

# Lebanon: Ein el Hilweh Emergency

## Situation Report No. 13

As of 1600hrs, Friday 6 October 2023

This report is produced jointly by UNRWA and OCHA Lebanon. It covers the period from 30 September to 6 October 2023. Reports will be issued each Friday, with more frequent reporting if the situation requires.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- The ceasefire in Ein el Hilweh camp continued to hold between 30 September and 6 October, although underlying tensions remained.
- Displaced persons continued to return to the camp. As a result, the last remaining UNRWA designated emergency shelter closed on 6 October, with only the Fawar non-UNRWA collective site still hosting a small number of displaced families.
- However, over 2,700 households are recorded as having been displaced in emergency shelters or hosted in the community (noting, however, the fluidity of the situation makes precise counting challenging). Many of those still displaced are believed to have come from parts of the camp in which fighting was concentrated and where many shelters were damaged or destroyed. Others are families facing a safety risk related to the occupation of their shelters by armed actors or their being barred from their homes (for example, youths above 16 years old have faced challenges returning to some neighborhoods).
- The armed actors who had been occupying two UNRWA compounds containing eight schools reportedly vacated the premises on 29 September after the deployment of the Joint Security Force, which reportedly remained inside one of the two school complexes. UNRWA has not received formal communication from relevant camp governance actors about the status of schools and has not been able to access the area of the school compounds due to the prevailing security situation.
- UNRWA is carrying out its regular sanitation services in areas assessed as accessible within Ein el Hilweh camp. The resumption of other services will be dependent on an assessment of security conditions in the camp.

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IDPs hosted in  
UNRWA emergency  
shelters

30

IDPs hosted in al  
Fawar collective site

2,700

Families hosted  
in the  
community<sup>1</sup>

### SITUATION OVERVIEW

The ceasefire was maintained in Ein el Hilweh camp as the inter-factional Palestinian Joint Security Force (JSF) continued to deploy in parts of the camp, including the areas where the two UNRWA school compounds that had been occupied by armed actors are located. The JSF has not yet deployed to the Hittin neighbourhood, one of the flashpoints in the last round of fighting.

Families who had fled the camp reportedly continued to return to their homes. The number of people in UNRWA designated emergency shelters (DES) dropped from 427 to zero between 28 September and 6 October. On 6 October, UNRWA closed its final remaining DES in the Siblin Training Centre, having closed the DES in Bir Zeit school in Siblin and Nablus School in Saida earlier in the week (in addition to Beit Jala DES, which had closed earlier, as previously reported). All non-UNRWA collective sites are also now empty of displaced persons except for the collective site in al Fawar.

However, a large number of camp residents remain displaced, including many who are unable to return to their shelters due to their damage or destruction. Alongside the approximately 30 people in al Fawar collective site, at least 2,700 households are reported to have been sheltering with relatives or elsewhere in the community. During this reporting period,

<sup>1</sup> Based on latest update from Naba'a on their door-to-door assessment.

some families reportedly departed the camp to seek new accommodation in the Saida area. UNRWA and partners have devised a joint mechanism for the distribution of multi-purpose cash assistance for those whose shelters have been damaged or destroyed. Details will be announced shortly.

UNRWA is preparing for an assessment of damage to its installations inside the camp and the removal of rubble, with work to begin once security conditions allow. UNRWA continued providing sanitation services in parts of the camp less affected by the clashes, working in conjunction with a private contractor. Approximately 200 tons of garbage were removed between 2 and 6 October.

UNRWA has not yet received formal confirmation that its eight schools in Ein el Hilweh have been vacated by all armed persons. Due to the serious damage these schools have sustained during the clashes, as well as the use of three other Saida-area schools to host displaced families, the opening of UNRWA schools in Saida, which had been scheduled for 2 October, will be postponed for more than 11,000 Palestine refugee children. UNRWA is in the final stages of preparing alternative arrangements to ensure children in and around the camp are able to return to school as soon as possible.

## GENERAL COORDINATION

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On 5 October, partners met to discuss harmonized multi-purpose cash provision for those households affected by the Ein el Hilweh clashes, with disbursement to be based on an assessment of damage to shelters being undertaken by Naba'a and expected to be completed during October.

UNRWA Lebanon Field Office leadership met remotely with representatives of donor states to provide an update on the situation in Ein el Hilweh camp and to highlight key funding needs and gaps.

UNRWA is coordinating with the Lebanese Armed Forces and specialized organizations to plan the clearance of unexploded ordnance and other remnants of war in Ein el Hilweh camp.

Coordination is ongoing between agencies and organizations providing protection services for displaced persons across population groups.

## HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

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### Food Security and Nutrition

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#### Response:

- Food parcels are included in the multisectoral packages being provided to families hosted in the community. Coordination between Naba'a, Save the Children and food sector partners is ongoing. Naba'a have begun distributing these packages, targeting 1,440 households.
- Action Against Hunger and International Orthodox Christian Charities partners have been mobilized in UNRWA and non-UNRWA facilities to provide infant and young child feeding (IYCF) support for pregnant lactating women (PLW) and children under 5. Over 180 caregivers were reached with IYCF awareness and 17 caregivers of children under 5 and PLW were reached with IYCF one-on-one counselling.
- 48 children aged 6-59 months were provided with home fortification of micronutrient powder (MNPs) which will prevent micronutrient deficiencies.
- 52 children under the age of five were screened for wasting.

#### Gaps & Constraints:

- Challenges remain in providing hot meals in the remaining collective site for displaced persons.
- Difficulties persist in locating displaced people being hosted by other families.
- No partner so far is responding to the nutritional needs of school-age children and adolescents.

## Non-food items

### Needs:

- Non-food items are part of the multisectoral packages being provided to families hosted in the community.

### Response:

- Non-food items are part of the multisectoral packages being provided to families hosted in the community. Naba'a have begun distributing these packages to 1,440 households.

### Gaps & Constraints:

- More coordination is required with additional actors to cover the remaining households out of the 2,700 directly assessed by Naba'a.

## Health

### Needs:

- Continued primary healthcare assistance and hospitalization services are required for displaced persons and those residing in Ein el Hilweh camp, particularly in light of ongoing closures of both UNRWA health centres in the camp.

### Response:

- UNRWA continued to provide medical services and medications via medical points inside UNRWA emergency shelters (before their closure) and through UNRWA clinics to treat acute and non-communicable conditions. MSF continued to conduct regular checks for patients with non-communicable diseases (NCD) at al Fawar collective site.
- International Medical Corps (IMC) continues to provide its regular primary healthcare services to Palestinians and others visiting two IMC-supported medical facilities in Saida.

### Gaps & Constraints:

- Due to the ongoing closure of both UNRWA health centres in Ein el Hilweh camp, camp residents are facing difficulties accessing medical care, although UNRWA clinics are available outside the camp. The UNRWA polyclinic in Saida is facing a very high caseload and UNRWA is exploring options for providing additional capacity by opening an additional temporary clinic or re-opening Health Centre II in Ein el Hilweh camp if security conditions allow.
- Difficulties remain in hospitalization referrals for some non-Palestinian nationalities.

## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene and Shelter

### Needs:

- Ongoing collection of garbage inside Ein el Hilweh camp.
- Removal of rubble and maintenance and repair of camp infrastructure where needed.
- Assessment of damage to shelters in the camp and adjacent areas affected by the clashes.
- Maintenance of hygiene and sanitation standards in al Fawar collective site.

### Response:

- UNRWA has continued providing sanitation services in parts of Ein el Hilweh less affected by the clashes, removing garbage in conjunction with a private contractor. UNRWA sanitation staff also began a disinfection and spraying campaign inside the camp on 2 October. Staff have also carried out urgent maintenance and repair of parts of the Ein el Hilweh water and sewerage networks.
- UNRWA is in the process of distributing 27,000 litres of fuel to ensure that Ein el Hilweh's water wells can continue operating.

### Gaps & Constraints:

- Due to ongoing tensions between armed actors, UNRWA or partners have been unable to enter some parts of the camp to remove garbage.

## Education

### Needs:

- Due to the damage to and the ongoing inaccessibility of all eight UNRWA schools in Ein el Hilweh camp and the use of three further UNRWA schools as designated emergency shelters until recent days, educational arrangements for the 11,000 Palestine refugee students registered at UNRWA schools in the Saida area have to be revisited. This includes the 5,900 students registered at the eight schools inside Ein el Hilweh camp.
- Once safe access to UNRWA's two school compounds inside the camp can be ensured, large-scale repair and, in some cases, reconstruction of the schools will need to take place.

### Response:

- As previously reported, UNRWA has announced that the school year for 11,000 UNRWA students in the Saida area would be postponed. Delays between 1 and 4 weeks to the start of the scholastic year for these students are anticipated to put in place all alternative arrangements. The school year at other UNRWA schools commenced on 2 October.
- UNRWA has developed plans for a transitional arrangement in which the 5,900 students registered at schools inside Ein el Hilweh camp will be able to attend UNRWA schools outside the camp, which will operate in a double-shift modality. Some of these schools are located in the immediate vicinity of the camp and are thus within walking distance for children coming from inside the camp. For schools located further away in Saida city, transport will be provided.
- UNRWA is working closely with the Lebanese Armed Forces to ensure that arrangements are in place to facilitate the smooth passage of students to their schools, with an agreement having been reached on arrangements for a transitional period of three months.

### Gaps & Constraints:

- UNRWA remains unable to access its eight schools inside the camp due to the ongoing instability of the security situation in the areas immediately surrounding the school compounds. UNRWA is liaising with the Lebanese Armed Forces and specialized organizations to plan for the removal of any unexploded ordnance and other remnants of war from the school premises once access is restored.

## Protection and case management

### Needs:

- Children, single mothers and older persons without support have been identified as particularly at-risk groups. Children have displayed higher distress levels, with cases of involuntary urination and other signs of stress. Single mothers have requested support in childcare and access to play and recreational activities.
- Case management services to respond to persons with specific needs as well as gender-based violence and child protection cases and for others at heightened risk are required to prevent further deterioration in individuals' situations.
- Mental health and psychosocial support services through individual and group approaches are needed to address traumatic displacement and pre-existing psychological distress, (CBPSS), especially for children, single parents and other at-risk groups.

### Response:

- Inside UNRWA designated emergency shelters – prior to their closure – multiple protection partners including ARCPA/AI Jana, Naba'a, Najdeh, Première Urgence Internationale, Tadamon, Save the Children, UNICEF, and UNRWA were providing services including psychological support, emotional support sessions, awareness sessions, case management and focused PSS.
- For al Fawar collective site and the Sirob area, INTERSOS provided awareness sessions on access to services and GBV (benefiting 93 individuals), case management services and psychosocial support to individuals and families at heightened risk, including specialized GBV and CP case management. For those outside UNRWA emergency shelters, partners are identifying and referring cases to INTERSOS for protection, including CP and GBV services.

- Najdeh managed around 14 protection cases that were referred by Al Jana in coordination with UNRWA. Furthermore, 169 beneficiaries (159 women and 10 men) attended several awareness sessions by Najdeh on various protection topics.

#### Gaps & Constraints:

- Further discussions about the harmonization of cash provision related to case management are needed to ensure alignment and avoid duplication.

#### Background on the crisis

*UNRWA provides services to over 38,000 registered Palestine Refugees in Ein el Hilweh camp. Eight UNRWA schools in the camp have 5,900 registered students, while two UNRWA health centres provide primary health care including reproductive health, infant and child-care, immunizations, screening and medical check-ups and treatment.*

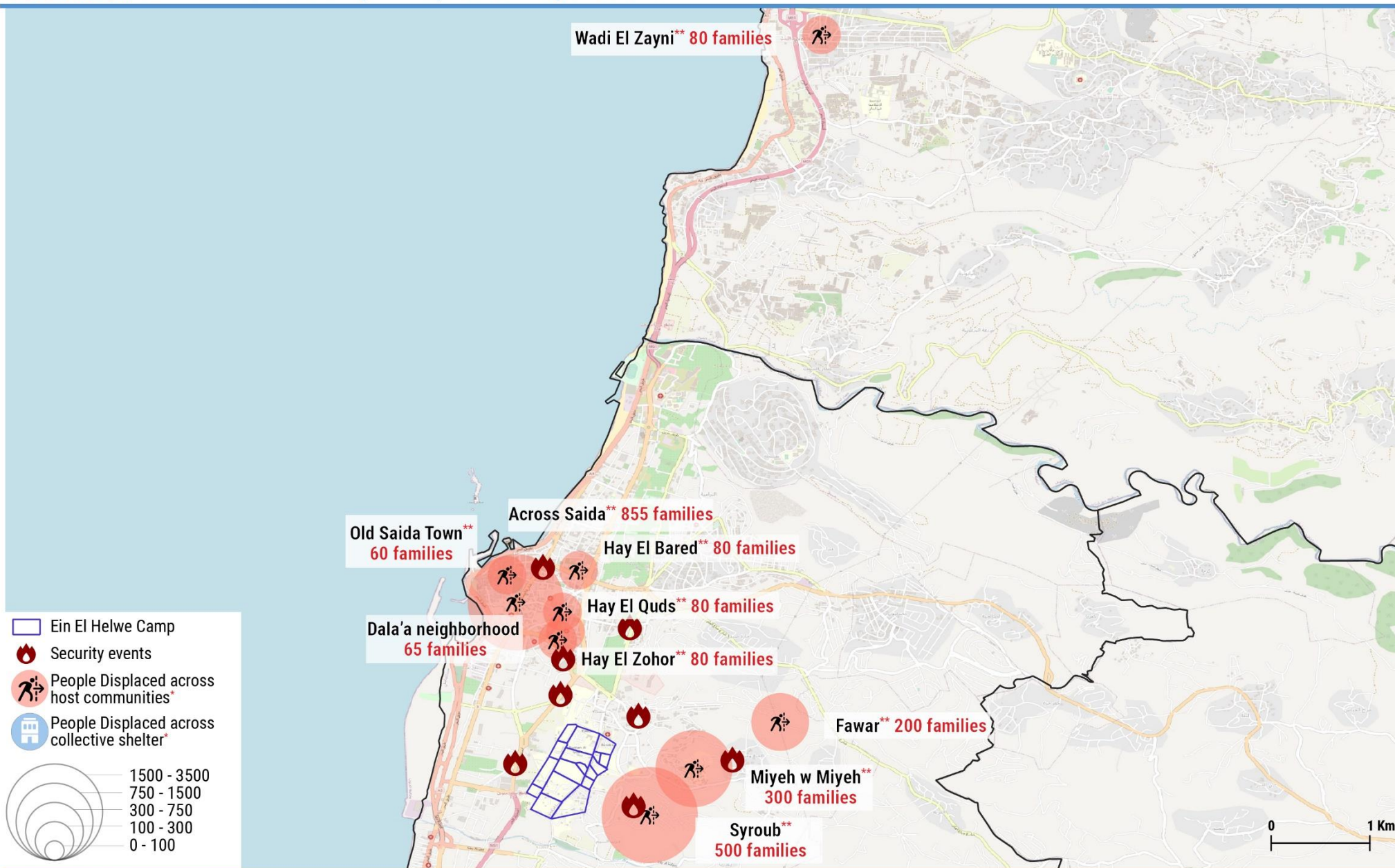
*Since 31 July, fighting in Ein el Hilweh Palestine refugee camp has 30 people were killed and injured hundreds. Clashes have led to significant destruction across much of the camp, with thousands of people having fled. Armed groups have taken over eight UNRWA schools inside Ein El-Hilweh camp, threatening the access of nearly 6,000 children to education when the school year starts on 2 October.*

#### For further information, please contact:

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For more information, please visit [www.unocha.org](http://www.unocha.org) - [www.unrwa.org](http://www.unrwa.org) - [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int)





**\*Disclaimer:** These are approximate figures as the situation is volatile. \*\* People in these locations are displaced in the host community and not specific site. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Creation date: 06 October 2023

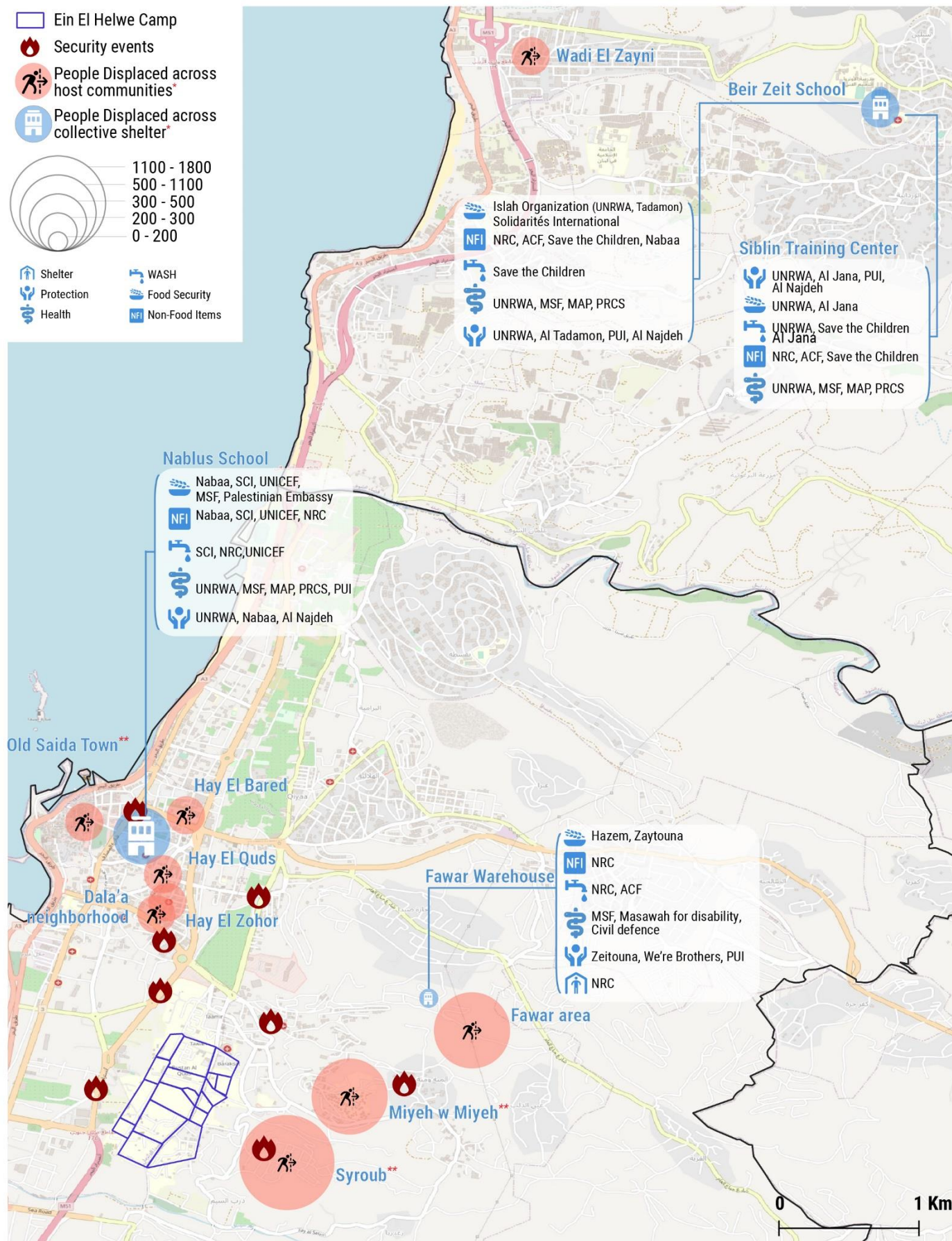
Sources: OCHA, Humanitarian Partners, OpenStreetMap

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[www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int)





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