

overview

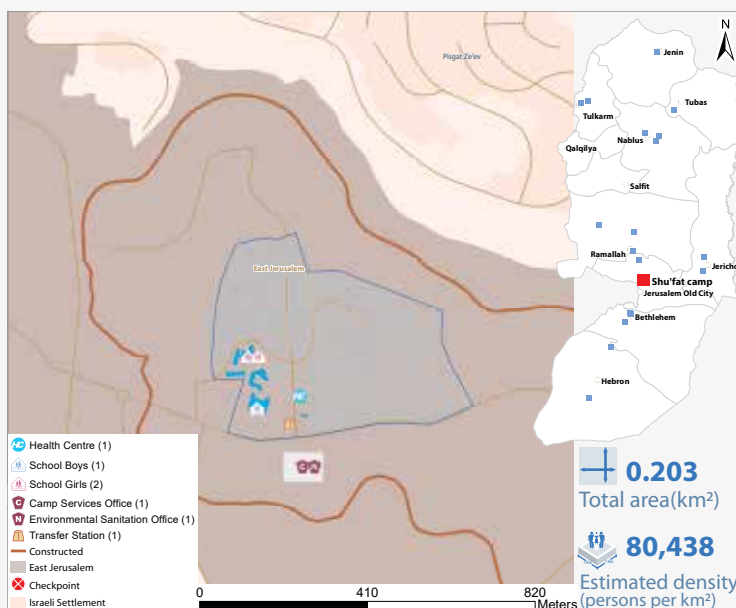
Shu'fat camp is located on the outskirts of Jerusalem. The Israeli settlement Pisgat Zeev, which is illegal under international law, is located to the camp's north. The camp was established by UNRWA in 1965 at the request of the Jordanian government to provide improved housing to around 500 refugee families who were living in the overcrowded al-Mu'askar refugee camp in the Old City of Jerusalem.

With the camp area only encompassing 0.203 km², the population density in the camp is extremely high. Today, approximately 16,000 Palestine refugees are registered as living in Shu'fat camp. However, UNRWA estimates that the actual number of residents in the camp is much higher.

Shu'fat Camp, together with the surrounding neighborhoods, was illegally annexed to Israel in 1967 when Israel unilaterally established new municipal boundaries for Jerusalem. Camp residents therefore hold Jerusalem IDs and are, contrary to West Bank ID holders, allowed to reside in Jerusalem.

In 2005, Israel began the construction of the West Bank Barrier in occupied East Jerusalem, routing it so that Shu'fat Camp and surrounding areas ended up on the "West Bank side" of the Barrier cutting people off from the centre of the city. The residents petitioned against the routing of the Barrier but lost in the Israeli High Court of Justice in 2008. The Barrier surrounding the camp was completed in early 2013. The Barrier has physically separated Shu'fat residents from the rest of East Jerusalem, with only one checkpoint restricting traffic between the camp and the rest of the city.

Since the Israeli Ministry of Interior has a policy of revoking Jerusalem IDs from Palestinians who do not have their 'centre of life' in Jerusalem, the camp has become a popular place of residence for Jerusalem ID holders who might not otherwise afford the high living costs of living elsewhere in Jerusalem. This has contributed to the extreme overcrowding in the camp. Due to the circumstances described above, there is an absence of effective or clear governance structures within the camp. Although the camp lies within the municipal boundaries of Jerusalem, which is annexed to Israel as it is 'behind the wall', various municipal services are not provided and there is an absence of any effective policing within the camp. Moreover, the Palestinian Authority (PA) is not in a position to provide these services in the camp (or several surrounding neighborhoods) as the PA cannot act within Jerusalem's municipal boundaries. UNRWA has no effective interlocutor with whom it could raise camp security concerns.



16,329 Registered population

5,014 Children 0-18 year (**2,442** female **2,572** male)

relief & social services

Through the Social Safety Net Programme, UNRWA provides cash assistance to some 89 impoverished refugees each year. 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.

100 Identified poor households* (**486** individuals)

5 Female-headed household identified poor

19% of the identified poor households benefit from the e-card (Social Safety Net Programme and Emergency Cash Assistance)

19 Households

143 Individuals

health

The health centre in Shu'fat camp was built in 1964 and provides primary health care services including reproductive health, oral health, infant and child care, immunizations, screening and medical check-ups, treatment of communicable and non-communicable diseases and psychosocial counselling.

The health centre was rehabilitated in 2016 enabling UNRWA to maximize its services and implement the Family Health Team approach which focuses on the family with the aim of providing comprehensive and continuous care. An electronic health information system (e-health) for patient files has also been implemented, increasing the accuracy of data and health information, as well as health service efficiency in the centre.

1 Health centre

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

790 Patients with non-communicable diseases provided with care

89 Pregnant women provided with Antenatal Care

1,156 Children 0-5 years provided with Child Health Care

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

education

There are three schools in Shu'fat camp, two girls' schools and one boys' school serving 638 students – based on 2021/22 scholastic year data. Schools in Shu'fat provide schooling through the tenth grade, as opposed to the ninth grade in other camps, in order to address Jerusalem ID concerns if students attend the tenth grade in the West Bank. Dropout rates for the Shu'fat Boys' School are some of the highest in the West Bank. School faculty members work closely with social workers and parents to encourage these students to return to school. In addition, the UNRWA Boys' School is facing a big challenge due to its location on the main street of the camp where confrontations take place very often. Students have been especially affected by tear gas used by the ISF.

The Boys' School was built in 1999 and has a library and both a computer and science laboratories. It was rehabilitated in 2014 with funding from the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) which covered the establishment of multipurpose rooms, as well as a renovated playground. In 2014, UNRWA built a new compound with funds from the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), where both girls' schools now reside. The new compound has the same facilities as the boys' school.

3 Schools	2 girls'	1 boys'
638 Students	486	152

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

infrastructure & camp improvement

UNRWA has been providing solid waste collection services in the camp; since the Jerusalem municipality stopped this service at the outbreak of the first intifada. In the areas surrounding the camp, the municipality has continued to collect solid waste but only to a limited extent. As a result, residents of the surrounding areas often dispose their waste in the camp. This, combined with rapid population growth, has led to increased waste accumulation. UNRWA has responded by procuring equipment of solid waste management and moving the multiple solid waste collection points to a single, rehabilitated site. In addition to collecting solid waste, 22 sanitation labourers (9 temporary staff through various sources of funds) are also responsible for maintaining the dilapidated and insufficient sewerage and storm-water networks in the camp. The sanitation foreman manages the team of sanitation workers and conducts daily water examinations and food installation inspections.

In 2000, UNRWA constructed a storm water system but due to the rapid population growth, the network quickly became inadequate, with sewage pipes frequently clogging and adding to the unsanitary conditions of the camp. Residents responded by building their own sewage lines, sometimes connecting them to storm water channels. In times of flooding, storm water mixed with sewage overflows the streets and shelters, causing health risks.

4,866 Tons of solid waste removed in camps

100% Sewerage connection

22 Sanitation labourers



protection & neutrality

The location of the Shu'fat checkpoint by the entrance of the camp with heavy ISF presence, in addition to the frequent ISF operations in the camp, result in clashes and confrontations between Palestinian youth and Israeli forces, often involving the heavy use of tear gas, skunk spray, plastic-coated metal bullets, and in some cases the use of live ammunition. There is a lack of effective governance and civilian policing in the camp which leads to high crime rates. Jerusalem Municipality provides very limited services to Shu'fat residents. Even fire brigades and ambulances require security coordination to access the camp. There is no effective policing in Shu'fat camp as PA police has no jurisdiction in the camp and Israeli police rarely enter the camp.

In October 2022, after a Palestinian opened fire at the checkpoint, killing one ISF officer and injured two, the Israeli authorities imposed a full closure of the Shu'fat checkpoint, as well as for all access points to Shu'fat camp and surrounding neighborhoods, restricting the movement of an estimated 130,000 civilians, including 25,000 camp residents (16,000 registered refugees). The closures lasted for about a week before gradually lifting the restrictions.

The camp and surrounding areas' population were hindered from entering and exiting the area, causing grave concerns, particularly for vulnerable groups like pregnant women and children in need of medical treatment. The restrictions had a grave impact on the population of the camp, obstructing their access to education, livelihood, and health services, as well as for impeding UNRWA's service delivery. Teachers could not reach schools, medicine was not delivered to health centers, and solid waste was not disposed of. The closures were regarded by the communities as a form of collective punishment.

3 Injuries caused by live ammunition	114 ISF Operations	52 Detainees
39 Teargas incidents	42 Confrontations	

Camp needs

- Rehabilitation of the Boys' School's yard.
- Shelter rehabilitation for the most vulnerable.
- Rehabilitation of the Camp Services Office and sanitation offices.
- Rehabilitation of the stormwater networks in some neighbourhoods in the camp.

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