



Report #5 on the situation in Ein el Hilweh camp, Lebanon Thursday 10 August 2023, 15:00 hrs

Ein El Hilweh camp information

- UNRWA provides services to nearly 55,000 registered Palestine Refugees in Ein El Hilweh camp.
- Eight UNRWA schools serve around 6,000 students.
- Two UNRWA health centres provide primary health care including reproductive health, infant and child-care, immunizations, screening and medical check-ups and treatment.

Overview

A fragile calm has persisted in Ein El Hilweh camp since fighting ceased on 3 August. Nevertheless, tensions remain high in those sectors of the camp in which the fighting was centered – largely in the northern-most and southern-most sectors – which is inhibiting humanitarian access. Reports indicate that armed fighters are allegedly still deployed in some areas and continue to be intermittently present in UNRWA schools in the northern schools compound, along with the nearby UNRWA camp services office – a serious violation of the neutrality of UNRWA installations. The reported presence of fighters in areas around the school compound has prevented UNRWA staff from accessing these installations. Reports indicate that the ongoing presence of armed fighters in some areas is also preventing the return of some residents to their homes.

UNRWA and other humanitarian organizations have been able to resume operations in those areas of the camp less affected by the fighting, comprising approximately 65 per cent of the camp's total area. On 8 August, UNRWA reopened one of its two health centres in the camp, while sanitation workers have been removing approximately 50 tonnes of accumulated garbage from the streets per day and have begun a disinfection campaign. Partners have also collected garbage in other sectors

of the camp. The Director of UNRWA Affairs Lebanon visited UNRWA installations in the camp on 8 August to announce the reopening of services and to hear from Palestine refugees affected by the clashes about their key needs and concerns in order to inform response planning.

The repair and rehabilitation of affected infrastructure and structures requires a comprehensive assessment coordinated with multiple humanitarian and governance actors. To enable this, an initial security assessment of the risk posed by unexploded ordnances (UXO) needs to be carried out in those areas most affected by fighting, including in UNRWA installations. UNRWA is working with the Lebanese Mine Action Centre (LebMAC) to plan and carry out this assessment in coordination with partners. LebMAC will also provide training on UXO identification and safety for at least 90 frontline UNRWA and partner staff on Monday 14 August and the following days.

Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management and Assessment

- On Wednesday 9 August, an extraordinary meeting of the Lebanon Humanitarian Country Team convened to receive a briefing from the Director of UNRWA Affairs in Lebanon and to discuss the coordination of the response to the Ein El Hilweh situation.
- On Thursday 10 August, OCHA convened a meeting of the Emergency Operations Cell, bringing together humanitarian actors on several issues including Ein El Hilweh.
- On Friday 11 August, UNRWA will host a coordination meeting in Saida for humanitarian partners and other interlocutors. This will focus on the coordination of assistance especially cash based support.

Humanitarian response and needs

- **Camp environment:** UNRWA has contracted a private company for the removal of rubble, with preparations currently underway. Rubble removal will initially take place only in those areas of the camps less affected by fighting and deemed safe for access. UNRWA is also seeking tenders for a contract to repair the camp's water infrastructure. UNRWA and the ICRC continue to deliver gas to ensure the ongoing functioning of water wells in the camp.
- **Sanitation:** UNRWA sanitation teams continue to remove garbage in less-affected areas of the camp, while partners including Oxfam and the Association for Relief of Palestinian People are collecting in other parts of the camp. On 9 August, UNRWA began a disinfection and insecticide spraying campaign in those areas of the camp cleared of garbage.
- **Health:** UNRWA Health Centre II reopened on 8 August and has resumed the provision of regular medical care. UNRWA health programme figures indicate that, as people return to the camp, the number of camp residents seeking treatment at UNRWA health centres outside the camp is dropping, with numbers increasing at the camp's Health Centre II. This includes individuals who would normally visit Health Centre I, which remains closed. Human Call Association's al-Nida'a Hospital continues to provide hospitalization services to those inside the camp.
- **Shelter:** An assessment of damage to shelters will take place once security conditions allow the safe entry of UNRWA and partner staff into those areas most affected by the fighting.
- **Protection:** UNRWA continues to engage with protection partners through the National Protection Working Group to assess key protection concerns and coordinate a response.

Future needs

- Provision of assistance, including emergency cash assistance, to support families' recovery process, including rehabilitation works to their houses partially or entirely damaged by the fighting.
- Repair and maintenance of critical infrastructure in the camp, including water supply, wells, wastewater systems and the electricity network.
- Rehabilitation of affected UNRWA schools in the camp when safe access is secured, as well as the establishment of enhanced safety and security measures in these schools. Severe structural damage has been reported in the northern UNRWA schools compound located near the epicentre of hostilities.
- Ongoing awareness-raising among residents of the camp and adjacent areas to protect individuals from physical and psychological harm posed by UXO and other remnants of war.

