**Syria: UNRWA - Progress Highlights** January-June 2019

**Emergency Appeal Funding Level**

Only 10.9%, or approximately US$ 23.9 million of the US$ 221 million appealed for under the 2019 UNRWA Syria Regional Crisis Emergency Appeal, has been funded.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of Appeal</th>
<th>Funding Level</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>As of June 2016</td>
<td></td>
<td>28.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>As of June 2017</td>
<td></td>
<td>19.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>As of June 2018</td>
<td></td>
<td>5.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>As of June 2019</td>
<td></td>
<td>10.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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438K Palestinian refugees in Syria

95% in need

126K most vulnerable individuals

1,300 returnees from Lebanon & Jordan

**Returnees**

With the reduction in large-scale fighting in significant parts of the country in 2018, the likelihood of the return of Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) has increased. Indeed, while the number remains quite low, spontaneous PRS returns to Syria are on the rise. UNRWA recorded three fold increase in returns from Lebanon and Jordan during the first half of 2019 compared to the first half of 2018. Albeit, the numbers remain small with a total of 1,300 returnees as of 30 June 2019. UNRWA does not have a mandate for durable solutions and is not involved in any initiatives directly facilitating return, however, the Agency respects the wishes of those who make free and informed decisions to voluntarily return on their own, and seeks to provide them with services (based on need) upon return to their place of habitual residence in Syria.

17,228 Palestinian refugees received NFI's based on need

13,346 Palestinian refugees received hygiene kits

6 Family Support Offices provided protection assistance

1,381 Palestine refugees benefited from legal assistance

41,210 students received psycho-social support

3 humanitarian missions conducted to Yalda in January and March benefiting 8,000 individuals, displaced mainly from Yarmouk

**UNRWA Introduces Targeted Approach to Humanitarian Assistance**

In the first half of 2019, UNRWA continued to provide cash and food assistance to Palestinian refugees to help them meet their basic needs. UNRWA launched a targeted approach for the distribution of food assistance and cash assistance adopting a two-tier system. The targeted approach was developed based on a vulnerability assessment which found that those with an increased likelihood of being vulnerable are: female-headed households, families headed by a disabled person and persons with disabilities, families headed by an elderly person, and unaccompanied minors (orphans). Two rounds of cash assistance were launched in the first half of the year, with the second using the targeted approach. Under its 2019 Emergency Appeal, UNRWA had planned to provide the most vulnerable categories (about 126,000 individuals) with US$ 14 per month per person however, these amounts were reduced to US$ 14 and US$ 9 respectively, due to limited funding. During the second round of cash assistance, UNRWA also launched a pilot for the use of ATM cards as means of cash distribution. 10,000 ATM cards were issued, distributed and credited to the selected beneficiaries throughout Syria governorates. One round of food distribution was launched in the first half of 2019, targeting exclusively the most vulnerable categories of Palestine refugees in addition to certain cases based on acute need such as persons experiencing movement restrictions in Yalda. It is estimated that 135,000 individuals will be reached with food assistance.

**UNRWA in Action**

Ranya al Musa, 34, has three daughters aged between six and twelve years-old. She has raised them on her own since her husband went missing in 2012. Ranya and her family receive UNRWA cash assistance, which she says “has been and continues to be of great support to her and her daughters”.