Rapid Increase in Number of Confirmed Cases of COVID-19
Since the beginning of the pandemic, 98 Palestine refugees (non-staff) have tested positive to COVID-19, and six refugees have died after contracting the virus. A total of 135 UNRWA staff (including 117 Palestine refugees and 18 Syrians) have tested positive to COVID-19. As of 31 December 2020, six refugees have died after contracting the virus. A total of 135 UNRWA staff (including 117 Palestine refugees and 18 Syrians) have tested positive to COVID-19. As of 31 December 2020, 23 staff were in quarantine.

Yarmouk Mission
On 9 December 2020, a one-day distribution of food and non-food items was conducted reaching up to 326 families who were recently allowed to return to Yarmouk camp, including 272 Palestinian refugee families. This assistance was part of the UNRWA emergency response to support the Palestine refugees in newly accessible areas. The activity was accompanied by the distribution of UNMAS publications to raise awareness on mine risks for these families.

Palestine Refugees in Syria
438,000 Palestine refugees remain in Syria
- 52% female
- 31% children
- 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

Palestine Refugees Returned from Other Countries
- 26 Palestine refugees returned from Lebanon and Jordan in December, 2020 (1,053 since beginning of 2020)
- 10 Palestine refugees returned from other countries in December, 2020 (330 since beginning of 2020)

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 December 2020, a total of US$ 66.2 million were pledged or received from donors and partners, representing 31.1 per cent of total requirements.

COVID-19 Response and Impact on UNRWA Operations in Syria
- 13,635 Palestine refugees received cash assistance in December, bringing the total number of beneficiaries during the third round of assistance in 2020 to 415,781 including 134,995 belonging to most vulnerable categories.
- 147,222 Palestine refugees received in-kind food assistance in December, bringing the total number of beneficiaries during the second round of assistance in 2020 to approximately 273,000.
- 57,618 Primary Health Consultations
- 189 Palestine refugees benefited from services provided by Family Support Offices.
- 2,774 individuals benefited from 816 microfinance loans
- 67 male
- 5510 Adult diapers
- 789 Baby diapers
- 655 Jerry cans
- 8 Baby Kits
- 100 Tarpaulins
- 9,683 families received cash assistance

Electronic questionnaire was developed to collect students’ feedback regarding the online / remote learning mechanism.

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

Palestine refugee adolescents sing and perform at the opening ceremony of a photo exhibition of Palestine refugees with disabilities at UNRWA Damascus Training Centre.

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Source: UNRWA