Since the British occupation in 1917 and the establishment of the mandate for Palestine, Zionist militias and subsequently Israel after 1948, have been displacing the Palestinian people from their homes and lands with the aim of controlling the maximum amount of land with the minimum number of Palestinians on that land.

At the end of 2018, at least 8.71 million (66.7%) of 13.05 million Palestinians worldwide were forcibly displaced. Palestinians still form the largest and most protracted population of refugees.

Who are the 8.71 million displaced Palestinians?

- UNRWA registered 1948 Refugees: 5,545,540 (63.7%)
- IDPs in the oPt since 1967: 344,599 (4.0%)
- IDPs in 1948 Palestine: 415,876 (4.8%)
- 1967 Refugees: 1,237,462 (14.2%)
- Non-registered 1948 Refugees: 1,161,812 (13.3%)

*All data in the leaflet is as of December 2018.
Palestinian refugees are all those Palestinians, and their descendants, who have become (and continue to be) externally displaced, having crossed either the Green Line or the borders of Mandatory Palestine, as a result of either direct forcible displacement or the coercive environment created in the context of the ongoing Zionist-Israeli strategy of “taking over maximum area of land with minimum Palestinians.”

Palestinian IDPs are all those Palestinians, and their descendants, who have faced similar displacement to refugees, but who did not cross the Green Line during the Nakba of 1947-49 and remained within the borders of what became known as Israel, or who were displaced during or since 1967 but have remained within the borders of what became known as 1967 oPt.

Where are the 5.55 million refugees registered with UNRWA?

*The majority of all Palestinian refugees remain within 100 km from the borders of historical Palestine

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>2,242,579</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Bank</td>
<td>846,465</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaza Strip</td>
<td>1,421,282</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>560,139</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>475,075</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

UNRWA supports 5.55 million Palestinian refugees, in 58 refugee camps situated in the oPt, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria.

UNRWA has recently been under attack, led by Israel and its ally, the US.

As part of this campaign:

- The US and Israel are trying to release Israel and the international community from their responsibility for the refugee problem, and transfer responsibility to Arab countries.
- The US ceased all funding to UNRWA in August 2018.
- The US has called UNRWA an “irredeemably flawed operation” and has demanded for its liquidation, as the only solution.
- At the same time, the US has been lobbying to redefine the term “Palestinian refugee” by stating that it should only include those who were displaced in 1948, and removing the right of return from their descendants.
- This is underpinned by strategies at the regional level, seeking the forcible resettlement of those Palestinian refugees in neighboring Arab countries.

The main goal of the campaign has been to extinguish the question of Palestinian refugees and their rights, most importantly, the right of return.

Definitions

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Campaign Against UNRWA

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Demographic Characteristics of Refugees

- The labor force participation rate for Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian territories (oPt) fluctuated between 42 and 52 percent in 2018.
- Unemployment in the oPt is the highest in the world at 31 percent, with Gaza experiencing excessively high rates, at 52 percent.
- In the oPt, 29.2 percent of refugees live in poverty ($4.60/day); of these, 16.8 percent live below the deep poverty line ($3.60/day).
- The percentage of individuals in poverty in the Gaza Strip reached 53 percent, compared to 13.9 percent in the West Bank.
- Nearly all refugee children are enrolled at the elementary stage, with more than 500,000 students enrolled in 711 UNRWA schools across the five regions. The enrollment gender ratio is equal, at 50 percent each.
- In the last three years, UNRWA has reduced their educational staff by 4,500 persons, while at the same time, student enrollment numbers have increased by almost 40,000 students.