UNRWA conducts humanitarian missions to YBB, Ramadan and Sweida

UNRWA sustained the delivery of humanitarian assistance, including food and non-food items, to Palestine refugees during the months of March and April 2022. A total of 12,631 food baskets composed of wheat flour, rice, bulgur, oil, sugar, pulses and milk, were distributed to 3,603 families living in Khirbet al-Shayab, Yalda, Babibla and Beit Sehem (YBB) in southern Damascus, Ramadan and Sweida. In addition, 275 families living in Ramadan and Sweida received much needed adult diapers, hygiene and kitchen kits, mats, mattresses, blankets and jerry cans.

UNRWA emergency assistance is essential to ensure that Palestine refugees are able to meet their life-saving needs and cope with the crises, including the significant food inflation that the country is experiencing.

833 Blankets
269 Kitchen sets
269 Mats
702 Mattresses
270 Hygiene kits
549 Baby kits

were distributed.

388 Palestine refugees
benefited from legal consultancy services provided by six Family Support Offices

3,774 individuals benefited from
1,110 microfinance loans
41% female
11% youth

438,000 Palestine refugees are estimated to remain in Syria

52% Female
31% children
82% of Palestine refugees live on less than US$ 1.90 a day, UNRWA survey, May 2021

420,000 of Palestine refugees in need of cash and in-kind food assistance

145,000 Palestine refugees in most vulnerable categories

82% of Palestine refugees returned from Lebanon, Gaza and Jordan in March and April 2022

103 Palestine refugees returned from other countries in March and April 2022

bringing the total number of returnees since January 2022 to

439

The first round of emergency cash assistance for 2022 was launched on 6 February and completed on 17 March 2022, covering two months’ worth of assistance. A total 416,503 Palestine refugees received cash assistance.

UNRWA started the second round of emergency cash assistance, covering three months’ worth of cash assistance, on 10 April 2022. Each Palestine refugee in the most vulnerable categories received US$ 15 per month (equivalent amount in Syrian Pounds) while the remaining vulnerable category received US$ 11 per person per month.

The first round of in-kind food distribution in 2022 started on 12 January. The total number of 323,432 Palestine refugees were reached as at the end of April, covering a total 77 per cent of the targeted beneficiaries. The distribution round has had several bottlenecks, including mainly, shortages of rice, bulgur and wheat flour and inability of the locally contracted suppliers to provide the commodities. Second round of food procurement is being done internationally.

Self-help minor shelter repair pilot project completed in Deraa camp (supported by UN Habitat)

UNRWA completed the project supported by UN-HABITAT in response to the emergency needs of Palestine refugees residing in Dera’a camp, aimed at improving the quality of living and services through targeted minor repairs of shelters and the maintenance of education installations and community infrastructures.

For the first time since the beginning of crisis in Syria, UNRWA has launched a pilot minor shelter repair intervention using self-help approach, aimed at ensuring ownership of beneficiaries on the project implementation and providing increased employment opportunities for community members. The activity targeted 193 families, whose houses were damaged during the conflict and in need of minor repairs such as fixing of doors/windows, plastering, tilling, conducting electrical work, plumbing, and minor repairs to walls and structures. Out of the 193 vulnerable families selected to participate in the pilot, 63 were headed by an older person, 73 were families with persons with disabilities, 33 were female-headed households, while 24 included other vulnerable beneficiaries.

The average budget allocated per household amounted to US$2,256. Selected families were directly responsible for managing the repairs, from purchase of materials to hiring of daily workers. In order to receive the subsequent installments through bank transfer, families had to demonstrate that they completed at least 75 per cent of the previous stage and respected the allocated budget and rules, as per the contract signed with beneficiaries for this purpose. Throughout the process, UNRWA site engineers closely monitored the activities conducting quality control and providing technical support to families.

Self-help minor shelter repair conducted by a pilot project with UN Habitat in Dera’a camp. © 2022 UNRWA Photo