

Syria: Palestine Refugees - Humanitarian Snapshot, February 2015



In **February 2015**, **Yarmouk** and its surrounding areas continue to experience **high levels** of armed violence, which prevented distribution of humanitarian assistance by **UNRWA**. The Agency has not been able to complete a successful distribution since **6 December 2014**. In addition, UNRWA has been unable to operate its **temporary health point** or provide residents with **clean water** and **basic non-food items**. The Agency continues to advocate for full, safe and uninterrupted access to **Yarmouk** and other areas that remain hard to reach or fully inaccessible. On **9 February**, the Agency was able to visit **Husseiniyeh** for the first time in over **18 months**. The visit constitutes an important first step in restoring UNRWA services, rehabilitating UNRWA facilities and in making the area habitable for returning civilians.

Humanitarian Response

CASH ASSISTANCE:

The first round of cash distribution for 2015 started on 18 January. Between 18 January and 28 February, the Agency provided **438,351** Palestine refugees (111,334 families) with cash assistance through **31** distribution points. This amounts to more than **10,400** beneficiaries per day. Cash assistance remains one of the most efficient forms of assistance, enabling refugee families to cover their basic needs such as food, bedding and rent. The Agency is able to assist up to **470,000** conflict-affected Palestine refugees (118,000 families) in Syria with each round of cash assistance. **UNRWA financial** reserves for this critical intervention are running dangerously low and funding for the cash programme will run out in March 2015.

FOOD ASSISTANCE:

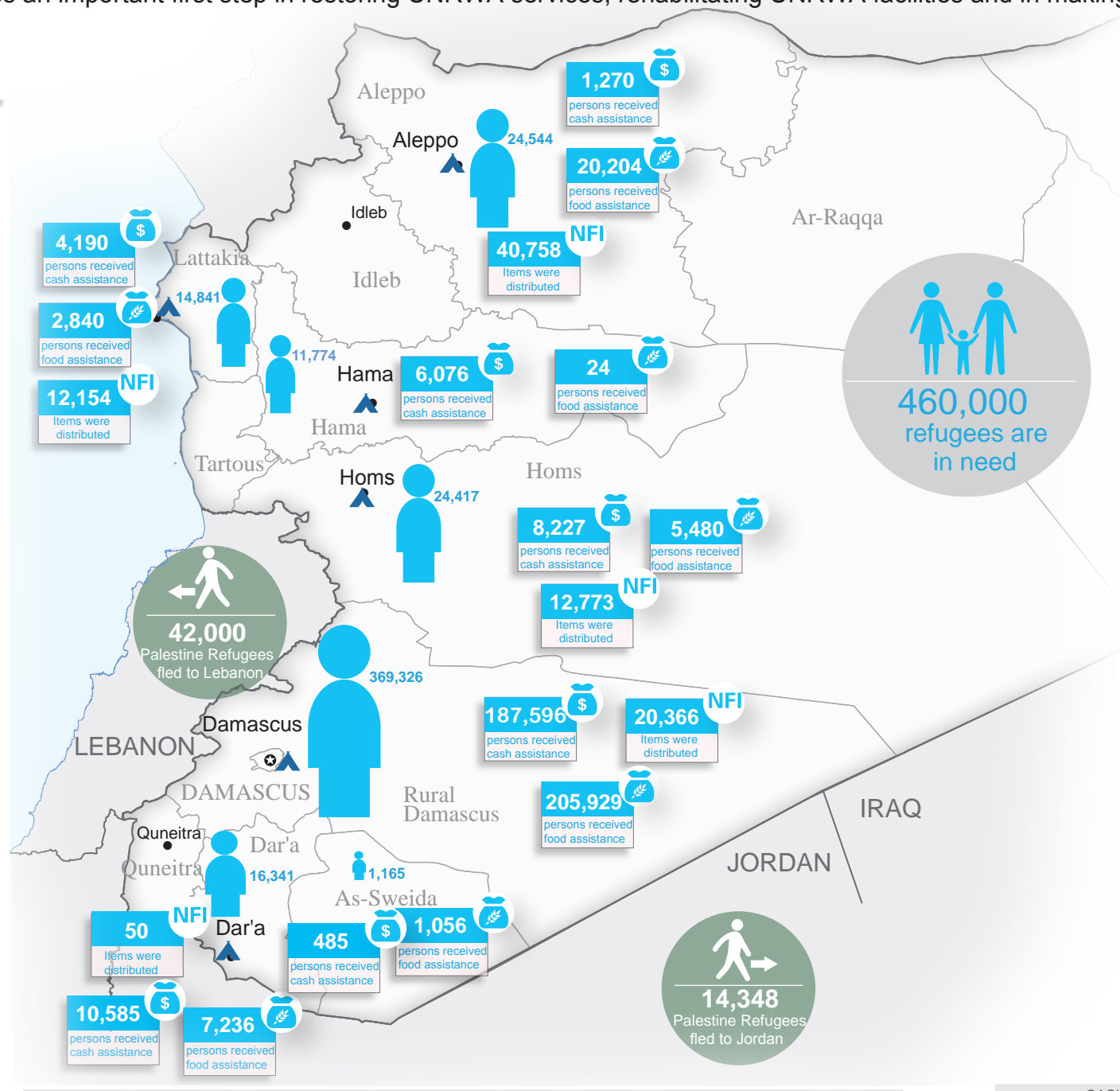
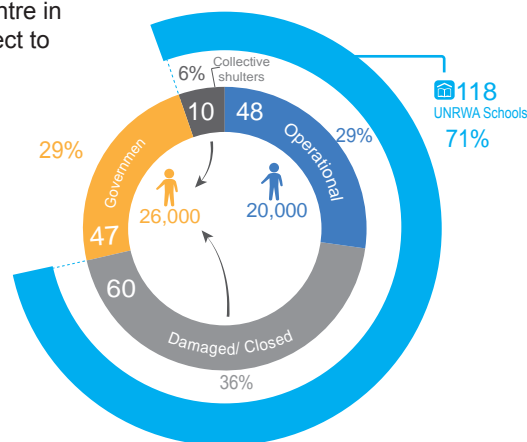
In February, UNRWA distributed **59,876** food parcels to families in distribution centers in the **Damascus** area, **Dera'a**, **Hama**, **Homs**, **Latakia**, **Aleppo** and **Sweida** (Southern Syria). The Agency targets **460,000** Palestine refugees through its food assistance programme. Food insecurity remains one of the critical humanitarian concerns for Palestine refugees in Syria, with marked increases in negative coping mechanisms, such as reduced calorie intake. Recent market surveys indicate that the price of bread has risen by **50** per cent and rice by **20** per cent since **May 2014**, while household incomes remain extremely **low** or **zero**.

NFI NON FOOD ITEM ASSISTANCE:

UNRWA distributed **4,872** blankets and **270** mattresses to collective centers in **Rif Damascus** and the Syria Field Office.

EDUCATION:

UNRWA provides primary education to over **46,000** Palestine refugee students in Syria in **48** UNRWA schools and **47** school building provided by the Ministry of Education. The Agency is currently providing **72** vocational courses, including online courses, to **1,817** students in **12** vocational training centres. UNRWA hopes to construct and open a new training centre in **Latakia** this year, subject to the security situation.



SHELTER ASSISTANCE:

UNRWA is housing **10,601** displaced Palestine refugees and Syrians (3,048 families) in **30** UNRWA and UNRWA-managed temporary collective centers in Damascus and its surrounding areas. In Aleppo, Hama and Latakia, the Agency supports **1,649** displaced persons (418 families) in UNRWA and non-UNRWA installations. In total, collective shelters across Syria are home to **143** newborn infants, **198** persons with disabilities and **1** unaccompanied child. Palestine refugees and Syrians in shelters are provided with food assistance and non-food items. As part of its **winterization** programme, the UNRWA Engineering Department raised all remaining tents in collective shelters off the ground by 15-20cm over the past month, to ensure adequate drainage in the event of further rain water and snow. UNRWA provides regular **health** and **social services** to refugees residing in collective centres and regularly conducts maintenance of washing, water supply, hygiene and sanitation systems.

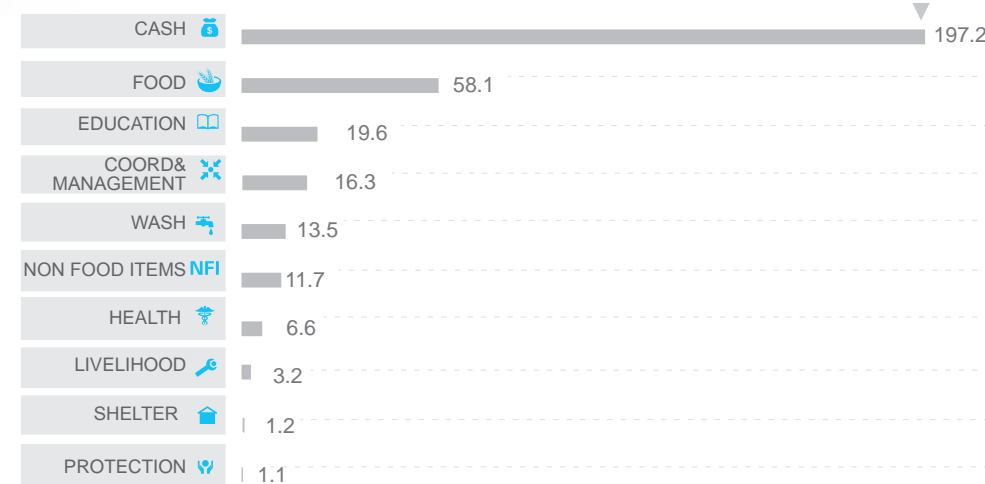
WATER SANITATION & HYGIENE

UNRWA distributed **3,620** hygiene kits to refugees in collective centers in February, 2014. Each hygiene kit contains sufficient soap, shampoo, disinfectant, washing detergent and other sanitary items for a family of four for one month. UNRWA was unable to distribute hygiene kits to refugees in **Yarmouk** for the third consecutive month. UNRWA conducts regular maintenance, garbage collection, plumbing and sanitation works in all accessible facilities, camps and gatherings. UNRWA distributed **24,581** adult and baby diaper packs to displaced refugee families, in addition to **125** baby kits during the reporting period.

HEALTH:

UNRWA provides health services to approximately **480,000** Palestine refugees throughout Syria. This month, UNRWA health staff conducted **76,527** patient consultations in **14** health centers and **10** health points. In February, UNRWA participated in a nationwide hygiene awareness campaign, distributing **50,000** leaflets generously donated by **UNICEF**. An upgraded health centre was inaugurated in the **Rukn Eddin** area in Damascus, which offers refugees comprehensive health care, including dental services and maternal health services. The temporary health point in **Yarmouk** has not operated since **December 2014** due to the intensification of violence in the area and resulting lack of access.

2015 SECTOR REQUIREMENTS (USD MILLIONS)



2015 FUND STATUS (USD MILLIONS)

328.9m
requested (US\$)