On 16 March, UNRWA in Syria concluded its first round of cash assistance, which started on 15 January. The first distribution reached 410,157 individuals (118,692 families). Each person received the equivalent of US$ 96 in Syrian Pounds, including a one-time US$ 32 top-up for winter.

A total of 53,217 food parcels were distributed to 185,180 individuals (51,439 families) through the first round of food assistance. Palestine refugees received 4,454 blankets and 1,833 mattresses.

The nine collective shelters run by UNRWA in Damascus and Rif Damascus accommodated 2,137 Palestine refugees. Shelter residents received daily hot meals or food parcels, as well as non-food items and cash assistance.

The Agency continued to provide primary education to 45,723 students in 44 UNRWA schools and 57 UNRWA-managed schools in government buildings. In Latakia, UNRWA launched a new project providing children from 6 to 14 years old with handcraft activities to explore ideas about children’s rights.

UNRWA carried out psychosocial activities targeting 2,260 children in Damascus, Hama, Homs, and Latakia, including art therapy, anti-violence theatre, stress-relieving activities, and sports. The Agency also organized nine Protection Open Days tackling child protection topics like early marriage, child labour, violence at school and home, and gender-based violence (GBV).

Provision of regular garbage collection, sewage systems infrastructure rehabilitation, fuel, and safe drinking water to camps and host communities continued throughout the month. In addition, UNRWA distributed a total of 2,632 hygiene kits, 888 baby and adult diapers, 2,113 sanitary napkins, and 186 baby kits.