Emergency Appeal Funding Level
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 30 June 2020, a total of US$ 37.5 million were pledged or received from donors and partners, representing 17.6 per cent of total requirements.

Socioeconomic Challenges
The first half of 2020 witnessed a significant depreciation of the Syrian pound (SYP), which has dwindled to a historic low value reaching SYP 3,000 for US$ 1 in January. Consequently, prices of essential goods including food and NFIs have surged, thus further impacting a population already struggling to meet their basic needs. In particular, food prices have reached record levels, with a 231 per cent increase reported in the estimated cost of the national average reference food basket between October 2019 and June 2020.

COVID-19 Pandemic Impact on Palestine Refugees and UNRWA Response

Cash assistance
- 412K Palestine refugees reached

Cash assistance
- 49K UNRWA students

Primary health consultations
- 319K

Legal assistance
- 1.1K Palestine refugees reached

UNRWA in Action
Maryam Ibrahim, a 15-year-old UNRWA student from Ein el Tal camp in Aleppo. In April 2013, armed groups entered the camp, leading to the displacement of the entire population, including Maryam and her family. In June 2017, Maryam and her family, like other extremely vulnerable refugees, returned to Ein el Tal, despite the lack of basic infrastructure. As they cannot afford to pay rent, the family is currently housed by relatives, in a partially destroyed house. Maryam describes how she benefited from educational support despite the school closure in mid-March: “When the schools closed because of COVID-19, I was very worried that I wouldn’t be able to follow the distance learning. In our house, we don’t have electricity and my family can’t afford internet costs. I was very grateful when UNRWA brought all the needed learning material to my home and stayed in contact with me to make sure I was able to follow the classes remotely. I’m in the 9th grade now, and I would like to become an artist like my sister, who is a student at the Faculty of Fine Arts. Her beautiful drawings on the walls of our house make it a nice place, despite the damage and destruction.” Shortly after this interview, Maryam successfully passed her exam.