



syria: unrwa - progress highlights january-june 2022



Emergency Appeal Funding Level

In 2022, as part of the annual emergency appeal, UNRWA requires US\$ 232,029,781 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 2022, a total of US\$ 43.6 million were pledged or received from donors and partners, representing 18.8 per cent of total requirements.

Socioeconomic challenges

The first half of 2022 witnessed a further deterioration of the economic situation in the country, with the humanitarian crisis currently at its worst level since the beginning of the conflict 12 years ago. Since January 2022, the national average price of the standard reference food basket increased by 45 per cent, reaching SYP 318,726 as of June 2022 and nearly doubling compared to June 2021. The conflict in Ukraine has also had its impact on Syria, by disrupting commodity supplies for UNRWA. The increased energy costs have raised shipping costs for maritime transport sectors, with the transportation of dry bulk goods increasing by 60 per cent between February and May 2022.

Data from a May 2021 crisis monitoring survey in Syria shows rising poverty levels in the country, with Palestine refugees in Syria still among the most vulnerable members of the community and continuing to endure the impact of the worsening socio-economic situation. 83 per cent of Palestine refugees now live on US\$ 1.9 or less per person per day, even after factoring in the emergency cash assistance provided by UNRWA. 51 per cent of Palestine refugee families reported needing to reduce the number of meals for all family members, and 46 per cent reduced the quantity of food in each meal.

COVID-19 update

The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the economic downturn by further reducing already sparse income-generating opportunities. The official Syrian data regarding the number of infections and COVID-19 related deaths remains relatively low due to the limited access to PCR tests. As of 25 June 2022, a total of 55,921 confirmed cases, including 3,150 associated deaths, were reported in Syria. The vaccination rate remains one of the lowest in the world. As of 25 June 2022, a total of 3,477,375 vaccine doses have been administered in Syria as per recent WHO updates, with 9.6 per cent of the population fully vaccinated and 14.1 per cent of population covered with at least one dose.

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.

Cash assistance 416.5K Palestine refugees reached	UNRWA students 48.9K	Primary health consultations 430K	Legal assistance 2.5K Palestine refugees reached
In-kind food assistance 374.2K Palestine refugees reached	UNRWA-run schools 102 39 of UNRWA schools are run in Government schools, on the second shift	UNRWA-run health facilities 25 including 2 mobile clinics in Yarmouk and Ein el Tal camps	Mine risk awareness 53.9K Palestine refugees reached
short-term courses 433 students completed	UNRWA 9th graders success rate 94.3%	Dental consultations 56.9K	Minor Repair of Shelters 193 shelters repaired

Humanitarian assistance

Through the Emergency Appeal, UNRWA continued to provide humanitarian assistance, including emergency cash, food, non-food items (NFI), health, education, livelihoods and protection to Palestine refugees in Syria. During the reporting period, cash assistance was provided to 416,503 Palestine refugees in Syrian Pounds and food assistance to 374,246 Palestine refugees. The first round of cash assistance started on 6 February 2022 and ended on 17 March 2022, providing each of the most vulnerable Palestine refugees with approximately US\$ 30 and each refugee in the other vulnerable categories with approximately US\$ 22 to assist them in covering their basic needs for two months. The second round started on 10 April 2022 and finished on 23 June 2022 providing most vulnerable refugees with approximately US\$ 45 and other vulnerable categories with approximately US\$ 33 to assist in covering their basic needs for three months. Due to funding constraints under the 2022 Emergency Appeal, UNRWA had to reduce the amount of cash provided to each refugee from US\$ 25 to US\$ 15 for the most vulnerable and from US\$ 18 to US\$ 11 for the remaining refugees.

The first round of in-kind food assistance in 2022 started on 12 January 2022 and was still ongoing by the end of June due to delays in securing food commodities from the local market- completion is planned for the end of August 2022. Additionally, the second round of food distribution started on 26th June 2022 on an exceptional basis for wheat flour in North, Central and South areas. and has reached 9,678 refugees during the reporting period.

NFI UNRWA also provided NFI, including mats, mattresses, blankets, kitchen kits, jerry cans and tarpaulins to 4,544 special hardship cases, based on acute emergency needs, This intervention was funded through funds carried forward from the 2021 Emergency Appeal and has not received sufficient funding to meet its full target for NFI provision.

UNRWA students shine

Four students from the Ras al-Ein school of UNRWA, located in Qudsaya, Damascus. Informatics Club won the 'Kids and Adolescents Programming Marathon' organized by the Syrian Virtual University in cooperation with the Distinction and Creativity Agency in Damascus, sweeping away competition from some 213 participating children from across Syria.

All three students have grown up through the conflict in Syria and have been displaced multiple times from their homes in Yarmouk refugee camp. It is through education that they continue to dream of the future. They expressed their interest in the field of science, wanting to further their studies in medicine and IT.

Through its education programme, UNRWA aims to ensure that Palestine refugee students can develop their full potential and become confident and innovative members of their communities. With 48,987 Palestine refugee students enrolled in its 102 schools, the Agency is dedicated to providing Palestine refugee students with quality, equitable education, no matter the emergency circumstance. UNRWA schools in Syria remained open during the COVID-19 and were able to provide face-to-face education and psychosocial (PSS) support to its students.



Majd, Abdallah, Mahmoud, and Wisam, four students from the UNRWA Informatics Club, won the country-wide "Kids and Adolescents Programming Marathon". © 2022 UNRWA photo

438,000

Palestine refugees are estimated to be in Syria

83%

of Palestine refugees live in absolute poverty, on US\$ 1.9

51%

of Palestine refugee families reported needing to reduce the number of meals for all family members

712

Palestine refugees returned from Lebanon, Jordan and other countries

148,022

Palestine refugees belong to the most vulnerable categories

46%

of Palestine refugee families reduced the quantity of food in each meal for all family members

Context Update:

1 **Dera'a:** The health clinic in Dera'a camp, which had sustained substantial damage during the conflict, was opened by Commissioner-General Mr. Philippe Lazzarini on 29 May following its rehabilitation. The clinic will provide essential primary health services to a growing population of Palestine refugees returning to the camp after years of displacement.

Al-Safsaf and Tiberias schools in Dera'a camp were also reopened in May 2022 following their rehabilitation as part of UNRWA plan to repair and rehabilitate its facilities in camps affected by conflict. A solar system to provide clean energy to the newly-rehabilitated health centre in Dera'a camp was installed and 20 lighting poles powered by solar energy on the main streets in the southern part of Dera'a camp.

2 **Yarmouk camp:** UNRWA also launched the first stage of the Minor Shelter Repair of a damaged health centre in Yarmouk camp, starting with a structural assessment of the building hosting the clinic; the initial stage is funded by non- emergency projects funds, but further works could benefit from emergency contributions. During the reporting period, a detailed structural assessment of Yarmouk Services Centre was completed. Furthermore, the structural assessment of a multi-purpose building in Yarmouk was completed and structural assessments of two schools – Mansoura/Falouja school in Yarmouk and Al-Zeeb school in Ein el Tal – were started in 2022.

3 **Ein el Tal camp:** The Agency is also conducting a detailed shelter assessment in Ein el Tal camp and has secured some limited funding to cover the repairs and minor repair work for approximately 82 additional shelters. It is anticipated that UNRWA may not be able to fully achieve the target number by the end of 2022, due to technical and logistical issues as well as insufficient funding to cover the entire targeted figure.

Crosscutting: UNRWA has also provided bus transportation for 475 students, 274 living in Yarmouk and 201 in Ein el Tal to take them to schools in neighbouring areas while the Agency continues its plans for the rehabilitation of schools in these camps.

UNRWA continued to provide essential WASH services in all Palestine refugee camps in Syria, except in Yarmouk and Ein el Tal camps (where services have only been partially restored).

ERW awareness sessions were also carried out, reaching 53,945 individuals, Particular emphasis was placed on delivering these awareness sessions for Palestine refugees living in highly contaminated areas, including Yarmouk, Ein el Tal and Dera'a camps.

