

Emergency Appeal Funding



In 2021, UNRWA required US\$ 191.9 million to sustain the delivery of humanitarian assistance, basic services and protection interventions to the 420,000 Palestine refugees estimated to remain in Syria.

As of 31 December 2021, a total of US\$ 107.3 million were pledged or received from donors and partners, representing 55.9 per cent of total requirements.

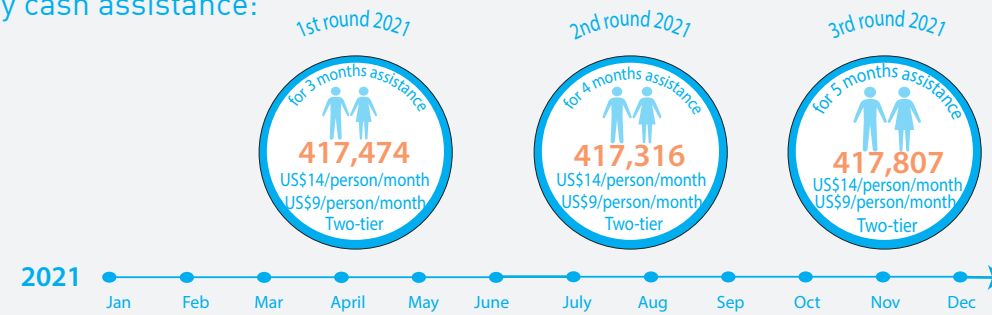
Socio-economic challenges

In 2021, a significant deterioration of the socio-economic situation in Syria. The conflict entered the eleventh year since its outbreak in 2011, and although active fighting has subsided in most of the country, the situation remains tense and fragile in parts of it, including the northwest and Dera'a in the south. The situation deteriorated rapidly as a result of the ongoing economic crisis affecting the country, leading to a sharp depreciation of the local currency and an increase in prices, including of the most basic commodities, scarcity of the daily commodities in the market, and non-availability of food and fuel, driving the population into further vulnerability on an unprecedented scale. The COVID-19 pandemic has placed increased hardship on the entire population. Food prices have been increasing dramatically - price of bread increased significantly. This is evident when reviewing the trends in the nationwide average cost of WFP's standard reference food basket (WFP data). All that have diminished the value of UNRWA's assistance; Palestinian refugees became less able to meet their basic food needs. According to UNRWA estimates, around 40 per cent of the Palestine refugee population in Syria remain in protracted displacement. In addition to the psychosocial impact caused by this, the increase of rents and disintegration of the social cohesion have left Palestine refugees overburdened under increasingly difficult living conditions. An UNRWA survey conducted in May 2021 found that 82 per cent of the refugees interviewed now live on less than US\$ 1.9 a day and that 48 per cent of total household expenditure was spent on food, indicating severe distress within families.

COVID-19 impact on UNRWA operations

Throughout 2021, COVID-19 continued to spread across Syria, placing increased hardship on the entire population. Between September and November 2021, a sharp increase in cases and hospital referrals were reported. As of 31 December 2021, a total of 50,243 confirmed cases, including 2,893 fatalities, were reported, since the beginning of the pandemic. Testing capacity remains limited, particularly in remote areas. It is therefore likely that the actual number of cases is significantly higher than the figures reported. The vaccination uptake in the country is low and vaccine population coverage remains below 10 per cent. Only 4.7 per cent of the population in the whole of Syria had been fully vaccinated by end of 2021, whereas 9.2 per cent had received at least one dose of the vaccine. (WHO data). UNRWA continued to apply COVID-19 preventive measures while adapting service delivery to ensure the safety of both refugees and UNRWA staff. These preventive measures included telemedicine, door-to-door distribution of medications for vulnerable older persons with pre-existing medical conditions, distribution of PPE and self Learning materials, the regular disinfection of UNRWA facilities, and COVID-19 awareness sessions.

Emergency cash assistance:



UNRWA has continued a targeted approach to its cash assistance programme in 2021 to make best use of the available resources and prioritise most vulnerable Palestine refugees. UNRWA was obliged to reduce the monthly amounts distributed from US\$ 27 and US\$ 16 for most vulnerable categories of Palestine refugees and from US\$ 14 and US\$ 9 for remaining Palestine Refugees respectively. Throughout 2021, UNRWA reached approximately 418,000 Palestine refugees with cash assistance for food and non-food items, including about 34 per cent belonging to the most vulnerable categories.

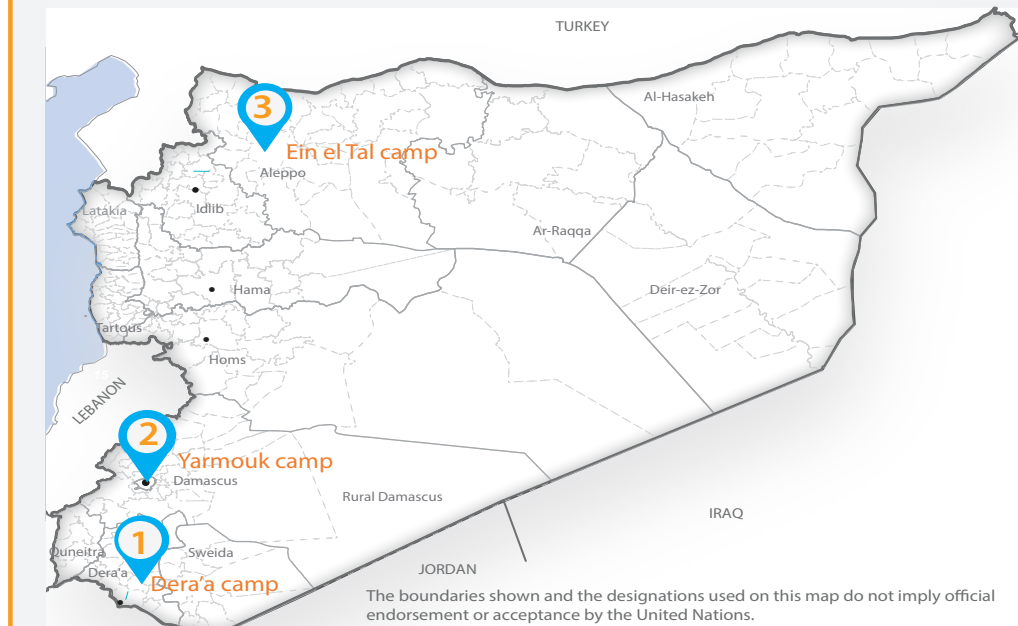
Minor shelter repair:

A project "Support to Palestine refugees in Dera'a camp, is supporting rehabilitation of damaged infrastructure and a pilot initiative for minor repair of houses for most vulnerable individuals in Dera'a camp. The main activities which started in 2021 were the repair of Tiberias school, rehabilitation of a playground, solar lighting of the main streets, repair of sewerage line and shelter repair in the southern part of the camp. 193 families received the first instalment for the repair of their shelters, as part of the self-help approach. If funds are available, UNRWA is planning to expand the self-help shelter repair project that was piloted in 2021 will be expanded to support further 700 families in Syria whose homes have been damaged and are in urgent need of repair.

Cash assistance 417K Palestine refugees reached	UNRWA students 50K	Primary health consultations 753K	Legal assistance 5K Palestine refugees reached
In-kind food assistance 413K Palestine refugees reached	UNRWA-run schools 102	UNRWA-run health facilities 25 including 2 mobile clinics	Mine risk awareness 74K Palestine refugees reached
In-kind NFI assistance 10.8K Palestine refugees reached	UNRWA 9th graders success rate 89.9%	Dental consultations 108K preventive & curative care	Psychosocial support 47K Palestine refugees reached
In-kind WASH Items 54K Palestine refugees reached	Short-term courses 878 students completed	Mobile health consultations 9.5K	Self-help approach 193 shelters repaired

Emergency and Early Recovery intervention in camps damaged by conflict

Yarmouk, Ein el Tal and Dera'a camps, previously home to more than 30 per cent of the Palestine refugee population in Syria, have been largely destroyed due to the conflict. Following return of the refugees into the Dera'a camp, UNRWA was able to partially rehabilitate one of its damaged schools in the camp in 2020. In 2021, the agency started rehabilitation of its damaged health centre and also additional class rooms in the school, in addition to supporting in rehabilitation of damaged sewage network, and built a playground for children. Refugees have also started to spontaneously return to the Yarmouk and Ein el Tal refugee camps, and the numbers are expected to rise. Starting from late 2020, UNRWA has been providing a few services to the camp residents (e.g. mobile health service on a weekly basis, supporting children living inside camps with transportation to attend schools outside, risk awareness regarding ERWs, distribution of food and NFIs etc.). The agency has also been advocating with the Government of Syria (GoS) for removal of rubble, rehabilitation of basic services (e.g. water and electricity) in the camps and humanitarian demining. UNRWA has developed a phased response plan, which will include rehabilitation of a few of its damaged installations in both the camps, and use these as hubs to provide a full range of UNRWA basic services to the returnees. Approval has been secured from the GoS for rehabilitation of UNRWA installations and the agency has already cleared the rubble from them. The agency will also undertake a multi-sectoral assessment, to analyse the existing gaps and needs in the camps.



- Dera'a:** In Dera'a governorate, a month of violent clashes in August 2021 led to the displacement of over 36,000 civilians, including approximately 3,000 Palestine refugees from Dera'a refugee camp. UNRWA's health clinic in Muzeirib was closed between 1 to 14 August due to access issues for UNRWA health staff residing in Dera'a. As of mid-August, UNRWA health staff were able to access Muzeirib and the health center opened twice a week to deliver vital health services. However, due to continuing security concerns, the health center in Muzeirib was closed again in September. However, UNRWA other health centre in Dera'a city remained operational providing health services to people in need. As of 13 September, almost all displaced Palestine refugee families who had remained in Dera'a governorate returned to the camp, including the 29 families who were residing in the collective shelters.
- Yarmouk camp:** Palestine refugees were granted permission to return to Yarmouk camp since the end of 2020, subject to government approval. As at the end 2021, approximately 800 vulnerable Palestine refugee families had already returned to Yarmouk despite the lack of basic infrastructure and services in the camp. In addition, refugees were allowed to temporarily return in September and early October 2021 to clean their houses and move the rubble to the main streets for onward clearance by government. UNRWA continues to provide health and emergency services in the camp, and transportation for school children to attend schools outside the camp. UNRWA has unhindered daily access to the camp, for rehabilitation of UNRWA facilities.
- Ein el Tal camp:** In Ein el Tal camp, around 120 extremely vulnerable families have returned. Basic infrastructure for the provision of safe water supplies and electricity has not been fully restored, preventing more families from returning and delaying plans for the rehabilitation of UNRWA facilities. On 9 September 2021, one of the seven young boys who were involved in a very severe ERW incident in Ein el Tal camp on 31 August passed away. The others were all able to return home, albeit with physical and psychological scars.