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syria: emergency appeal mid-year achievements 2017

overview

The conflict in Syria has now entered its seventh year. All areas of the country have been impacted by the crisis, resulting in many casualties and massive internal displacement coupled with access restrictions. While several efforts have been supported by the international community to end the violence, these have not yet proved successful. In the first half of 2017, intense military clashes in Eastern Ghouta, Rif Damascus and the Dera'a region triggered further displacement of Palestine refugee families to Damascus.

Based on the results of a verification exercise conducted from August to October 2016, UNRWA estimates that 438,000 Palestine refugees remain in Syria against the 560,000 registered with the Agency. This represents a drop of 12,000 individuals from the 2015 verification exercise. Of the Palestine refugees remaining in Syria, 418,000 (95 per cent) rely on humanitarian assistance to meet their most basic needs.



23% US\$ 77.4 million
funding received

During the first half of 2017, UNRWA continued to provide humanitarian assistance and deliver basic services. Two rounds of cash and food assistance were distributed, reaching 410,157 and 359,336 Palestine refugees, respectively, as compared to three planned in the Appeal. Delays in clearing shipments of basic commodities at the port continued to slow the process of food distributions. The number of internally displaced persons in UNRWA shelters has reduced to 2,083 from 2,157 in 2016, with families leaving voluntarily to seek alternative and more sustainable housing.

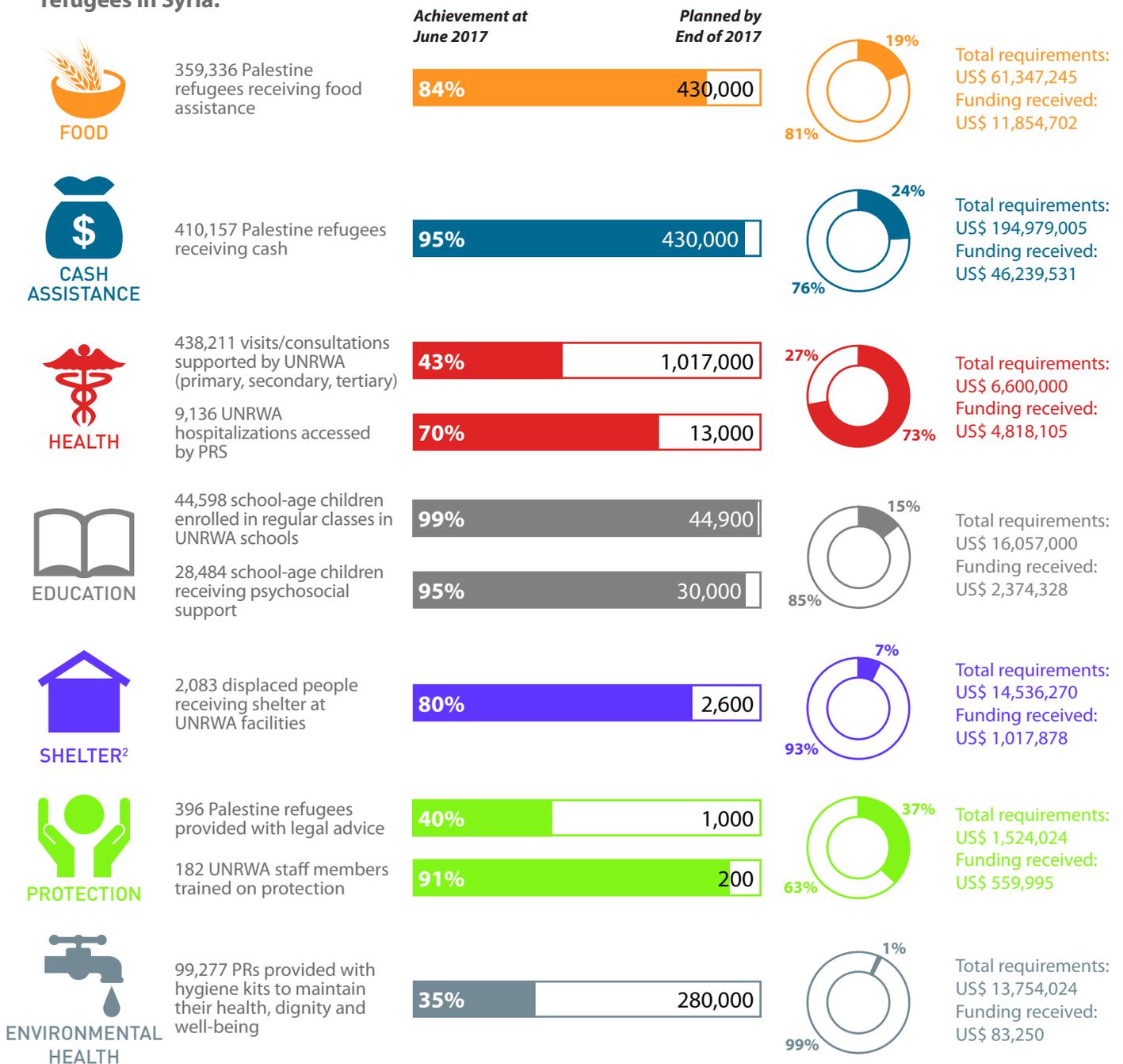
Between January and June 2017, UNRWA provided 438,211 primary health care (PHC) consultations against an annual target of 1,017,000. Services, including referrals to secondary and tertiary care, were delivered through 27 facilities (15 fully equipped health clinics, 11 health points and one mobile clinic). New restrictions imposed by the Syrian Government on the importation of medicines led to stock-outs of one item (salbutamol spray). Deliveries are scheduled for Q3 2017. UNRWA was able to deliver medicines to hard-to-reach and besieged areas such as Ramadan and Khan Eshieh. The e-Health system is now functional in six health centres and 11 more clinics will be online by the end of Q4 2017. This will enhance the management of information and decision-making.

Enrolment in UNRWA-managed schools in Syria remained relatively stable at an average attendance of 44,598 pupils (boys: 22,433; girls: 22,165). All received educational and recreational materials. There was a marked increase in the number of pupils receiving psychosocial support (PSS), from 12,750 in 2016 to 28,484 in the first quarter of 2017. This was made possible through the recruitment and training of additional PSS counsellors, bringing the total to 76 counsellors at 101 schools. Additional PSS counsellors are being recruited through project funding, with the total number to reach 101 by the end of 2017. Between January and June, 90 per cent of identified protection cases were assisted by UNRWA or referred to external service providers. In addition, 396 cases received legal assistance on civil registration issues, through external service providers, while 282 staff received training.

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MID-YEAR ACHIEVEMENTS

Despite challenging circumstances, UNRWA has continued to provide services to vulnerable Palestine refugees in Syria.¹



The information provided reflects estimates at the mid-year point and is intended to provide a snapshot of UNRWA emergency programme delivery during the first half of 2017. A full accounting of results and expenditure will be provided through standard UNRWA Emergency Appeal reporting.

¹ Funding levels reflect contributions towards the Agency's 2017 Emergency Appeal.

² This includes non-food items and repair and maintenance of UNRWA facilities.



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

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UNRWA is a United Nations agency established by the General Assembly in 1949 and mandated to provide assistance and protection to some 5 million registered Palestine refugees. Its mission is to help Palestine refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, West Bank and the Gaza Strip achieve their full human development potential, pending a just and lasting solution to their plight. UNRWA services encompass education, health care, relief and social services, camp infrastructure and improvement, protection and microfinance.