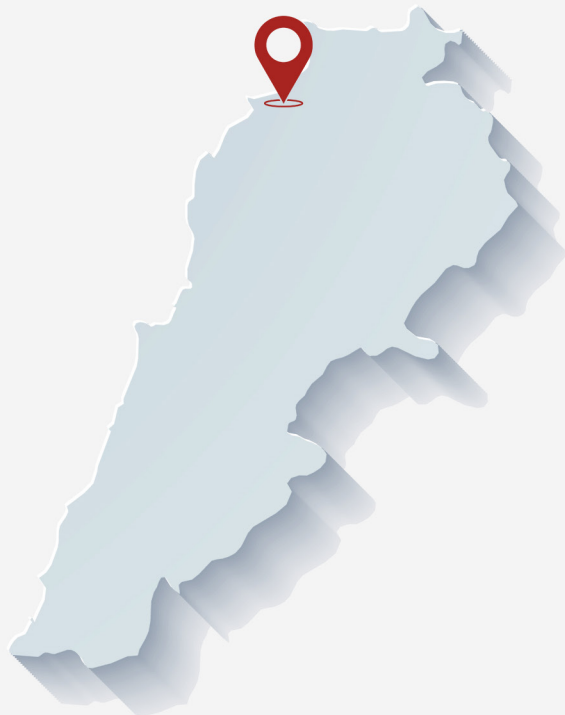




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# **BEDDAWI CAMP NEEDS ASSESSMENT 2024**



# Background

Palestinian refugees have been residing in Lebanon since 1948 when the Nakba (catastrophe), an event which saw the violent displacement and dispossession of Palestinians, and the establishment of Israel, forced hundreds of thousands of Palestinians to flee and seek refuge in neighbouring countries such as Lebanon, Jordan, and Syria. Following other forced displacements such as the Naksa in 1967, the number of Palestinian refugees currently residing in Lebanon is estimated at 489,292, according to UNRWA; of which almost 90% are living in dire conditions, and deprived from social protection and access to basic rights and services including shelter, water, food, and personal official papers.

According to UNRWA, 53% of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon are distributed amongst 12 official refugee camps and almost 150 informal gatherings. Camps in particu-

lar suffer from overcrowding, poor infrastructure, poor housing conditions, high unemployment, and extreme poverty. In addition to poor health and hygiene conditions, camps suffer from salty water and tangled electrical wires which have caused the electrocution of more than 50 residents in the past 6 years. The influx of approximately 30,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria further strained the overstretched infrastructure and limited resources in the camps.

Over the years, Palestinian refugee camps have suffered from atrocities inflicted during the Lebanese war; these include large scale massacres such as Sabra and Shatila (1982) and Tal El Zaatar (1976). In 2007, heavy armed clashes between the Lebanese Army and Fateh Al Islam destroyed 85% of Nahr El Bared camp, in Northern Lebanon, displacing almost all of its 35,000 inhabitants. Generally, the security situation in the camps remains very fragile and highly volatile, with frequent clashes taking place between armed factions and armed individuals.

Palestinian refugees in Lebanon are considered one of the most vulnerable populations as they are denied from their most basic rights and continue to be subjected to discrimination, marginalization, and unjust policies. Palestinian refugees are banned from 39 work domains in Lebanon, including medicine, law, engineering, and pharmacy, and are not allowed to work in professions that are governed by syndicates. Their status as Palestinian refugees subjects them to particular discrimination; according to the New York Times (Lebanon hands out and renews hundreds of thousands of work permits every year to people from Africa, Asia and other Arab countries... until now, only a handful have been given to Palestinians), hundreds of thousands of work permits are granted to foreign nationalities each year, compared to only a handful provided to Palestinian refugees. These conditions lead to very high unemployment and poverty rates which are further exacerbated by a complete absence of a social safety net.



# Beddawi Camp

Beddawi Palestinian refugee camp, located in Northern Lebanon, was established in 1995 by UNRWA on an area of only of one square kilometres. Residents are Palestinian refugees mainly displaced from Galilee and the northern coastal areas of Palestine. The camp has two main entrances: a southern entrance adjacent to Tripoli al-Qubba , and a northern entrance near Beddawi Al Jabal and Beddawi town.



Beddawi camp is one of the most impoverished camps in Lebanon with a poor infrastructure and high poverty and unemployment rates. In 2007, the camp was further burdened by an influx of thousands of Palestinian refugees who fled Nahr Al Bared camp. The current population is estimated at 30,000 individuals causing over crowdedness and competition over limited resources. There are several CSOs and NGOs in the camp providing a variety of services, in addition to associations and clubs.

## Current Humanitarian Conditions

Currently, UNRWA is providing Palestinian refugees from both, Syria and Lebanon; with cash assistance (\$50 USD per individual every three months). Other local organizations such as Beit Atfal Assumoud provide beneficiaries (Palestinian refugee from both, Syria and Lebanon) with \$30 USD per family every month. Additionally, UNHCR is providing Syrian refugees with a similar cash assistance of \$100 USD per family per month. Registered Palestinian refugees from Syria and Lebanon receive medical aid from UNRWA, and rehabilitation support is provided to Palestinian refugees in Beddawi camp by both UNRWA and NRC. Furthermore, Palestinian factions are providing food assistance but face challenges in reaching all vulnerable groups within the camp.

Humanitarian relief aid provided by local or international organizations do not cover all the needs of the camp residents. Many families are in need for humanitarian relief aid, specifically Palestinian refugees from both, Syria and Lebanon who collectively live in one house or households who have children, elderly, injured, sick, or people with special needs, or residents who do not have identification documents or residency permits.

## Livelihood and Food Security

Local associations provide skills development trainings to residents in the camp. However, despite these efforts, the unemployment rate in the camp stands at 75%, with individuals earning between 200 and 500 USD. Primary income sources include cattle farming, selling goods, simple trading, jobs in the private sector, financial transfers, humanitarian financial aid, and manual labor. Palestinian Factions offer food assistance to some households. Nonetheless, this support is insufficient to meet the prevailing needs in the camp, primarily for essentials such as grains, oil, rice, sugar, cheese, tea, coffee, and flour. On average, households in the camp spend approximately 300\$ per month on food.



*Food Processing for Women  
inside the Palestinian Camps*

About 70% of the refugees living in Beddawi camp urgently require food assistance, with the most vulnerable groups being Palestinian and Syrian families residing together, households with children, elderly individuals, those who are injured, sick, have special needs, or lack identification documents or residency permits. Additionally, it is crucial to note that there is currently no organization providing agricultural assistance to address the food security challenges faced by the residents in the camp. The absence of such support further exacerbates the pressing need for comprehensive aid initiatives.

The main obstruction that affects access of families to food supply is the lack of sustainable economic resources to buy food items. Mainly, fostering mothers depend on their milk or baby milk products to feed their babies. Unfortunately, most pregnant and fostering mothers receive inadequate food and nutrients, adversely impacting child nutrition, especially those under 6 months. Additionally, insufficient food and nutrients contribute to the prevalence of high rates of anemia within the camp. Furthermore, the inadequate intake of essential food and nutrients is contributing to the high prevalence of anemia within the camp.



A holistic approach is needed to ensure the provision of adequate and consistent food aid to these vulnerable populations. Jafra is committed to a sustainable approach in skills development, aiming to empower these vulnerable groups with skills that enable them to generate income and access essential needs. Establishing agricultural initiatives and food processing activities with cash for work modality not only contribute to addressing the immediate food security challenges faced by residents but also foster long-term sustainability. By incorporating farming practices, the camp can become more self-sufficient, reducing its reliance on external aid. This approach not only ensures a more consistent and reliable food supply but also empowers individuals within the camp by providing them with valuable skills and resources for sustainable livelihoods.

## Education

Beddawi camp relies on seven schools to deliver educational services, including two elementary schools operating on a single shift, four intermediate schools, and one secondary school serving the entire camp population. UNRWA schools providing education to Palestinian students are located inside the camp while Syrian refugees are only able to go to schools outside the camp.

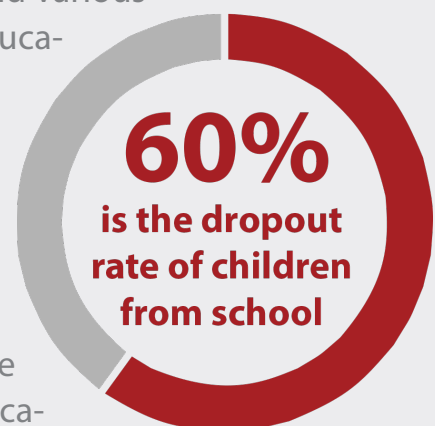
Education is a concrete challenge not only to refugees from Syria, but to the host community (Lebanese and Palestinian) living in Beddawi camp. In addition to the financial barriers to educational attainment, there are further challenges that exist when it comes to education in Beddawi, including the refusal of registration due to insufficient documentation, the overcrowding of classes, and the occurrence of physical punishment in schools. Consequently, the enrollment rate for elementary schools is 58%, for intermediate schools is 26%, and for secondary schools is 16%.

The lack of access to education in the camp has far-reaching consequences for children, impacting various aspects of their lives. Beyond limiting personal and intellectual development opportunities, the lack of education leads to economic disadvantages, hindering the potential for secure and well-paying employment in the future. Moreover, the vulnerability to exploitation and various forms of abuse increases when children lack access to education.

Efforts to improve access to quality education are not only essential for individual development but also for the broader well-being and progress of the entire community. Support for education in the camp should include financial assistance for families to meet school expenses, proactive measures to prevent dropouts, and an expansion of educational support programs. Jafra objective is to grant children and young people the opportunity to receive quality education, enabling them to carve a path towards a brighter future. Education serves as a safeguard, empowering children and youth, as well as their families and communities, to rebound from crises and enhance their resilience.



*The Only Secondary School inside the Camp*





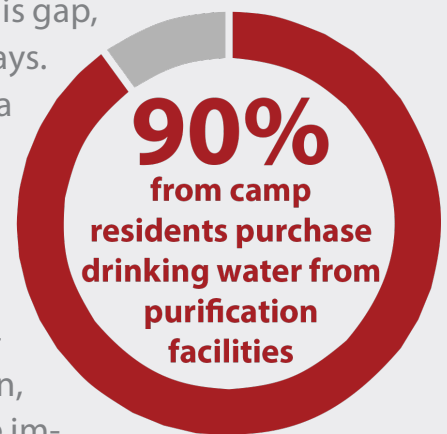
## Water and Sanitation

The provision of water in Beddawi camp is currently considered satisfactory, facilitated by four water tanks supervised by UNRWA. The daily four-hour recycling of water supply, conducted by UNRWA across all camp sectors, ensures residents have access to their water needs. However, the drinkable water situation reveals that 90% of the population purchases drinking water from purification facilities within the camp. UNRWA manages necessary maintenance for the water network and monitors the quality of daily water usage.



Despite regular waste collection services conducted by UNRWA, the high population density in the camp poses challenges. UNRWA's coverage is limited to specific hours and excludes Sundays, leaving certain areas, inhabited by Palestinians but outside the official camp boundaries, without coverage. To address this gap, Jafra initiates waste collection efforts on Saturdays and Sundays. Although UNRWA oversees waste collection sites, there is a pressing need for additional workers, machinery, and an expansion and maintenance of the sewage infrastructure.

The inadequate waste collection, especially in areas not covered by UNRWA, contributes to environmental hazards, resulting in the accumulation of waste and potential pollution, which can further escalate the spread of diseases. Beyond the immediate health and environmental concerns, the overall well-being of the camp is compromised. Insufficient waste management adversely impacts the cleanliness of the camp, significantly diminishing the quality of life for its residents.



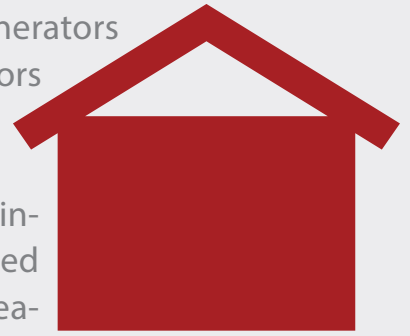
Efforts to improve the waste situation inside the camp is essential. Jafra holistic approach imposes a dual waste collection initiative with a cash for work modality, such initiatives play a pivotal role in raising awareness regarding environmental health, provide youth with the opportunity to generate income, and contributing to the overarching goal of achieving a clean and well-maintained camp.



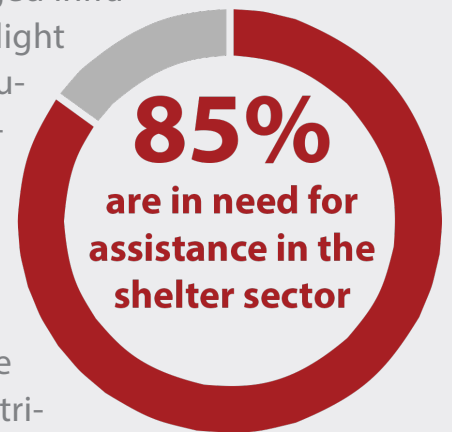
Water Purification Facility inside the Camp

## Shelter and Infrastructure

The electricity in the camp is provided through seven private generators distributed by districts across sectors, but there are no generators specifically used for pumping water from wells. The government's electricity is only available between 2 to 4 hours daily within the camp, while some areas suffer from poor internal networks that hinder their access to electricity. Electrical cables are generally installed in an organized manner, but still requires attention and safety measures to prevent the theft and risks associated with exposed cables.



Many families used to live in dire accommodation conditions which resulted from different issues related to the dense population inside the camp, damaged infrastructure, shortage of building materials, and the lack of sunlight reaching most homes. But, due to the UNRWA and NRC contributions, the residences of the majority of these families who encountered housing difficulties have undergone renovation.



However, approximately 85% of the camp residents are in need for financial assistance to cover the rental expenses, given the prevailing economic situation. Maintenance is needed for the camp's infrastructure, including buildings, homes, and the electrical network, especially in areas where the internal network hinders the supply of electricity. The dire accommodations arising from issues like inadequate ventilation, dampness, and insufficient sunlight have led to a high prevalence of chronic respiratory problems among the camp.

Prioritizing infrastructure maintenance is an essential proactive measure to prevent the deterioration of essential services, ensuring a sustainable living environment for the residents within the camp.



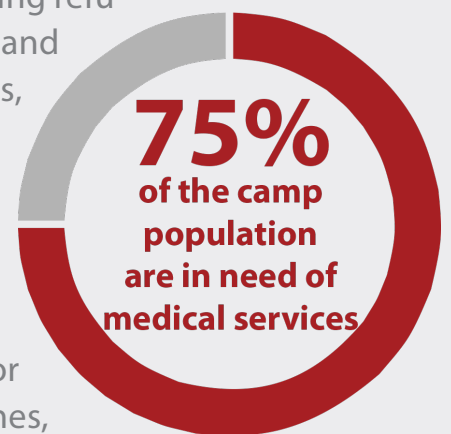
*Rooftop Gardening inside the Camps*

## Medical Services

One hospital (Safad Hospital), four private health centers and one UNRWA clinic providing the camp residents with intermediate healthcare services, in addition to three private laboratories and one UNRWA laboratory. There are twenty private pharmacies providing medicines for residents in the camp. Medical services available in the camp include vaccinations and managing emergencies, injuries, and chronic diseases. UNRWA provides vaccinations, while the Red Crescent center follows up on emergency cases.

Safad Hospital, affiliated with the Palestinian Red Crescent Society, was constructed with high engineering standards and equipped with essential machinery and vehicles. However, the staff lacks competence due to low salaries, preventing the recruitment of a qualified workforce. The hospital is in need of effective management.

The situation of health sector in Beddawi camp is threatening where around 75% of the whole population are in urgent need for medical services including refugees who do not have income, or those who suffer from chronic and dangerous diseases, injuries or elderly, people with special needs, children, and fostering or pregnant mothers. Health and medical diseases that are prevalent in the camp include psychological traumas, disabilities, chronic diseases, skin and respiratory diseases (e.g. Asthma), and kidney diseases (e.g. stones and sand).



Urgent interventions are needed to support the health sector in the camp encompassing provision of free necessary medicines, equipping medical centers with the needed medical supplies, and provision of financial aids to cover medical costs of critical cases.



*Safad Hospital - The Only Hospital inside the Camp*



## Localization

The camp includes various associations, scouts, alongside numerous clubs such as Sports club, social groups, and student associations. In addition to Palestinian factions, there are committees such as the Popular Committee and Security Committee. Also, the Palestinian Civil Defense, operates in the Beddawi camp.

The PCD is a local organization in which it provides first aid medical services through its First Aid Clinic as well as leads firefighting missions inside and outside of the camps. In the past, the PCD has provided assistance to the Lebanese Civil Defense in firefighting assignments across Lebanon and the PCD was one of the main organizations that managed the COVID-19 crisis in the Palestinian camps.



Given the pivotal role of the Palestinian Civil Defense within the Palestinian camps, Jafra is actively collaborating with the PCD to strengthen the skills and management capabilities of its staff. Jafra is committed to equipping PCD with the essential tools to navigate future financial challenges, fostering the sustainability of PCD as an autonomous entity capable of effectively meeting the diverse needs of the community. This strategic approach underscores the significance of transforming PCD into a sustainable business model. It is crucial to emphasize that the presence of PCD in the camp is indispensable, and Jafra engagement aims to fortify PCD's role in contributing to the well-being and development of the camp.

Moreover, Jafra embeds a holistic strategy of fostering localization and providing support to local community actors and institutions, enabling a more effective response to the specific needs of targeted camps. Jafra is committed to making long-term investments in the development of local leadership capable of addressing local issues and priorities through innovative solutions and programs. The overarching goal is to enhance localization for local civil society actors, fostering institutional and organizational growth and development, ultimately increasing their capacity to address the needs of affected populations.

Consequently, Jafra has established subcommittees at a camp level, with one dedicated to each camp. In Beddawi camp, the subcommittee include Nowat, CBRA, Yala, and Saadeh Association that are convening monthly meetings. These meetings serve as platforms to comprehensively grasp localized concerns and gather community input on potential resolutions for these issues. Each year, the subcommittee alongside their team members attend tailored trainings aimed to enhance their capabilities, following the trainings, an initiative is implemented with an objective that solve key community grievances and empower marginalized men and women.

## Who We Are

Jafra Foundation for Relief and Youth Development is a non-governmental organization working to serve vulnerable groups in Palestinian refugee camps and gatherings in Syria and Lebanon. It was established in 2002 by the grass-roots efforts of young Palestinian in Yarmouk Camp – Damascus City.

### Check our platforms



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