement child protection interventions, including the rehabilitation of WASH facilities inside the schools.

Emergency shelter reconstruction and rehabilitation

This appeal will meet emergency shelter needs through the repair, rehabilitation and reconstruction of damaged and destroyed homes. Assistance will be provided to reconstruct at least 41 destroyed or uninhabitable homes. In addition, emergency shelter

rehabilitation support will be provided for up to 100 families⁷ whose shelters have been severely damaged. Technical needs assessments are already underway, supported by UNRWA and the local authorities. The modality of UNRWA's shelter intervention will be determined in close coordination with the shelter cluster (including UN and NGOs), the Palestinian Authority Ministry of Public Works and Housing, local community representatives and affected families. Longer-term rental assistance will also need to be provided for displaced families during reconstruction extending beyond the short-term cash-based support delivered initially.⁸ The preliminary, average unit cost estimates for shelter rehabilitation of homes with major damage and those requiring complete reconstruction are US\$ 10,000 and US\$ 80,000 respectively.

WASH, environmental health and solid waste management

Funds under this appeal will support the restoration of essential WASH services in Jenin refugee camp. In close coordination with local authorities and humanitarian actors through the WASH cluster, UNRWA is contributing to the urgent repair and rebuilding of wastewater and sanitation systems, at community and household level. Further, UNRWA's solid waste management team in the camp needs to be strengthened to support in clearing debris and addressing public health risks support the restoration of essential services.

Protection

The consequences of the recent hostilities, including displacement, stress and trauma, further increase protection risks for vulnerable populations, including women, girls, persons with disabilities and the elderly. Prevention, detection, response and monitoring of protection concerns, including Gender Based Violence (GBV), during the emergency response and early recovery phases remains imperative, as is the provision of specific support to identified survivors. By way of response, UNRWA will work to restore the provision of critical protection and other services to the most vulnerable and respond to additional needs resulting from conflict, including for persons with disabilities, and enhanced PSEA response. In addition, the Agency will continue to provide protection responses for vulnerable refugees affected by confrontations, settler violence and forced displacement. Advocacy, monitoring and documentation of human rights and international humanitarian law violations will also continue with a focus on the excessive use of force, displacement threats and refugee communities highly vulnerable to violence perpetrated by Israeli security forces and/or settlers.

and management capacity is essential. Where needed, additional temporary staff and material support will be deployed for assessment and response coordination, particularly with other humanitarian actors and local authorities, logistics and procurement, programme management, information management, monitoring, reporting and grant management. This also includes additional support to the Area Office and Field Office and specialized surge support (for example, MHPSS, protection), including by UNRWA headquarters-based programme and support departments.⁹

Given the deteriorating security situation in the West Bank, UNRWA will also enhance measures to ensure the safety and well-being of the Agency's personnel and beneficiaries. Lessons learned from previous crises, including ensuring the neutrality of UNRWA installations and further mainstreaming of GBV risk mitigation, have been incorporated into Agency protocols.

Risk awareness, safety and security

Due to the intensity of the hostilities in Jenin refugee camp, there remains a significant risk of injury and death due to Explosive Remnants of War (ERW). There is a critical need for risk assessments and mitigation measures by UNRWA personnel as well as awareness-raising and risk mitigation for the general public. UNRWA will mitigate risks to Palestine refugees, Agency staff and other humanitarian personnel through improved safety measures and enhanced risk awareness, including identifying and mitigating risks posed by UXO, in cooperation with technical experts in this field. Within the first week after access to the camp was restored, UNRWA facilitated the distribution of awareness raising material and has commenced training for staff and community members to enable them to better protect themselves and others from risk.

Programme management, support and coordination

To ensure the timely implementation and effective management of the emergency, early recovery and reconstruction response, enhanced field, technical

Endnotes

- 1 For further information, please see [here](#).
- 2 Estimates as of 19 July. UNRWA damage assessments continue, and these figures are likely to rise.
- 3 Ibid.
- 4 MHPSS services will also extend to UNRWA staff working in Jenin refugee camp.
- 5 UNRWA applies the Agency's Crisis Intervention Unit cash-based intervention framework, jointly developed and used by the West Bank Protection Consortium (WBPC) to provide assistance to families impacted by demolition, forced displacement, settler violence, conflict related violence and escalations.
- 6 Depending on exchange rate.
- 7 This includes a provision for additional needs based on the results of ongoing assessments as well as a small number of shelters in need of rehabilitation prior to the operation.
- 8 This is budgeted for under cash assistance above.
- 9 Costs of HQ support needs are included in the management and capacity budget lines.



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