

**Palestinian Refugees 5,149,742 (with UNRWA) .Israeli government claims the number is 500,000** <https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2018/08/trump-palestinians-unrwa-funding/569167/>

**Since the 1940s, millions of Palestinians have been living as refugees in areas of the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) and in surrounding host countries - mostly in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) has described their plight as “by far the most protracted and largest of all refugee problems in the world today”. UNRWA is the UN agency for Palestinian refugees.**

#### **Jordan**

- More than two million Palestinian refugees in 10 camps are registered with UNRWA. Unlike any other host country, Jordan granted Palestinian refugees full citizenship rights, except for 120,000 people who originally came from the Gaza Strip.

#### **Lebanon**

- Around 450,000 Palestinian refugees are registered with UNRWA. Given their condition as stateless, Palestinians in Lebanon are [denied many basic rights](#). For instance, they are barred from around 20 professions and have no access to public social services. Even access to health and educational services is limited, often rendering registered refugees heavily dependent on UNRWA. Around 3,000 Palestinians in Lebanon are not registered with UNRWA and have no other form of identity documents. They are barred from practically every form of assistance, and survive thanks to NGO's.

#### **Syria**

- Around 526,000 Palestine refugees are registered with UNRWA. There are nine official and three unofficial camps. Palestinians enjoy the same rights as the Syrian population, barring citizenship rights.

#### **Gaza**

- An estimated 1.3 million Palestinians out of Gaza's population are UNRWA-registered refugees. There are eight UNRWA-administered camps in the Gaza Strip.
- As a result of Israel's occupation since 1967 and an ongoing blockade on the Gaza Strip, the population suffers severe economic problems.. UNRWA's activities in the Gaza Strip have been severely restricted by the blockade.

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**West Bank** Over 800,000 Palestinians are registered with UNRWA.

- There are 19 overcrowded and poorly serviced camps.
- The ongoing occupation and military checkpoints and closures implemented by the Israeli army put a huge strain on the West Bank economy.  
Israelis whose forbears were displaced in 1948 but remained within the borders of what is now Israel are estimated to number 335,204 [2010 figure]They have

the right to Israeli citizenship but are denied the right to return to their home towns or villages.(Source: BADIL)

### **Egypt**

- Palestinians fled to Egypt during the 1948, 1956 and 1967 wars.

It is estimated that there are up to 50,000 Palestinians in Egypt.

- However, they do not have permanent residency rights, nor can they register as refugees.
- **There is no UNRWA presence in Egypt.**
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### **Iraq**

- Up until May 2006, UNHCR estimated that 34,000 Palestinians lived in Iraq. Today, only 11,544 UNHCR-registered Palestinian refugees remain. Palestinians have been targeted and scores have been killed by militant groups since the 2003 US-led invasion of Iraq. As such, many Palestinians who were living in Iraq have suffered forced displacement twice: once from their original homes, and then from their host country.

**UNRWA was established by UN General Assembly Resolution 194 in December 1949 “to carry out direct relief and works programmes for Palestine refugees”. UNRWA was set up after 750,000-900,000 mostly Arabs were expelled or fled Palestine during fighting between Arabs and Jews from November 1947 to July 1949. The conflict arose after Resolution 181 of November 1947 recommended the partition of Palestine.**

**Resolution 194 stated that those “refugees wishing to return to their homes and live in peace with their neighbours should be permitted to do so at the earliest practicable date, and that compensation should be paid for the property of those choosing not to return and for loss or damage to property”. However, it has never been implemented and Israel has refused to allow the repatriation of Arab refugees, many of whose villages had been destroyed.**

More Palestinians were displaced in the wake of the 1967 Arab-Israeli war and the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

UNRWA began operations on 1 May 1950 and because no solution to the Palestine refugee problem has been forthcoming, the General Assembly has repeatedly renewed UNRWA's mandate..Over time, UNRWA’s mandate has evolved to focus on four main programmes: education, health, relief and social services, and microfinance. UNHCR’s mandate does not extend to the majority of Palestinian refugees because they are covered by UNRWA.

UNHCR was established on 14 December 1950 to help Europeans displaced by World War II. The following year, the [UN Convention relating to the Status of Refugees](#) was signed and is the key legal document in defining who is a refugee, their rights and the legal obligations of states.

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### **The Palestinian forgotten refugees in Lebanon**

<https://www.centreforglobaleducation.com/sites/default/files/Beirut%20Report%20Sept%202018%20Final.pdf>

Lebanon is a small state with a delicate political balance and unfinished business from a long civil war, Lebanon has been overwhelmed by the influx of over one million refugees from Syria. It should be commended for accepting such a large number of refugees which comprise one quarter of its population that makes a mockery of the Syrian refugee intakes by many wealthier European states with a greater capacity to be more generous. Lebanon should be supported to a greater level by multilateral bodies to help manage its refugee population, many of whom have been subjected to trauma and human rights abuses during the Syrian conflict. However, Lebanon could itself be more supportive of the Palestinian refugee community resident in the country since 1948 by offering them full citizenship and removing barriers to over 30 professions which deny them full integration into Lebanese society. By refusing Palestinians permission to own property they are denied a foothold in society and a legacy for their children. Palestinians make a significant economic contribution to the Lebanese economy despite their economic disadvantages and this needs to be reciprocated with greater equality and dignity for Palestinians living in Lebanon. This is particularly needed in the area of education so that Palestinians have greater access to all levels of the education system, particularly third level where they currently hold a tiny minority of places. The recently announced US cuts to the UN Mission for Palestinian refugees places this vulnerable population at even greater risk of humanitarian suffering and social marginalisation. By lifting the barriers to their social and economic integration, Lebanon can assist the Palestinian community to greater agency, independence and equality

**Other resources: Badil** <http://www.badil.org/en/>

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/>

“Trump Administration tells Palestinian to submit or starve” Sept 13, 2018

<https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/unrwa-trump-attempt-erase-palestinian-people-180903135218614.html> “Trump’s attempt to erase the Palestinian People”

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