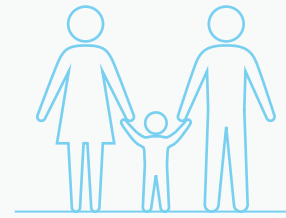
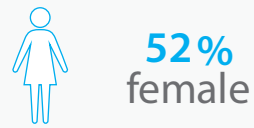




UNRWA Launches COVID-19 Flash Appeal for Palestine Refugees

On 17 March 2020, UNRWA launched a Flash Appeal asking for US\$ 14 million to prepare and respond to the COVID-19 outbreak over an initial three-month period. The Appeal outlines the Agency's immediate priorities and financial requirements for health and other services related to the pandemic in the West Bank, Gaza, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. The Flash Appeal is being updated and will be released again in early May as needs and requirements develop in response to the evolving crisis. All 103 UNRWA-run schools and 5 TVET centres in Syria are temporarily closed; yet, all 25 UNRWA health facilities remain operational and continue to provide essential primary health services, which today are more crucial than ever, to contain and address the spread of the ongoing pandemic.

438,000 Palestine refugees remain in Syria

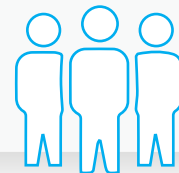


126,000 Palestine refugees belong to the most vulnerable categories

91% of Palestine refugee households in Syria live in absolute poverty

2/3 of Palestine refugees were displaced at least once since 2011

40% of Palestine refugees remain displaced within Syria

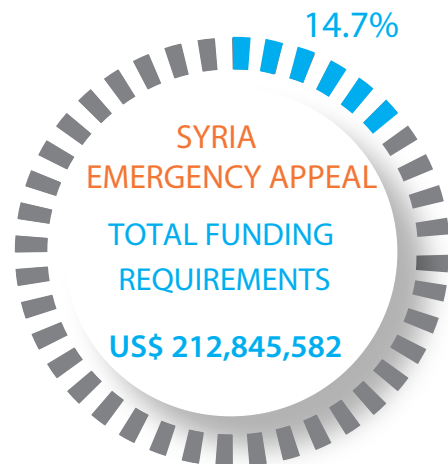


59 Palestine refugees returned from Lebanon and Jordan

62 Palestine refugees returned from other countries



Emergency Appeal Requirements in Syria for 2020



UNRWA requires US\$ 212.8 million to sustain the delivery of humanitarian assistance, basic services and protection interventions to the 438,000 Palestine refugees estimated to remain in Syria.

As of 31 March 2020, a total of US\$ 31.3 million were pledged or received from donors and partners, representing 14.7 per cent of total requirements.

279,356 Palestine refugees received cash assistance

The first round of cash distribution in 2020 started on 23 February, covering four months' worth of assistance

1,989 individuals benefited from **585** microfinance loans

37% female
13% youth

20 hygiene kits
373 baby kits
13 Jerrycans
4,270 diapers & napkins

14,834 Palestine refugees received food assistance

The first round of food distribution in 2020 started on 24 March

50 UNRWA staff were trained on protection mainstreaming in Dera'a

29 female
21 male

Removal of garbage, provision of chlorine tablets and hypochlorite sodium and maintenance works for sewage system in ten Palestine refugees camps

61,276 health consultations

36,676 female
24,600 male

103 schools | **49,179** students

24,298 girls
24,881 boys

Several PSS activities targeting Palestine refugee women and girls in Latakia, Homs, Hama and Rural Damascus were conducted on the occasion of International Women's Day

COVID-19 Response and Impact on UNRWA Operations in Syria

- 25 UNRWA health facilities are operating a triage system for people with respiratory symptoms.
- NCD patients are being provided with medicines for a 2 months period to minimize crowding at health centres and movement of patients.
- Duration of cash distribution is extended in an effort to minimize the risk of overcrowding.
- As of 31 March 2020, 77% of the refugees had received their cash assistance.
- Social distancing between beneficiaries is being maintained in distribution locations.
- The number of food distribution points has been increased by using UNRWA schools to avoid crowding.
- Sanitation services in ten camps are delivered out daily in addition to disinfection activities.
- 103 UNRWA-run schools across Syria are closed to minimize the risk of exposure to and spread of COVID-19 virus.
- Microfinance services are suspended, and repayments of loans are deferred.
- A remote learning programme is being delivered through online platforms to TVET students.
- UNRWA PSS counsellors are providing advices to teachers, students and parents via phone, instant messaging and email.
- UNRWA Syria is coordinating its COVID-19 response through the UN Inter-Agency Coordination mechanism in Syria. UNRWA is rigorously following WHO guidelines in its preparedness and emergency response plan.

