

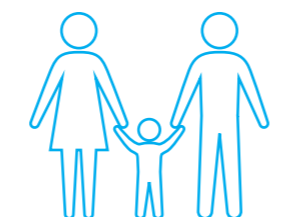
Rapid Increase in Number of Confirmed Cases of COVID-19

As the epidemiological situation across Syria has rapidly evolved over the past two months, rising patient numbers are adding pressure to the fragile health system. According to the MoH (Ministry of Health), 90 healthcare workers have tested positive for COVID-19, highlighting the exposure faced by them and underscoring the risk of the already-overstretched healthcare capacity to be further compromised. Whereas the number of officially announced COVID-19 cases in Syria remains relatively low, there has been a worrying increase over the past weeks and medical sources express very realistic fears that the extremely limited testing capacity masks the real extent of the outbreak.

UNRWA Students Achieve 90.5 per cent Pass Rate in 9th Grade National Exams

In August 2020, the results of the national 9th grade exams were announced: 3,884 UNRWA students (2,095 female and 1,789 male) had passed, achieving a 90.5 per cent success rate (94.7 per cent female and 86.1 per cent male), compared to the national average rate of 68.65 per cent. The results are a testimony to the commitment of UNRWA staff and students to succeed despite all challenges. On 13 March, UNRWA had closed its 103 schools in Syria, in line with preventive measures taken by the Ministry of Education to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. To ensure the continuity of education, Self-Learning Materials (SLMs) were circulated by the Agency through email and instant messaging platforms, and hardcopies were provided to approximately 10,000 students in areas without internet connectivity. Psychosocial support was also provided to students and teachers remotely by school counsellors over the phone and instant messaging platforms. Between 31 May and 13 June, 58 UNRWA schools across Syria re-opened to provide support classes to UNRWA 9th grade students in preparation for national exams.

438,000 Palestine refugees remain in Syria



126,000 Palestine refugees in most vulnerable category

91% of Palestine refugee households in Syria live in absolute poverty

2/3 of Palestine refugees were displaced at least once since 2011

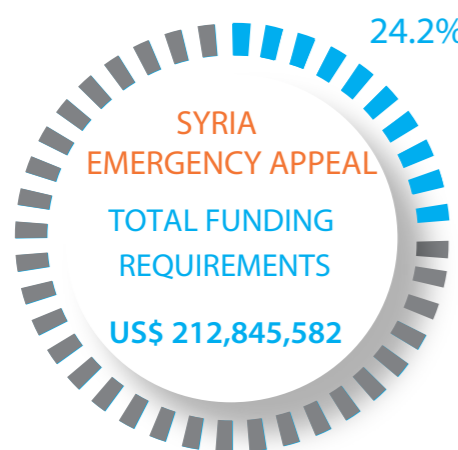
40% of Palestine refugees remain displaced in Syria

94 Palestine refugees returned from Lebanon and Jordan

9 Palestine refugees returned from other countries



Emergency Appeal Requirements in Syria for 2020



UNRWA requires US\$ 212.8 million to sustain the delivery of humanitarian assistance, basic services and protection interventions to the 438,000 Palestine refugees estimated to remain in Syria.

As of 31 August 2020, a total of US\$ 51.4 million were pledged or received from donors and partners, representing 24.2 per cent of total requirements.



The second cash round started on 21 May covering three months' worth of assistance and was completed 30 July. Discussions over the third cash round of 2020 are ongoing.



25 UNRWA health facilities are operating a triage system for people with respiratory symptoms, through a dedicated team of health staff.



453 hygiene kits for exceptional cases
79 baby kits
19 Jerrycans
552 diapers & napkins



The first round of food distribution in 2020 began on 24 March and was completed on 23 July, the second food distribution round is expected to begin in October 2020.



57,656 Primary health consultations

30,998 female
19,558 male



Sanitation services in ten accessible camps are carried out daily in addition to disinfection activities. Solid waste collection points continue to be sanitized.

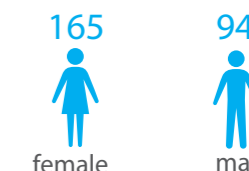


2,173 individuals benefited from **639** microfinance loans

44% female
12% youth



Family Support Offices provided legal consulting services to 259 beneficiaries.



UNRWA launched yoga session, an initiative for female staff as part of staff-care interventions.

COVID-19 Response and Impact on UNRWA Operations in Syria

- A total of 8,353 telemedicine calls were processed since March across UNRWA health facilities, to enable beneficiaries to seek support remotely and reduce overcrowding at UNRWA health facilities.
- UNRWA continued the door-to-door distribution of medicines reaching 196 vulnerable older persons with pre-existing medical conditions in August.
- As of end of August, PCR tests for UNRWA staff can be arranged at designated laboratories and 95 per cent of the costs are reimbursed.
- 414,615 Palestine refugees received cash assistance from the second round of distribution of 2020. All beneficiaries received a US\$10 top-up payment to address socioeconomic impact of COVID-19.
- UNRWA distributed personal protection equipment to 111 sanitation laborers.
- An increased number of sterilization activities are conducted as part of the preparation for the opening of schools.
- UNRWA finalized a socio-economic assessment and a study summarizing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on UNRWA services and programmes in Syria. It highlights the worrying increase of negative coping mechanisms among Palestine refugees.
- Plans for the beginning of the new school year to start tentatively on 13 September are ongoing. Class formation is conducted taking into consideration preventative and physical distancing measures at schools.
- On 25 August, TVET announced the admission of the new 2020/20201 scholastic year in Damascus and areas. COVID-19 prevention measures were put in place during the registration process.
- About 64 students of fashion design and dress-making courses in Damascus and Homs participated in the production of 4,000 reusable masks which are used by DTC students and teachers in Damascus and other areas.
- As of 26 August, the US\$ 93.4 million updated COVID-19 flash Appeal was 64 per cent funded (including confirmed pledges), with the Syria portion being 38 per cent funded (including confirmed pledges) as of 31 July.

