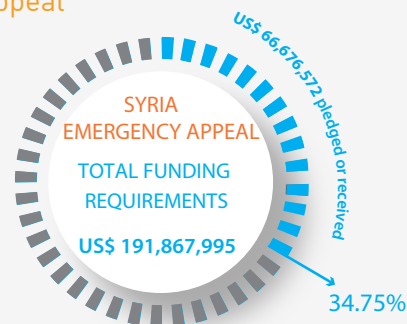


## Emergency Appeal



## Emergency Appeal Funding Level

UNRWA requires US\$ 191.8 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 30 June 2021, a total of US\$ 66.7 million were pledged or received from donors and partners, representing 34.75 per cent of total requirements.

## Socio-economic challenges

The first half of 2021 witnessed a significant deterioration of economic situation in the country with rising cost of goods and services, fuel shortages and depreciation of Syrian Pound, is negatively affecting the living conditions of Palestine Refugees. Data from a recent crisis monitoring survey in Syria shows rising poverty levels in the country, thereby increasing the caseload of vulnerable Palestine Refugees requiring support. The first round of blanket food assistance started on 19 April 2021. Due to the critical socio-economic conditions, the food assistance will be provided to all vulnerable Palestine refugees eligible for assistance. In June 2021, the national average price of a standard reference food basket of WFP reached to SYP 165,932. This was 49 per cent higher than that of December 2020 (six months ago) and was 102 per cent higher compared to June 2020.



## COVID-19 update

The COVID-19 situation continued to fluctuate in the first half of the year. There was a surge in new COVID-19 cases in March with average of 160 daily cases and an average of 147 daily cases in April.

The surge in cases, around March 2021 prompted the Ministry of Education to close schools for summer from 4 April 2021 to 5 September 2021. The closure of schools exposed more children to protection risks like playing in the streets as well as begging.

The Syria Field Office had to work through adjusted COVID-19 protocols to reduce the risk of infections as follows: activities that requires gatherings like trainings and awareness sessions limited to a maximum of 12 people for a maximum of three hours, implementation of an emergency triage system in all clinics that include suspension of non-critical health services like pre-conception care, and the decongesting UNRWA offices to 50 per cent (until April) by introducing remote working approaches.

## Cash assistance

417K

Palestine refugees reached

## UNRWA students

49K

## Primary health consultations

342K

## Legal assistance

2.4K

Palestine refugees reached

## In-kind WASH Items

23K

Palestine refugees reached

## UNRWA-run schools

102

## UNRWA-run health facilities

25

including 2 mobile clinics

## Mine risk awareness

23K

Palestine refugees reached

## short-term courses

182

studentd completed

## UNRWA 9th graders success rate

89.9%

## Dental consultations

44.5K

## Security training (SSAFE & WSAT)

52

UNRWA staff reached

## COVID-19 pandemic impact on palestine refugees and UNRWA response



All 25 UNRWA health facilities operated a triage system for patients with respiratory symptoms, 781 UNRWA staff got vaccinated and 132 dependents (1<sup>st</sup> dose).



The stock out of medicines has been observed due to the a shortage of Salbutamol and propranolol due to its high demand to treat COVID-19 respiratory symptoms, the delay in receiving imported medicines, an increasing reliance on UNRWA health services in light of the deteriorating economic situation.



To respond to the increased vulnerability of Palestine refugees in the context of the current socio-economic crisis, UNRWA expanded its in-kind food assistance to target all 418,000 Palestine refugees. This is a change from our plan under Emergency Appeal 2020 when only those refugees in the "most vulnerable" category were to receive food assistance. UNRWA reduced the number of food rounds in 2021 from 2 to 3 rounds due to the unavailability of funds plus the lack of timely funding.



22,718 Palestine refugees in acute need were provided with WASH items (hygiene kits and diapers) to help them maintain proper hygiene practices and reduce the risk of exposure to and spread of COVID-19 virus.



Despite the challenges posed by COVID-19, SFO managed to initiate case management in Syria. A total of 127 individuals were reached with case management. The high number of individuals reached with case Management was due to high needs by the current socio-economic situation.



Schools were closed in April as per the Ministry of Education's decision except for the 9<sup>th</sup> grade students. They received support classes in early June 2021, taking into account of the necessary preventative COVID-19 measures, which may have contributed to the remarkable success rate.

## UNRWA in action

Ninety-year-old Kadraa al-Mawed, a returnee to Yarmouk Palestine refugee camp on the outskirts of Damascus, receives some medical attention from an UNRWA medical worker at the UNRWA mobile clinic.

Khadraa is the oldest member of the approximately 430 families currently living in the camp. Many of them returned because they cannot afford increasing rents anymore. Living conditions inside Yarmouk are however still incredibly difficult, with no services available until very recently.

UNRWA, is making an effort to offer services to particularly vulnerable persons to resume essential primary health care and disease prevention in Yarmouk. A mobile health clinic – one of the Agency's 25 primary health-care facilities across Syria - is visiting the camp every Wednesday to provide services from the yard of one of the destroyed UNRWA schools. In addition to the important role the clinic plays, UNRWA conducts awareness-raising and explaining preventative measures to avoid the spread of COVID19- in the camp.



Kadraa al-Mawed, ninety-year -old receives some medical attention at the UNRWA mobile clinic. © 2021 UNRWA photo

438,000

Palestine refugees remaining in Syria

418,000

Palestine refugee in need

40%

of refugees remain displaced within Syria

446

Palestine refugees returned to Syria

141,160

Palestine refugees belong to the most vulnerable categories

2/3

of Palestine refugees were displaced at least once since 2011

## Context update:

- Dera'a:** In Dera'a refugee camp, plans are in place to rehabilitate the health centre and sewerage network of part of the camp. UNRWA is also partnering with UN-Habitat to launch a self-help project that will initially support minor repairs for camp shelters to assist refugees returning to their homes. These plans could be impacted by the deteriorating security situation that unfolded at the end of June in Dera'a.
- Yarmouk refugee camp:** Discussions about the Yarmouk organizational plan are still ongoing. UNRWA continues to provide health and emergency services in the camp, and transportation for school children. The official process of registering those who wish to return to Yarmouk started on 10 November 2020. As of June 2021, over 1,000 families received approvals; However, only 400 Palestine refugee families are currently recorded to reside in the camp (estimated around 1,642 individuals). Approvals to open and renovate commercial shops and to enter building materials are being provided. UNRWA has unhindered daily access to the camp, for reconstruction-rehabilitation of UNRWA facilities and for a rapid assessment of houses.
- Ein el Tal refugee camp:** plan for resuming UNRWA service at Ein el Tal camp (near Aleppo in Northern Syria), are ongoing. Rotection and security risks – including related to contamination by Explosive Remnants of War (ERW). extreme poverty and unemployment are among the main concerns shared by Palestine refugees and Syrians living in the camp. UNRWA has resumed the provision of some basic services in the Ein el Tal camp where approximately 120 returnee families were living as of June 2021. The Agency supports these families through weekly mobile health services and social worker visits, group transportation of students to nearby Agency schools, and the distribution of food and NFIs.

