

overview

Askar camp was established in 1950 and borders the Nablus municipality. The camp population grew significantly between 1950 and 1960. Some residents subsequently settled in an area one kilometre away that is now known as New Askar. Residents of New Askar originally utilized many facilities in Askar camp. However, as the refugee population in New Askar increased, UNRWA began providing education and health services in this locality. After the Oslo Accords, Askar camp fell under Palestinian control (Area A) while New Askar fell under joint Palestinian and Israeli control (Area B). Israeli settlers often visit Joseph's Tomb, which is near the camp, accompanied by the Israeli Security Forces (ISF). This leads to confrontations in the vicinity of both Balata camp and Askar camp. With 23,760 registered persons, Askar camp is among the most densely populated West Bank camps. Overcrowding and unemployment are among the most serious issues. Unemployment rates remain a challenge inside all camps with 17% recorded by PCBS's Labour Taskforce Report, Q4 2022. Moreover, poor shelters and cramped living conditions offer no privacy for residents in their personal lives, adding to the residents' physical and psychological strain. Despite its challenges, Askar camp has an active civil society with numerous community based organizations (CBOs) in the camp like Askar Women Centre.

 **23,760** Registered population

 **6,662** Children 0-18 year (**3,259** female **3,403** male)

education

Six UNRWA schools in Askar camp serve 3,056 students based on 2021/22 scholastic year data. Each school has a library and a computer and science laboratories. Psychosocial counsellors are also available to respond to students' needs.

As in many camps, students' education is affected by the conditions in which they live. The two boys' schools in Askar camp share a playground, providing limited space for playing, enjoying sports, and for after-school activities. Many students in Askar camp face dire socioeconomic situations at home, with some having to leave school to support their families. School faculty members work closely with social workers and parents to encourage these students to return to school.

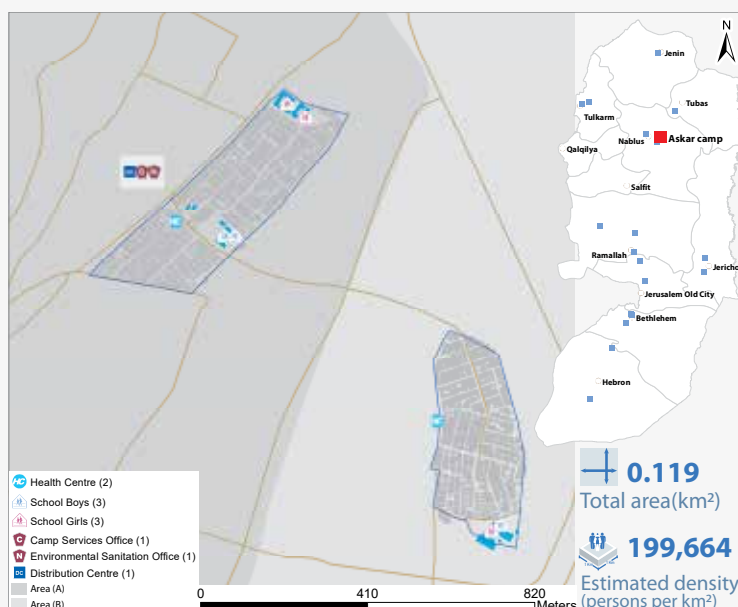
6 Schools  **3 girls'**

 **3 boys'**

3,056 Students  **1,646**

 **1,410**

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



health

UNRWA health centres in Askar camp provide primary health care including reproductive health, infant and child care, immunizations, screening and medical check-ups, treatment of communicable and non-communicable diseases and psychosocial counselling. A dentist is working four times per week, serving patients in the two health centres.

The centres implement the Family Health Team approach which focuses on the family with the aim of providing comprehensive, continuous care. This approach 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 centres.

 **2** Health centre

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

 **2,545** Patients with non-communicable diseases provided with care

 **718** Pregnant women provided with Antenatal Care

 **3,109** Children 0-5 years provided with Child Health Care

relief & social services

Through the Social Safety Net Programme, UNRWA provides cash assistance to approximately 1,540 impoverished refugees each year, which is equivalent to 6.4 per cent of the registered population in the camp. Moreover, through the Emergency Appeal (EA), an additional 791 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.

 **1,700** Identified poor households* (**7,612** individuals)

 **302** Female-headed household identified poor

 **22%** of the identified poor households benefit from the e-card (Social Safety Net Programme and Emergency Cash Assistance)

 **372** Households

 **2,331** Individuals

 **27** Female-headed household

infrastructure & camp improvement

UNRWA provides basic sanitation services in Askar Camp including daily water examinations (residual chlorine test) and the removal of solid waste. This is carried out by 19 sanitation labourers (9 temporary staff through various sources of funds) who collect waste throughout the camp. The waste is transported by the Nablus municipality to al-Sierafi Collection point, east of Nablus City, and then to the Zahrit al-Finjan Landfill. In addition, the sanitation team clean the sewerage network in the camp. The network in Askar camp remains insufficient for the large camp population, resulting in blockages and flooding of exposed shelters during heavy rains.

Since there is limited land available in the camp, residents can only build upwards to accommodate the growing families and overall population. Many shelters in Askar camp now have more than four floors and are built on foundations that were originally intended to support no more than two stories. The shelters themselves are often in poor condition and subject to high humidity and poor ventilation, which leads to serious health concerns especially for children and the elderly.

Since 2013, UNRWA has been constructing and rehabilitating shelters in the camp yet needs continue to increase and additional funding is required.

 **3** Shelters rehabilitated/reconstructed

 **7,793** Tons of solid waste removed in camps

 **100%** Sewerage connection

 **19** Sanitation labourers



protection & neutrality

Askar camp residents are exposed to multiple protection threats, linked to the frequent incursions by 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. ISF often enter into the camp during the night, causing damage to Palestinian homes and property while generating fear, anxiety and high levels of stress. Israeli settlers often visit Joseph's Tomb, which is near the camp, accompanied by the ISF. These visits often also lead to confrontations on the main roads in the vicinity of Askar Camp.

Part of Askar Camp; New Askar, is under joint Palestinian and Israeli control (Area B).

In October ISF imposed heavy movement restrictions of people in the Nablus area for 22 days, which also hampered the delivery of humanitarian services, including in Askar Camp.

 **25** Detainees, including 2 minors

 **7** Injuries caused by live ammunition

 **15** ISF Operations

 **2** Fatalities

 **8** Confrontations

 **4** Teargas incidents

Camp needs

- Reconstruction of Askar Health Centre in a new location suitable for both staff and refugees in the camp.
- Shelter rehabilitation for the most vulnerable.
- Rehabilitation of storm water and sewage networks.
- Equipment for solid waste management and infrastructure works.

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