ONGOING NAKBA, ONGOING FORCIBLE DISPLACEMENT

At least 7.98 million (66%) of the 12.1 million Palestinians worldwide are forcibly displaced. The term Ongoing Nakba (‘Nakba’ is the Arabic word for ‘catastrophe’) is used to describe the ongoing forced population transfer of Palestinians that still occurs due to Israeli policies and practices. BADIL has identified nine such policies:

1. "Maximum land with minimum Palestinians" The Ongoing NAKBA since 1917

DURABLE SOLUTIONS

BADIL asked the Palestinian refugees about their views towards different means to achieve durable solution to their plight. By asking the refugees to choose their three preferred paths to a durable solution we are able to see which ones are the most popular among the refugees.

Want to know more?
BADIL’s Survey of Palestinian Refugees and IDPs: 2013-2015 provides a comprehensive overview for everyone interested in the Palestinian cause, and more specifically in the refugee issue. The Survey includes:
- A historical overview of Israel’s forced displacement of Palestinians;
- An overview of the current policies of forced population transfer;
- An in-depth analysis of the framework for international protection of Palestinians;
- A comprehensive analysis of displaced Palestinians, including numbers, distribution and characteristics;
- An analysis of Palestinian refugees’ opinion on international protection and durable solutions.

Find the Survey and other BADIL publications online at:
www.badil.org

*All data in the leaflet is as of June 2015.*
At the end of 2014, at least 7.98 million (66%) of 12.1 million Palestinians worldwide were forcibly displaced. Palestinian refugees constitute the largest and longest-standing refugee group in the world today.

Palestinian Refugees

Palestinian refugees are those who have been displaced from their home and country of origin and their descendants, who are still denied reparation (return, property restitution and compensation) as a result of the Zionist-Israeli strategy of “taking over the maximum area of land with minimum Palestinians”.

The UN designed a special regime to provide international protection and assistance to Palestinian refugees. This regime is comprised of the UNCCP, and the UNRW-A. Since the 1950s the UNCCP has been inactive and does not provide any protection. UNHCR is to assume responsibility for the protection of Palestinian refugees who are outside UNRW-A’s area of operations. No international agency is mandated to protect Palestinian IDPs.

The collapse of UNCCP, limited intervention by the UNHCR, and lack of an explicit UNRW-A protection mandate, has resulted in severe protection gaps for Palestinian refugees.

Protection Gaps

The following are the most concerning protection shortages suffered by the surveyed refugees.

About the Opinion Poll

BADIL conducted an Opinion Poll in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, Lebanon and Jordan between March and April 2015. Due to the ongoing conflict, Syria was not included.

3,083 Palestinian refugees were surveyed about issues, such as, their knowledge of international refugee protection, the agencies responsible for the protection of Palestinian refugees, the main protection gaps in UNRW-A refugee camps, refugee involvement in UNRW-A processes and about their views on the preferred options to reach a durable solution.

Forced Secondary Displacement

Forced secondary displacement is a major problem among displaced Palestinians. Among refugees, it is most felt in Lebanon, where 66.5% of the refugees surveyed by BADIL have been displaced more than twice. Due to the conflict in Syria, the number of Palestinians suffering from forced secondary displacement is much higher than what these figures show. At least 65% of the 560,000 registered Palestinian refugees in Syria have been displaced due to the conflict.

Around 720,000 Palestinians are internally displaced persons (IDPs). They have been forced to leave their homes, but have not crossed an internationally recognized border.