

overview

Aida camp is located between the municipalities of Bethlehem, Beit Jala, and Jerusalem. It is partially surrounded by the West Bank Barrier and is near to Har Homa and Gilo, two large Israeli settlements that are illegal under international law. The camp's proximity to the main checkpoint between Jerusalem and Bethlehem, coupled with constant military presence further exacerbate the camp's vulnerability to a number of protection concerns. Israeli Security Forces (ISF) regularly conduct incursions into the camp that often result in clashes. Injuries to Palestinians are common during clashes as the ISF frequently uses live ammunition and tear gas.

After the Oslo Accords, the majority of Aida camp fell under Palestinian control (Area A), while some of its periphery, such as the main road running alongside the Barrier, fell under Israeli control (Area C). As a result of the Barrier, which violates Israel's obligations under international law according to the 2004 International Court of Justice advisory opinion, residents now have limited access to job opportunities in Israel and East Jerusalem.

Unemployment rates remain a challenge inside camps with 17% recorded by PCBS's Labour Taskforce Report, Q4 2022.

7,100 Registered population

2,469 Children 0-18 year (**1,199** female **1,270** male)

education

There is only one school in Aida Camp - Aida Basic Boys' School - which was built in 1951 and rehabilitated in 1996. In 2020, UNRWA reconstructed, furnished and equipped the school with a generous funding from the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD). Based on the 2020/21 scholastic year data, a total of 450 students are enrolled in the school.

The school is situated opposite the Barrier, and an Israeli watchtower. Frequent clashes in the camp often leave teargas canisters and bullets in the schoolyard creating a protection concern. UNRWA school psychosocial counsellors provide needed support for school children.

1 Schools **0** girls** **1** boys'

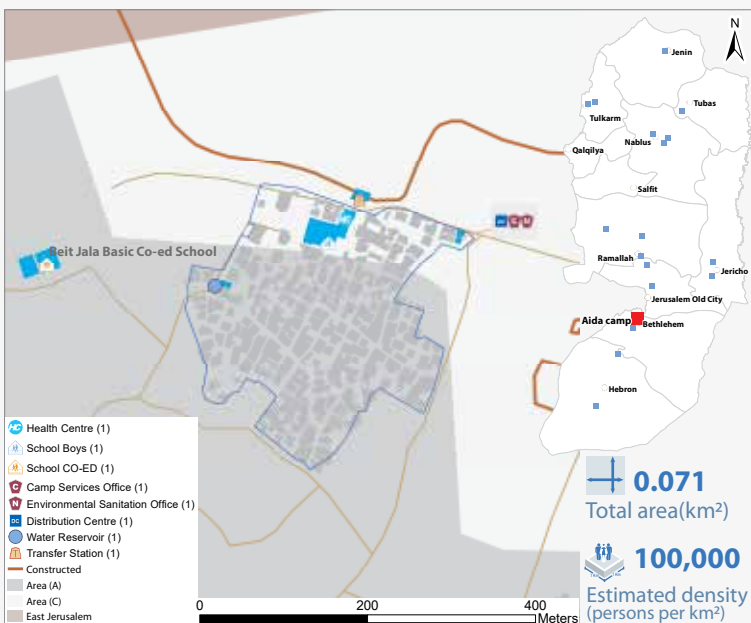
450 Students **0** **450**

22 Education staff: teachers, school principals, deputy school principals and school counselors

** An UNRWA school for girls is located outside the camp.

health

A new health centre was established in Aida Camp in 2020 with generous support from the Saudi Development Fund (SFD). Prior to the construction of the centre, camp residents and other refugees from surrounding areas received services in Khamashta / Bethlehem health centre, an installation rented by UNRWA and located in Beit Jala.



The centre will enable UNRWA to maximize its services and implement the Family Health Team approach which focuses on the family with the aim of providing comprehensive, continuous care. The centre provides primary health care services including reproductive health, oral health, infant and child care, immunizations, screening and medical check-ups and treatment of communicable and non-communicable diseases.

1 Health centre

19 Health staff (Doctors, Specialist, Pharmacists, Dental Surgeons, Nurses and Paramedics)

2,227 Patients with non-communicable diseases provided with care

1,087 Pregnant women provided with Antenatal Care

3,303 Children 0-5 years provided with Child Health Care

*all data presented is unrwa annual data for 2022 unless stated otherwise

relief & social services

Through the Social Safety Net Programme, UNRWA provides cash assistance to around 244 impoverished refugees each year, which is equivalent to 3.4 per cent of the registered population in the camp. Moreover, through the Emergency Appeal (EA), an additional 58 individuals received emergency cash assistance (ECA).

Social workers conduct home visits to identify cases which require additional support. In addition, UNRWA Crisis Intervention Unit provides financial assistance to residents whose shelters have been damaged after incursions to repair broken doors, windows, etc. It also refers the victims to services such as mental health counselling and legal assistance.

398 Identified poor households* (1,742 individuals)

58 Female-headed household identified poor

15% of the identified poor households benefit from the e-card (Social Safety Net Programme and Emergency Cash Assistance)

55 Households

286 Individuals

13 Female-headed household

infrastructure & camp improvement

While nearly all shelters are connected to water, electricity and sewerage networks, these systems are old and in poor condition. After a recent agreement with the Palestinian Water Authority, water is now provided to Aida camp for two days every other week, during which residents replenish their water tanks. However, the existing water network has not been upgraded since 1972 and the camp experiences constant water leakages. During the summer months, when water shortages are more frequent, camp residents are forced to purchase water. In 2016, a new storm water channel was constructed, and the existing sewer line was rehabilitated. The camp's electricity supply is weak and overloaded. Power supply expansion and the sharing of connections is often unsupervised, increasing the risk of fires and electrocution.

A team of eight sanitation labourers (3 temporary staff through various sources of funds), are responsible for the solid waste management in the camp.

900 Tons of solid waste removed in camps

100% Sewerage connection

8 Sanitation labourers

protection & neutrality

Aida camp residents are vulnerable to clashes due to frequent ISF incursions into the camp. Constant Israeli military presence is a key part of the coercive environment in which camp residents live, with a



contributing factor being the camp's geographic proximity to Israeli settlements, the West Bank Barrier, and the main checkpoint between Jerusalem. ISF is more likely to use live ammunition during incursions into refugee camps than elsewhere in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem and this often results in serious injuries and fatalities. Conflict-related violence has a particularly traumatizing effect on children and the psychological impact can be quite severe on their development. Some advocacy based on the Protection and Neutrality Department's tear gas project has been conducted, including the 2017 "No Safe Space"- report by the Human Rights Center at University of California at Berkeley School of Law. The massive use of teargas resurfaced in 2022, thus most problems identified in 2017 in that report.

In 2022 alone, the ISF has conducted 68 incursions in the camp and detained 48 persons including 16 children. During these operations, the ISF resorted to the use of teargas 39 times. No fatality has been recorded in the camp from these operations since 2016, however the ISF injured 9 persons with live ammunition in 2022.

68 ISF Operations

48 Detainees

9 Injuries caused by live ammunition

39 Teargas incidents

Camp needs

- Upgrading the water network to meet the needs of residents and the natural population increase in the camp.
- Rehabilitation of the old streets in the camp.
- Shelter rehabilitation for the most vulnerable households.
- Reconstruction of the CCSO compound.
- Machinery and equipment for sanitation and infrastructure works.

* Poor Households are identified using UNRWA's standard criteria, the Proxy Means Testing Formula (PMTF).