

Summary of the Project report "Using recent Palestinian refugee-camp statistics"

This report is one of the fruitful outcomes of the technical collaboration between the Department of the Palestinian Affairs (DPA) and the Norwegian Foundation for Research and Study (Fafo), which comes within the joint project "Using the recent Palestinian refugee-camp statistics" that is considered as an extension of the last study "The socio-economic conditions of Jordan's Palestinian camp refugees, 2011". The commendable Norwegian Government funded both of them.

In this project, the study's results have been presented to the Palestinian refugees through conducting workshops in the thirteen Palestinian camps in Jordan. The main and most important discussions and outputs in addition to the notes and recommendations given by the refugees in these workshops have been concluded in this report. Thus, it is considered as a reflection to the living conditions of the Palestinian refugees in Jordan and to the satisfaction of their situation.

In total, we can say that the living conditions in camps have been improved to a great extent, but there are still some issues that require developing and following up.

Regarding the housing, there are some dwellings that are not connected to sewage and others that demand rehabilitation and improvement. About crowding, it has been decreased within the room inside the dwelling as a result of the change of building policies and habits and traditions. In general, the crowding problem will remain in camps since the population continues growing in a limited land area.

Concerning health and health services, the refugees showed dissatisfaction toward issues in UNRWA's clinics in Palestinian refugees' camps, where they get the primary health services. These issues related to the staff, specialist doctors, medical consultation, medicines availability, and that the refugees asked for improving them to deliver adequate health services. The refugees also called for the coverage of health insurance, as about half of the refugees are not covered by.

In respect of education, the refugees mentioned that there are some matters in schools especially of UNRWA's schools, which should be addressed, and solutions have to be found in order to have an education with good quality and outputs. These issues include two shifts system, classroom crowding, schools' infrastructure, classroom environment and other school facilities. They, also, have a bad impact on school enrolment alongside the households' economic situation and the near of some camps to the markets. About the university attainment, the lack of job vacancies has an effect on decreasing the percentage of universities enrollment, and this is from the refugees' point of view.

Unemployment remains one of the big problems that the refugees face because of its direct impact on income and the refugees' living conditions. There is a large number of refugees who do not work. According to the refugees, this is due to different reasons such as rareness of job vacancies in camps, the distance between some camps and factories, besides low salaries and job owners' exploitation. It is noteworthy that refugees would like to work at the public and army sectors. The women participation at work force is still low because of different obstacles; like the negative attitude toward women work, the quality of the available opportunities that do not fit in most cases with their scientific qualifications. In addition to inappropriate work conditions.

The poverty rates still spread widely in camps, and the individuals' income remains low in a way that disables affording the basic living needs. This is negatively reflected in their socio- economic conditions. Many refugees do not receive money or food assistances whether from UNRWA, National Aid Fund or non- governmental organizations that makes them calling strongly for these assistances to help in improving their economic situation and provide a decent life for them.

In order to achieve the aim of the project, this report will be put in front of decision makers and policies designers to contribute together in improving the livelihood in the Palestinian camps through preparation of adequate policies that, hopefully, will address the situation.