UNRWA launches 2022 Syria Regional Emergency Appeal

On 20 January 2022, UNRWA officially launched its 2022 Emergency Appeal for Syria, Lebanon and Jordan during a virtual event hosting participants from donor and partner delegations. The protracted consequences of the Syria crisis, coupled with the socio-economic deterioration in Lebanon and Syria and the impacts of COVID-19, continue to pose grave humanitarian challenges to Palestine refugees. In order to respond to emerging needs, the 2022 Emergency Appeal will ensure the provision of humanitarian assistance for basic needs for 420,000 eligible Palestine refugees in Syria through multi-sectoral interventions including cash assistance, food and non-food items distribution, emergency health, education, technical and vocational training, environmental health services and protection, and strengthen its efforts to foster the resilience of communities providing increased dignified livelihood opportunities. UNRWA also plans to rehabilitate some of its programme installations in Yarmouk, Ein el Tal and Dera’a camps as part of the emergency appeal. Total emergency funding requirement for Syria for the year 2022 is US$ 232.3 million.

Non-food items are distributed to vulnerable Palestine refugee households

From 16 to 22 January 2022, UNRWA conducted a distribution of non-food items (NFIs) in Yalda, a suburb area adjacent to Yarmouk camp. A total of 8,277 vulnerable Palestine refugees (2,382 families) received much needed hygiene and NFI, which should help targeted families maintain proper hygiene practices and additionally reduce the risk of exposure to and spread of COVID-19 virus. The 2022 Emergency Appeal will benefit in particular vulnerable refugees, with target families selected based on acute emergency needs, including in relation to the newly displaced and those spontaneously returning to newly accessible areas.

438,000 Palestine refugees remain in Syria

52% female

31% children

420,000 of Palestine refugees in need of cash and in-kind food assistance

142,600 Palestine refugees in most vulnerable categories

82% of Palestine refugees live on less than US$ 1.90 a day, UNRWA survey May 2021

Emergency Appeal Requirements in Syria for 2022

SYRA EMERGENCY APPEAL
TOTAL FUNDING REQUIREMENTS
US$ 232,029,781

8.8%

As of 28 February 2022, UNRWA Syria Emergency Appeal is only 8.8 per cent funded. A total of US$ 20.4 million were pledged or received from donors and partners.

126 Palestine refugees returned from Lebanon and Jordan in January and February 2022

64 Palestine refugees returned from other countries in January and February 2022

190 bringing the total number of returnees since January 2022 to

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The first round of emergency cash assistance for 2022 was launched on 6 February, covering two months worth of assistance. UNRWA provided US$ 15 per person per month for the most vulnerable Palestine refugees and US$ 11 per person per month for the other vulnerable category. A total 348,451 Palestine refugees received cash assistance, 84 per cent of the total targeted number of the beneficiaries, during the reporting period.

The 2022 first round of in-kind food distribution started on 12 January. A total number of 155,108 Palestine refugees received their food assistance, 49 per cent of the total targeted beneficiaries. Each Palestine Refugee received 10 kg flour, 3 kg rice, 3 kg bulgar, 3 kg lentils, 3 kg chick peas, 0.4 kg milk, 1 kg sugar and 3 litres sunflower oil. In addition, each Palestine Refugee from the most vulnerable household received 0.48 kg sardine and a beneficiary from the remaining vulnerable category received 0.24 kg of sardine.

Consultations provided through UNRWA mobile clinics

Yalda and Yarmouk

Ein el-Tal camp

144,260 individuals received primary health consultations

88,076 female

56,184 male

2,030 Blankets

341 Mats

2,390 Kitchen Sits

19 Mattresses were distributed

2,390

11,219 diapers & napkins

2,534 jerrycans

2,400 Hygiene Kits

505 baby kits were distributed

PDM Summary findings highlights:

• UNRWA conducted a Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) survey in September 2021 to understand the experiences of Palestine refugees during cash assistance and in-kind food distributions, assess their utilization and evaluate the impact of cash and food assistance provided by the agency, with support of several donors.

• The PDM findings show that 100 per cent of respondents received the second round of emergency cash assistance covering four months of entitlements between July and September 2021. For in-kind food assistance, 89 per cent of respondents reported receiving their rations by September 2021, while 11 per cent were still to receive their food rations at the time of the survey (this was subsequently completed).

• The findings also show that the cash assistance was reported to have been received timely by 94 per cent of respondents.

• Challenges faced during distributions include dissatisfaction related to low cash amount received, long queues and difficulties for older persons and women to access assistance, due to long waiting time.

• Utilization of cash and food entitlements: beneficiaries used cash assistance to purchase food (mainly vegetables, oil and fat, cereals, sugar and pulses) and non-food items (healthcare, WASH related items, transportation, education and clothing). On food assistance, 83 per cent consumed their entire food rations, 12 per cent consumed partially and sold some of food items to buy more preferred food and 2 per cent shared with relatives and friends.

• Food consumption patterns: 37 per cent showed acceptable food consumption patterns, 44 per cent were borderline and 19 per cent showed poor food consumption patterns.

• Coping mechanisms: 26 per cent were practicing some form of livelihoods coping mechanism at the time of the assessment. The predominant coping mechanism used are reliance on cheap and less preferred foods, borrowing or relying on help from friends and reducing number of meals eaten per day.

• UNRWA team is reviewing the findings and to consider these in subsequent rounds of distribution, while working within the constraints of the available funding.