Through the launch of the 2017 Syria Regional Crisis Emergency Appeal, UNRWA requested US$ 329 million to meet the basic needs of Palestine refugees in Syria. In January, the Agency launched the first round of cash assistance for the year.

UNRWA monitored the escalating conflict in Eastern Ghouta and distributed vital food and non-food assistance to the recently displaced from Qaboun and Barzeh. The Agency also participated in the second inter-agency convoy to Khan Eshieh camp since access was resumed in December 2016.

The first round of cash assistance for 2017 began on 15 January and concluded on 16 March. A total of 410,157 individuals (118,692 families) received the equivalent of US$ 96 in Syrian Pounds, including a US$ 32 top-up for the winter season.

During the first three months of the year, UNRWA concluded the last round of food assistance for 2016 and launched the first round for 2017. The Agency also provided emergency food parcels to beneficiaries in Khan Eshieh camp through an inter-agency convoy.

In Q1, UNRWA provided 232,455 primary health consultations and 25,969 dental consultations, and vaccinated 12,003 children under the age of 5 for polio in its 26 health facilities. The Agency held agreements with 27 hospitals for subsidized health care.

The number of residents in collective shelters continued decreasing in the first quarter. In January, 2,207 people were residing in nine collective shelters, while by the end of March, only 2,137 remained. Families received daily hot meals or food parcels, in addition to non-food items and cash.

UNRWA welcomed 45,723 students in 101 schools across the country. The Agency conducted mine awareness trainings in six of its schools. In Latakia, a new project that allows children from the ages of 6 to 14 to enjoy handicraft activities focusing on children’s rights was launched.

A total of 1,743 cases were identified in January, February and March. 1,582 cases were assisted while 161 cases were referred to partners. The Agency also carried out psychosocial activities targeting 2,260 children and organized nine Open Days to raise awareness about protection issues, including children’s rights.

Provision of WASH services and safe drinking water to camps and host communities continued during the first quarter. The Agency distributed WASH assistance to Palestine refugees, including 19,493 hygiene kits, 8,920 sanitary napkins, 3,066 baby and adult diapers, and 886 baby kits.

On 30 March 2017, UNRWA participated in the second inter-agency convoy to Khan Eshieh camp since access was resumed in December 2016. A total of 1,582 cases were assisted while 161 cases were referred to partners. The Agency also carried out psychosocial activities targeting 2,260 children and organized nine Open Days to raise awareness about protection issues, including children’s rights.