

Updated Flash Appeal Launched for COVID19- Response

Meanwhile, UNRWA continued to deliver basic services and humanitarian assistance to Palestine refugees during the month of May, while navigating ongoing preventative measures in place by the authorities in response to the COVID-19 crisis. The Agency had to adjust its operations and programme modalities to mitigate the risks of exposure and spread of the virus for staff and beneficiaries. An Updated Flash Appeal was launched on 8 May 2020, with a large portion of the funding aimed at covering cash assistance, as the socio-economic consequences of the public health crisis continue to weigh heavily on households. Syria's requirement under the updated flash appeal amounts to US\$ 16.99 million (out of the total US\$ 93.4 million requested by UNRWA).

UNRWA School Building Damaged by Shrapnel in Homs

On 1 May 2020, the UNRWA Al Shajara School in Homs Palestine refugee camp was hit by shrapnel from an explosion nearby outside the camp, causing damage to the roof of at least one of its classrooms. The school was empty at the time of the incident, as are all 103 UNRWA schools across Syria, due to measures taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19. UNRWA subsequently repaired the same. The right to education, which includes integrity of and access to school buildings, should be protected at all times.

438,000 Palestine refugees remain in Syria

52%
female

31%
children

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

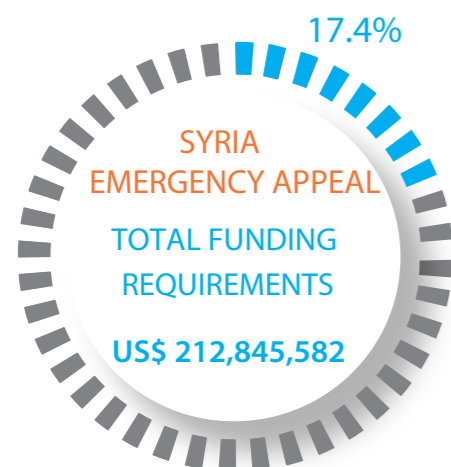
40%

of Palestine refugees remain displaced within Syria

83 Palestine refugees returned from Lebanon and Jordan

5 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 May 2020, a total of US\$ 37.1 million were pledged or received from donors and partners, representing 17.4 per cent of total requirements.

49,921 Palestine refugees received cash assistance

The second cash round emergency started on 21 May covering three months' worth of assistance.

25 UNRWA health facilities are operating a triage system for people with respiratory symptoms, through a dedicated team of health staff.

22,501 Palestine refugees received food assistance

The first round of food distribution in 2020 began on 24 March.

26,136 health consultations

15,585 **10,551**

female male

46 hygiene kits for exceptional cases

222 baby kits

10 Jerrycans

6,996 diapers & napkins

Sanitation services in ten accessible camps are carried out daily in addition to disinfection activities. Solid waste collection points continue to be sanitized.

UNRWA Microfinance Department offices in the areas resumed their services in May at 40 per cent capacity, while home visits continued to be suspended.

UNRWA registration services (births, deaths, marriages) were reinstated following the government's decision to resume the delivery of civil services.

Community-based services are preparing to resume their services. UNRWA has developed a plan to continue delivering most critical services through alternative mechanisms including support over the phone in response to COVID-19 crisis.

COVID-19 Response and Impact on UNRWA Operations in Syria

- A total of 1,340 telemedicine calls were processed across UNRWA health facilities, to enable Palestine refugees to seek support remotely and reduce overcrowding at UNRWA health facilities.
- UNRWA continued the door-to-door distribution of medicines targeting 167 vulnerable older persons with pre-existing medical conditions.
- An additional one-off payment of USD 10 per person was paid exceptionally during the second round of cash assistance in 2020 to mitigate the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 crisis.
- For in-kind food distribution, UNRWA utilized 14 regular distribution centres, five mobile centres, and nine newly established distribution points at UNRWA schools and microfinance offices to avoid overcrowding. About 85% of eligible Palestine refugees received in-kind food basket during the ongoing distribution round.
- UNRWA installations are being regularly sanitized as necessary.
- 103 schools and five training centres for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) operated by UNRWA remain closed until 31 May.
- TVET programme Staff are updating curriculum to help students compensate for time lost with a focus on second year students who should graduate by the end of July.
- UNRWA PSS counsellors are providing advices to teachers, students and parents via phone, instant messaging platforms, and email. Support of professional psychosocial counsellors continues to be available remotely to all area staff. Fifteen counsellors are available to provide support. A total of 87 staff members (18 male; 69 female) accessed this service since it was made available.
- On 13 May, UNRWA Syria and Lebanon field offices held a virtual donor briefing to provide an update on the operational and funding situation of the Agency in the two fields. The meeting was attended by 47 partners.

