In 2018, UNRWA was confronted with an unprecedented financial crisis and faced major challenges in securing the resources needed to provide humanitarian assistance to Palestine refugees in Syria. Only 22.2%, or approximately US$ 73 million of the US$ 329 million appealed for under the 2018 UNRWA Syria Regional Crisis Emergency Appeal was funded. This is a significant decrease from 2017, when the appeal was 43% funded. In addition to emergency funding, about US$ 43.4 million was allocated under the Programme Budget in 2018, covering core programmes and activities of UNRWA in Syria. UNRWA programmes were also supported by an additional US$ 17.5 million through project funds.

Due to lack of funding in 2018, UNRWA had to reduce the frequency of rounds of humanitarian cash assistance from six to three rounds. UNRWA also had to reduce the amount of cash assistance provided to each beneficiary per round (two-month worth of assistance) to US$ 46 instead of US$ 64 as planned in the 2018 Emergency Appeal.

In 2018, UNRWA launches the 2018 Syria Emergency Appeal. A total of US$ 329 million is requested for emergency interventions in Syria. On 21 May, the Government of Syria announces full control over Dera’a and Ein el-Tal camps, previously home to more than 30% of the Palestine refugee population in Syria, are almost completely destroyed. All UNRWA installations in these camps have been severely affected. Additional funding will be needed to cover the cost of reconstruction and repairs.

UNRWA students
50K
103 schools

success rate
82%
of UNRWA 9th graders

health consultations
842K
22 medical facilities & 2 mobile clinics

Palestine refugees reached
101K
18 dental clinics & 1 mobile dental clinic

TVET graduates
2K

microfinance loans
11K

Post Distribution Monitoring

On 31 January 2018, UNRWA launches the 2018 Syria Emergency Appeal. A total of US$ 329 million is requested for emergency interventions in Syria. The month of February witnesses an increase in conflict-related violence in Eastern Ghouta, exposing up to 400,000 civilians, including an estimated 2,600 Palestine refugees, to a dire humanitarian crisis. The Agency continues to respond to the humanitarian needs in Dera’a, meanwhile intensified hostilities in the north-west affect up to 20,000 Palestine refugees, many of whom were displaced to Idlib as part of reconciliation agreements.

UNRWA accesses Yarmouk camp for assessment. Devastation is both widespread and intense. None of the 23 UNRWA premises including schools and health clinics is spared from damage and destruction.

A vulnerability assessment conducted by UNRWA in 2018, estimated that 90% of Palestine refugee households in Syria live in absolute poverty (less than US$ 2 person/day) prior to receiving UNRWA cash assistance.

600 out of 118,000 households (0.5%) were interviewed through post distribution monitoring. 96% of the respondents stated that they prefer cash over food assistance. 66% of the respondents ranked rent as their biggest expense. Other major expenses included costs for gas, electricity and transport.