438,000 Palestine refugees remain in Syria

- 52% female
- 31% children

140,000 Palestine refugees in most vulnerable category

- 91% of Palestine refugee in need of cash and in-kind food assistance
- 40% of Palestine refugees remain in protracted displacement

135 Palestine refugees returned from Lebanon and Jordan in January and February 2021

39 Palestine refugees returned from other countries in January and February 2021

Emergency Appeal Requirements in Syria for 2021

UNRWA requires US$ 191.9 million to sustain the delivery of humanitarian assistance, basic services and protection interventions to the 438,000 Palestine refugees in Syria.

As of 28 February 2021, a total of US$ 14.4 million were pledged or received from donors and partners, representing 7.5 per cent of total requirements.

UNRWA launches 2021 Syria Regional Emergency Appeal

On 11 February 2021, the Syria Regional Crisis Emergency Appeal for 2021 was officially launched, during a virtual event led by the Deputy Commissioner General, and which hosted about 150 participants from donor and partner delegations, embassies, and country representative offices. UNRWA Syria is requesting a total of US$ 191.9 million, as part of the Syria Regional Crisis Emergency Appeal. The funds will support the delivery of humanitarian assistance, protection interventions, in addition to COVID-19 response to the 438,000 Palestine refugees estimated to remain in Syria.

Hygiene kits are distributed to vulnerable Palestine refugee households

During January-February 2021, a total of 15,152 hygiene kits were distributed to vulnerable Palestine refugee households in Syria, to help them maintain proper hygiene practices and reduce the risk of exposure to and spread of COVID-19 virus. Targeted households are amongst the most vulnerable, including families with persons with disabilities, families headed by an older person (over 60 years old), or those having an older member with chronic disease. Each hygiene kit includes soap, washing powder pack, washing liquid, cleaning kit, liquid chlorine disinfectant, plastic spray bottles, reusable heavy-duty gloves, and alcohol-based hand sanitizers.

15,152 hygiene kits
- 8,077 diapers
- 14 jerrycans
- 8 baby kits

The first cash assistance round of 2021 will be launched in March, covering three months’ worth of assistance at reduced amounts due to funding limitation.

The first round of food distribution of 2021 will be launched in April. UNRWA is going for blanket distribution, given the deteriorating socioeconomic context.

COVID-19 Response and Impact on UNRWA Operations in Syria

- Since the beginning of the pandemic, 248 refugees Palestine have tested positive to COVID-19, and seven refugees have died after contracting the virus.
- 18,391 telemedicine calls were received by UNRWA health facilities in January and February, bringing the total to 69,374 calls since the service became available in April 2020.
- 220 home deliveries of medicine undertaken were in January and February for older NCD patients, bringing the total number of deliveries since March 2020 to 2,903.
- 153,001 patients had reported respiratory complaints since reporting began in March 2020.
- 109,852 Palestine refugees received food assistance as part of the second round of distribution of 2020, including 8,380 Palestine refugees in Yalda, where Palestine refugees continue to face movement restrictions.
- TVET implement a blended (online and in-person) approach to learning and 86% of students participated in the online lessons.
- Awareness sessions for TVET were delivered to students and staff about protection from COVID-19.
- UNRWA launched e-Marketing course, benefiting 15 female students.
- Hairdressing vocational training courses were provided in Hama, Latakia, Husseiniyeh, Sbeineh and Alliance reaching a total of 96 female students.
- UNRWA launched a “drawing and writing” activity in all of the 102 schools run by the Agency, to allow students to express how they can contribute to containing the risk of exposure to COVID-19.