



## UNRWA WEST BANK FIELD: JENIN GOVERNORATE PROFILE

- Registered refugees in the West Bank: 745,776<sup>1</sup> (33% of the 2,274,929<sup>2</sup> WB population).
- 25.5% (189,787 individuals) live in the 19 West Bank camps.
- **Registered refugees in Jenin Governorate: 90,720<sup>2</sup>.**
- **Registered refugees in Jenin camp 16,209<sup>3</sup> (17,87% of refugee population in Jenin).**

### Socio-economic Conditions

- The **economic decline and stagnation** recorded in the West Bank over the past eight years has led to a dramatic deterioration of all socio-economic indicators for Palestinian people, refugees included. In 2007 the Household Economic Study recorded a total poverty rate amongst refugees of 39.7% in the West Bank and in comparison a **total poverty rate of 53.4% in the Jenin Governorate.**

Table 1: Poverty rates based on per capita household expenditure levels (Household Economic Study)

	% Poverty	% Deep poverty	Total Poverty Rate
West Bank	14,1%	25,6%	39.7%
Jenin Governorate	<b>15.7%</b>	<b>37.7%</b>	<b>53.4%</b>

- Livelihoods of Palestinian families are increasingly at threat as a result of soaring prices of food commodities and existing restrictions on the free movement of people and goods. The evolution of households' income confirms their increasing vulnerability as approximately **one third of Palestinians reported a fall in income<sup>4</sup>** in the first quarter of 2008, with the poor suffering heavily (with a 40% drop).
- **Food security** has also steadily declined and in the beginning of 2008, 25% of Palestinian Households in the West Bank were reported food insecure and 16% in the risk of becoming food insecure. Within this there are important regional disparities, showing that in northern **governorates (Jenin included) 28.6% of households are food insecure**, followed by southern (24%) and central West Bank governorates (18.7%)<sup>5</sup>. In the northern governorates this is **an increase from 22% in December 2006.**
- As incomes decrease, the proportions of food expenditures over total household expenditures – one of the key food insecurity indicators – increase. **In Jenin, the mean percentage of food expenditure was 46.9% compared to 43.1% in the West Bank as a whole.**
- **Unemployment** is an increasing problem in the Palestinian Territories and employment is difficult to find, forcing many workers to rely on part-time and low-paid jobs or discouraging job searching in total (relaxed unemployment numbers are therefore generally higher than ILO standard unemployment numbers).

Table 2: Unemployment rates according to ILO standard (PCBS Labour Force Survey Apr.-June 2008)

	Quarter 4 2007	Quarter 1 2008	Quarter 2 2008
West Bank	19.2%	19.0%	16.3%
Jenin Governorate	19.2%	25.7%	18.4%

## Health

- UNRWA health installations in the **Jenin Governorate include 1 Health Centre (HC)**, located inside the Jenin refugee camp (open 6 days a week) and **5 Health Points (HP)** serving relatively restricted areas and refugee communities. These provide outpatient medical care, maternal and child health, family planning, dental and laboratory services, disease prevention and control both inside and outside refugee camps.
- Jenin clinic is the only HC run by UNRWA in the Jenin Area. Over 500 patients seek assistance here every day, and – according to UNRWA health staff – 35 to 40 of them are new patients<sup>6</sup>. **Since January 2006 an increase of 93.5% in the number of outpatients has been observed** at the Jenin HC in comparison to the HP (illustrated in Table 1 below).
- According to UNRWA health staff the increasing demand on Jenin HC is mainly due to a major **decline in socio-economic status and widespread unemployment** in the area, resulting in families preferring UNRWA services which are free of charge compared to PA clinics.

→ A mounting demand has been recorded on all UNRWA WB health services since early 2007, due to several contributing factors. High poverty and unemployment rates resulting in deteriorating socio-economic conditions, increase in morbidity from non-communicable diseases and the inclusion of refugee women married to non-refugee men (MNR).

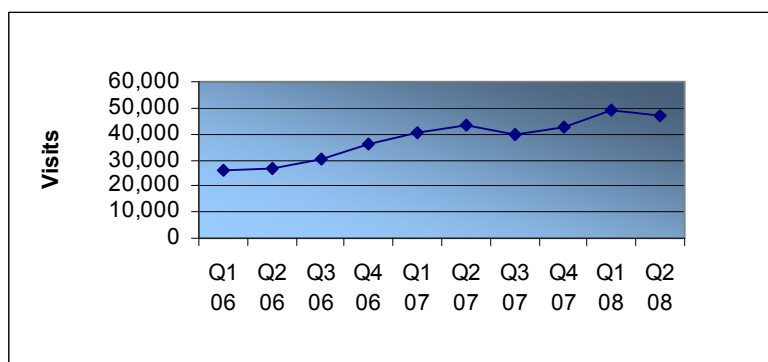
Table 2

Mean number of visits per UNRWA health installation, Jenin Governorate 2006-2008<sup>7</sup>

HC/HP	mean 2006	mean 2007	mean Jan - Jul 2008	% increase 06-07	% increase 06-08
Jenin	7,002	11,251	13,548	60.7%	93.5%
Silat al HARTHIE	856	698	648	-18.4%	-24.3%
Ya'bad	843	755	750	-10.5%	-11.0%
Silet Daher	405	435	364	7.5%	-10.2%
Qabatia	874	715	690	-18.3%	-21.1%

- A quarterly retrospective analysis on the number of out-patient visits from January 2006 to July 2008 conducted amongst all UNRWA HC and HP in the Jenin Governorate also reveals a **dramatic increase in service demand. From Q1 2006 to Q1 2007 there was a 54.3% increase and a 21.9% increase from Q1 2007 to Q1 2008.**

Chart 1: Out-patient Visits in 2006-2008



- Following an increase in patients, **inadequate space and a shortage in staff** are also compromising the quality of health care and psycho-social counseling provided in UNRWA's clinics<sup>8</sup>.

## References

- 1 UNRWA Registration Statistical Bulletin, 4th Quarter 2007.
- 2 UNRWA WB Relief and Social Services Programme 2007.
- 3 UNRWA Registration Statistical Bulletin Q4, 2007.
- 4 WFP/UNRWA/FAO Rapid Food Security Survey (May 2008)
- 5 Food Insecurity- FAO/UNRWA/WFP Rapid Food Security Assessment (March 2008)
- 6 Health Access Study, UNRWA WB Research Office, 2008
- 7 UNRWA WB Research Office, 2008
- 8 Needs Assessment Report, UNRWA WB Field, June 2008.