



RIJ

国際難民支援会

Building a  
Future for  
Refugees

# The State of Palestine



## Reasons for Displacement:

As a result of the 1948 Arab-Israeli war, some 700,000 Palestine Arabs were forced from the territories that became the state of Israel. Since this conflict, many more have followed, leading to further displacement of Palestine refugees within the occupied state of Palestine and neighbouring countries.

More recently, Palestine refugees living in Syria have been severely affected by the ongoing armed conflict in that country. Proportionately, displacement among Palestinians is significantly higher than the proportion of Syrians displaced by the conflict.

## Assistance:

- RIJ funded a project for Syrian and Palestinian refugee families in Lebanon providing hygiene kits and health education. Another project equipped 65 households in the Gaza strip with a pen, 10 hens and one rooster each
- Non-profit organizations such as BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights promote the rights of Palestinian refugees and IDPs through legal advocacy and campaigning

## Who are Palestine refugees?

Palestine refugees are defined as “persons whose normal place of residence was Palestine during the period 1 June 1946 to 15 May 1948, and who lost both home and means of livelihood as a result of the 1948 conflict.” The descendants of Palestine refugees, including legally adopted children, are also eligible for refugee status.

## Refugee and IDP Communities:

Nearly one-third of the registered Palestine refugees live in 58 recognized Palestine refugee camps, under poor socioeconomic conditions, located in Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.



## Number of refugees:

0 residing in Palestine

Approx. 5 Million originating from Palestine

[source: UNHCR, UNRWA]

## Number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs):

263,500

[source: IDMC]

## History:

**1947-1949**—Up to 900,000 Palestinians flee or are expelled from their homes in the land that becomes the state of Israel

**1967**—A six day war occurs after Israel launches a pre-emptive attack on Egypt, Syria and Jordan

**1968-1970**—A war of attrition occurs due to a limited war fought between Egypt and Israel

**1973**—Egypt attacks territory occupied by Israel. The conflict is known as the Yom Kippur War

**1988**—State of Palestine declared at an extraordinary session of the Palestine National Council in Algiers

**1993**—The PLO and Israel agree to recognize each other’s existence. The treaty is known as the Oslo Accords

**2012**—UN General Assembly upgraded Palestine to a “non-member observer state”, by the end of the year “State of Palestine” recognized as official name

**2014**—135 states have recognized the State of Palestine

**2015**—ISIS seizes most of Yarmouk Camp, Damascus, home to the largest community of Palestinian refugees in Syria