UNRWA released this month its latest population figures in Syria based on the 2016 verification exercise. There are 438,000 Palestine refugees remaining against the 560,000 individuals registered with UNRWA in Syria. Out of those, 418,000 individuals rely on humanitarian assistance to survive, representing 95 per cent of the total Palestinian refugee population in country. Approximately 254,000 were displaced at least once within Syria.

On 9 and 10 April, UNRWA teams organized two successful multi-Armed assessment missions to Khan Eshieh camp. The teams reported that two schools and one community development centre were completely destroyed or damaged, while two schools, one health centre and one Engaging Youth centre need further rehabilitation.

The UNRWA cash assistance programme remains the most important intervention of the Agency’s emergency response. The first round of cash assistance for 2017 ended on 16 March, while the second round will start on 2 May.

In April, 21,434 food parcels were distributed to 72,883 individuals (21,342 families) as part of the first round of food assistance. Palestine refugees also received 5,743 blankets and 3,683 mattresses. Clothes and shoes for children aged from 6 to 13 years were distributed to 2,780 special hardship case students in Damascus.

A total of 2,080 Palestine refugees (696 families) were accommodated in nine collective shelters run by UNRWA in April. Depending on the availability of central kitchens at the shelters, residents would receive daily hot meals or food parcels, as well as non-food items and cash assistance.

UNRWA medical teams provided 69,978 primary health consultations through 15 health centres and 11 health points. The Agency also refers Palestine refugee patients to 27 contracted hospitals for subsidized secondary healthcare.

A total of 44,281 students attended classes in 44 UNRWA schools and 55 UNRWA-managed schools in government buildings; two schools in Jilin in Dera’a governorate were closed in April due to clashes in the area. Meanwhile, the Agency inaugurated a new library in Beit Jala School in Husseiniyeh.

UNRWA carried out a number of protection activities on issues of early marriage, violence among children and explosive remnants of war, targeting 2,573 students. The Agency also provided protection and psychosocial support trainings to 22 new counsellors and 25 shelter volunteers.

Provision of WASH assistance and safe drinking water to camps and host communities continued throughout the month. In addition, the Agency distributed a total of 680 hygiene kits, 106 Jerry cans, 3,569 baby and adult diapers, and 1,886 sanitary napkins.