

2022



## unrwa pledging conference

Over the past 70 years, UNRWA has transformed the lives of millions of Palestine refugees, making a significant contribution to the human capital of the Middle East and nurturing peaceful development in the region, consistent with UN principles and values and the 2030 Agenda. The Agency is unique amongst UN organisations in directly providing quasi-governmental services in the areas of education, vocational training, primary health care, relief and social services, solid waste management, microfinance and protection, as well as humanitarian relief in times of emergency.

UNRWA is one of the largest UN agencies in the Middle East:

**Education:** UNRWA operates 702 schools for over 540,000 boys and girls and eight technical and vocational training colleges for almost 8,000 youth. Over 20,000 educational staff provide quality, equitable and inclusive education which promotes critical thinking, human rights and tolerance.

**Health:** 144 UNRWA health centres employ around 3,000 people and serve around two million patients per year.

**Protection:** UNRWA seeks to uphold the human rights of Palestine refugees through the mainstreaming of human rights, gender equality and disability inclusion. It uses targeted interventions that include promoting physical protection and combatting violence, ending sexual exploitation and abuse, sexual harassment, gender-based violence and violence against children.

UNRWA also mitigates protection threats through monitoring, documenting and reporting on alleged violations of International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law.

**Relief assistance:** This year, around 1.9 million refugees will receive cash and food assistance from UNRWA to address persistent poverty or reduce humanitarian suffering resulting from conflict, socio-economic crises, blockade and occupation.

**Infrastructure and Camp Improvement:** UNRWA provides solid waste management and camp improvement works for Palestine refugees in camps, who represent around one-third of the 5.8 million Palestine refugees registered with the Agency. In 2022, UNRWA will rebuild or rehabilitate more than 1,000 shelters, most of which were damaged or destroyed in conflicts in Gaza and Lebanon.

**Microfinance:** Since its establishment in 1991, the Agency's self-sustaining Microfinance Programme has awarded over 600,000 loans valued at more US\$ 640 million.

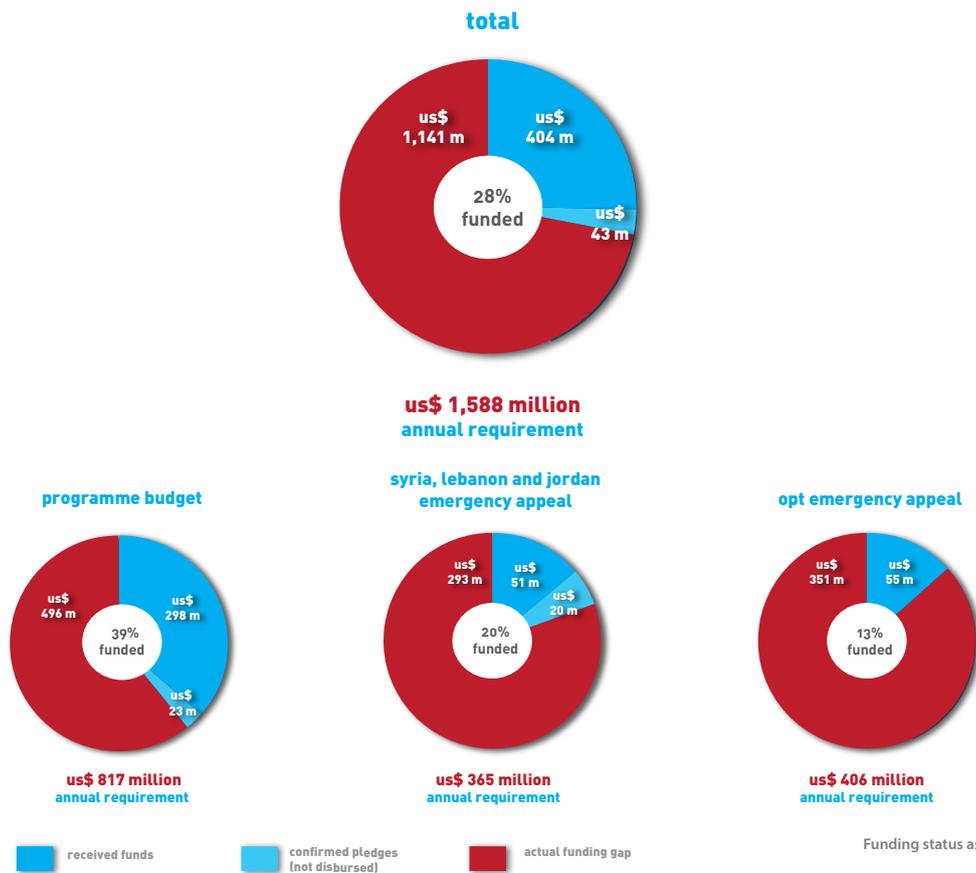
In all its operations and services, UNRWA upholds the humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, independence and neutrality, in order to protect Palestine refugees and ensure respect for their lives, rights and dignity.



united nations relief and works agency  
for palestine refugees in the near east

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# unrwa funding portals 2022



The Agency’s vital role has been repeatedly reaffirmed by the overwhelming support its mandate receives at the UN General Assembly, most recently in 2019. The effectiveness and efficiency of its pioneering programmes is also widely recognized and acknowledged. In 2019, the Multilateral Organization Performance Assessment Network described UNRWA as a “competent, resilient and resolute organization,” whilst a recent World Bank evaluation found that UNRWA students outperform their peers in public schools in West Bank, Gaza and Jordan, by a year’s worth of learning.

In recent years, the living conditions and well-being of Palestine refugees have deteriorated across UNRWA fields of operation. A near constant situation of political and socio-economic turmoil across the region has hit the most vulnerable communities hard, including Palestine refugees. At time of writing four of five UNRWA fields of operation are in crisis; recent shocks caused by COVID-19 have been compounded by the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, which has created major national, regional and global risks. Due to high dependency on food imports such as cereal and vegetable oil, the Middle East, including UNRWA fields, is highly exposed to increasing market prices of basic commodities. These compounding, cascading risks in turn foster further physical, economic and social insecurity amongst the population, including Palestine refugees.

UNRWA is required to operate at ever higher levels of capacity, whilst innovating endlessly to sustain its impact in a constantly shifting terrain. And yet the Agency’s ability to maintain the services and protection it provides to one of the most vulnerable communities in the Middle East is increasingly at risk. Persistent budget deficits have required swingeing austerity and cost control measures, which undermine the quality of services and hamper operational efficiency and reform efforts. In the absence of meaningful progress on the Palestinian-Israeli peace process, this is creating considerable anxiety and frustration across the Palestine refugee community.

In 2022, UNRWA needs US\$ 817 million for its core human development services. At present, based on confirmed pledges and funds received, the Agency has a US\$ 496 million funding gap. It is imperative that sufficient funding is received to enable the agency to maintain its services.

Any suspension at this time could have a critical impact on the stability and security of the region, undermining decades of investment in one of the most successful UN endeavours in the Middle East since the ratification of the UN Charter in 1945.

## Emergency Appeals

Additional funding is required to provide emergency assistance and protection to millions of Palestine refugees affected by humanitarian crises.

**occupied Palestinian territory (oPt):** The Agency is appealing for US\$ 406 million to address the priority humanitarian needs of Palestine refugees in Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, in 2022. As of mid-June 2022, the appeal is only 13 per cent funded.

The occupation, blockade, high levels of violence, repeated violations of human rights and the protracted impacts of COVID-19 all contribute to deteriorating living conditions across the oPt. Gaza is struggling to recover from the impact of the May 2021 hostilities. High unemployment rates, chronic electricity shortages and lack of access to clean water supplies are also impacting on the economy and disrupting people's daily lives.

In the West Bank, the situation is increasingly tense and volatile. Widespread violence has seen a steady increase in the number of fatalities and casualties in 2022, with Palestine refugees accounting for nearly half of all fatalities so far this year, amid intensifying Israeli Security Force military operations in and around refugee camps.

In 2022 UNRWA is providing food assistance to over 1.1 million Palestine refugees in Gaza, more than 50 per cent of the total population. The Agency is responsible for importing 60 per cent of all flour consumed in Gaza and its food operations are critical for maintaining price stability. In 2021 food prices increased significantly due to disruptions to the global supply chain as a consequence of COVID-19, with the price of one food round rising from US\$ 19 million to US\$ 27 million. In 2022, prices have risen further due to the Ukraine crisis and the risk of further increases is high. Based on current income projections, UNRWA still faces a gap of US\$ 72 million to maintain its Emergency Appeal food operations in Gaza in 2022, equivalent to two full rounds of food assistance. Unless additional funding is confirmed by the end of July UNRWA will not be able to distribute food in the fourth quarter of the year. An additional US\$ 17 million is needed to maintain other critical EA interventions such as cash for work, emergency health, education in emergencies and mental health and psychosocial

support. This represents the minimum needed to avoid a disruption in these interventions in 2022.

In the West Bank, the Agency urgently needs US\$ 13.7 million to cover minimum requirements to sustain its emergency operations, including emergency cash assistance, education in emergencies, environmental health, protection, shelter, health, capacity and management and security, including emergency preparedness.

**Syria, Lebanon and Jordan:** In 2022, UNRWA is appealing for US\$ 365 million for its humanitarian response in Syria, Lebanon and Jordan. As of mid-June 2022, the appeal is only 20 per cent funded.

Funds are needed to address the protracted consequences of the Syria crisis, now in its 12<sup>th</sup> year, coupled with the socio-economic deterioration in Lebanon and Syria and the impacts of COVID-19 and the Ukraine conflict. This includes through provision of emergency food and cash assistance to the most vulnerable refugees and access to basic services, including education, health, environmental health and protection, for those forced to flee the conflict in Syria. UNRWA is assisting 420,000 Palestine refugees in Syria and a further 162,301 in Lebanon, including 29,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) and some 19,000 PRS in Jordan.

In Syria, UNRWA needs US\$ 30 million to sustain minimum cash and food assistance until the end of the year; in addition, the Agency needs US\$ 10 million to conduct essential rehabilitation works on its installations in Yarmouk and Ein el Tal camps, which were severely damaged during the conflict. With some families now returning to these camps, UNRWA is striving to resume its services to support Palestine refugees with basic humanitarian assistance.

In Lebanon, US\$ 13 million is still needed to ensure the provision of emergency cash assistance to PRS and other vulnerable Palestine refugees in Lebanon, and US\$ 5 million is required in Jordan to provide quarterly emergency cash assistance to PRS.



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UNRWA is a United Nations agency established by the General Assembly in 1949 with a mandate to provide humanitarian assistance and protection to registered Palestine refugees in the Agency's area of operations, namely the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, Gaza, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria, pending a just and lasting solution to their plight. Thousands of Palestine refugees who lost both their homes and livelihood because of the 1948 conflict have remained displaced and in need of significant support for over seventy years. UNRWA helps them achieve their full potential in human development through quality services it provides in education, health care, relief and social services, protection, camp infrastructure and improvement, microfinance and emergency assistance. UNRWA is funded almost entirely by voluntary contributions.