

## overview

Dheisheh camp was established in 1949 and is located along the main street in Bethlehem. The camp was built to serve 3,000 refugees. Today, the number of residents has reached 18,869.

Despite being under the full Palestinian control (Area A), there are regular incursions by ISF, clashes involving camp residents, and an increasing number of injuries from the use of live ammunition by the ISF.

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

**18,869** Registered population

**4,954** Children 0-18 year (**2,405** female **2,549** male)

## education

There are four UNRWA schools serving nearly 1,841 students - based on 2021/22 scholastic year data in Dheisheh camp. The two girls' schools are divided between two buildings that share many of the same facilities. The boys' schools share one building that was divided into two sections. The sections have separate entrances and courtyards, so that younger students are separated from older students. This has improved the school environment considerably. Facilities in the schools include libraries and computer and science laboratories. UNRWA school psychosocial counsellors are present in the camp's schools to support students' needs.

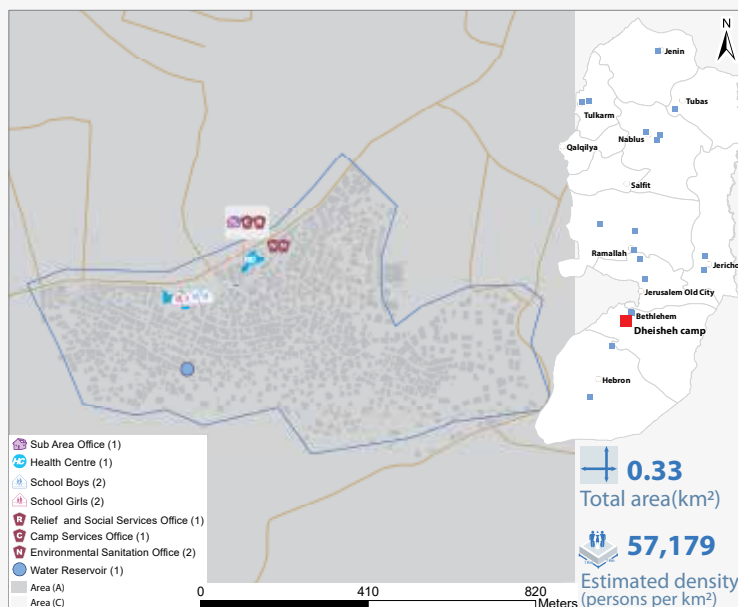
**4** Schools **2** girls' **2** boys'

**1,841** Students **1,015** **826**

**62** Education staff: teachers, school principals, deputy school principals and school counselors

## health

Dheisheh health centre serves the refugees in Dheisheh and the surrounding areas. The centre was reconstructed in 2018 with a generous fund from the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD). It currently provides primary health care, including reproductive health, infant and child care, immunizations, screening and medical check-ups, and treatment of communicable and non-communicable diseases. Psychosocial counselling, physiotherapy and x-ray services are also available. A dentist is available three times per week. The centre is implementing the Family Health Team approach which focuses on the family with the aim of providing comprehensive, continuous care. The Family Health Team has improved patient flow and reduced the number of consultations per doctor.



An electronic health information system for patient files is also implemented, which increases the accuracy of data and health information, as well as health service efficiency in the centre.

**1** Health centre

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

**1,667** Patients with non-communicable diseases provided with care

**513** Pregnant women provided with Antenatal Care

**1,629** 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 776 impoverished refugees each year, which is equivalent to 4.1 per cent of the registered population in the camp. Moreover, through the Emergency Appeal (EA), an additional 291 individuals receive 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.

**1,096** Identified poor households\* (**5,025** individuals)

**181** Female-headed household identified poor

**18%** of the identified poor households benefit from the e-card (Social Safety Net Programme and Emergency Cash Assistance)

**199** Households

**1,067** Individuals

**40** Female-headed household

## infrastructure & camp improvement

UNRWA Sanitation Foreman conducts daily water examinations and manages a team of 18 sanitation labourers (5 temporary staff through various sources of funds), who collect solid waste from shelters and maintain sewerage pipes. Approximately 95 per cent of the camp is connected to the sewerage network that was built in 1994. The remaining 5 per cent use cesspits. The water testing laboratory in the camp allows UNRWA to test the water samples of all the southern West Bank camps and UNRWA installations outside camps on a monthly basis. Access to water was greatly improved when a new water network was built in 2011. In 2014, UNRWA and the Water Supply and Sewage Authority (WSSA) in Bethlehem had a verbal agreement to provide water to the camp four days every other week. Although this allows residents to replenish their water tanks, water is still a daily concern in the residents' lives.

The current sewerage network was constructed in the nineties through Bethlehem project funded by UNRWA. This network experiences frequent blockages and needs rehabilitation. In addition, 5 per cent of camp residents use latrines connected to percolation pits. Most of the pits have no concrete floor, causing sewage waste to seep into the ground. Percolation pits also pose a considerable health hazard when it rains heavily as they flood easily. This overburdens the sewerage network, particularly during the winter, which results in the flooding of streets and homes due to the insufficient storm water network in some parts of the camp.

**3,104** Tons of solid waste removed in camps

**95%** Sewerage connection

**18** Sanitation labourers



## protection & neutrality

Dheisheh camp residents are exposed to multiple protection threats, linked to the frequent incursions by Israeli Security Forces (ISF) into the camp that often result in clashes. During these incursions ISF routinely deploy live ammunition, tear gas, and other forms of weaponry targeted at camp residents, often entering into the camp during the night, causing damage to Palestinian homes and property and generating fear, anxiety and high levels of stress.

2022 has been a traumatic year for Dheisheh residents due to the high number of operations, many occurring at night and disrupting the life of the refugees living there.

Conflict-related violence has a particularly traumatizing effect on children and the psychological impact can be quite severe on their development. The use of tear gas in Deheisheh was documented in a report commissioned by UNRWA: the "No Safe Space" report written in 2017 by the Human Rights Center at the University of California at Berkeley, School of Law, which findings are still valid

The incursion of the ISF in the UNRWA school compound at night and further clashes that followed in front of it was also a traumatic event that happened in December 2022.

In 2022 alone, the ISF has conducted 44 operations in the camp and detained 83 persons including 3 children. During these operations, the ISF resorted to the use of teargas 24 times. Three fatalities were recorded in the camp in 2022 as well as 30 persons injured by live ammunition. Two children were also killed by live ammunition in January 2023, in continuation of the worrying trend already observed.

**30** Injuries caused by live ammunition

**44** ISF Operations

**24** Teargas incidents

**3** Fatalities

**83** Detainees,

## Camp needs

- Upgrading of the storm water and sewerage networks. The East neighbourhood in the camp has no sewerage network and therefore needs to be connected to the Artas nearby network.
- Shelter rehabilitation for the most vulnerable with a total of 30 shelters in need of rehabilitation.
- Changing the location of the transfer station.
- Rehabilitation of the streets in the camp.
- Machinery and equipment for sanitation and infrastructure works.

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