In November, the situation in Eastern Aleppo worsened and Palestinian communities in Western Aleppo and Neirab camp continued to be intermittently affected by the increasing violence. In prevision of winter and potential displacement trends, UNRWA has been prepositioning humanitarian stocks in Aleppo and Neirab camp to respond to bigger scale movements of population should it be needed.

Shelling and clashes continued to affect Khan Eshieh camp as daily accounts of direct shelling against civilians and civilian infrastructures, including homes and UNRWA installations, causing multiple deaths of Palestine refugees and Syrians. However, UNRWA remains hopeful to resume humanitarian access to the camp in the course of December following the announcement of a truce between the Government of Syria and the Armed Opposition Group.

In November, 12,010 Palestine refugees (3,069 families) in Aleppo, Damascus, Dera’a, Hama, HomS, Latakia and Swaya received the equivalent of US$ 74 in Syrian Pounds, covering two months’ of assistance. The third round of emergency cash assistance was completed on 15 November. To ensure maximum reach of beneficiaries, the cash distributions are now taking place through 45 banks and money transfer company outlets across Syria.

The fourth food assistance round in 2016 provided 79,144 food parcels to 69,149 families via 17 distribution centres in Aleppo, Damascus, Dera’a, Hama, Homs, Latakia and Rif Damascus. 10,166 blankets and 780 mattresses were also delivered. Residents of the 10 UNRWA-run collective shelters received 191 food parcels, 33,767 canned food, and 15,811 kg of dry food items as well as 512 blankets, 190 mattresses, and 21 tarpaulins.

The number of residents in collective shelters decreased further in November, with a total of 2,478 Palestine refugees (804 families) in comparison to 2,520 individuals (815 families) in October. Palestine refugees accommodated in nine UNRWA and one non-UNRWA facilities in Damascus receive food, non-food items, and WASH assistance on a regular basis.

UNRWA continues to operate 26 primary healthcare centres across Syria. In November, the Agency’s medical teams performed more than 85,898 health consultations through 15 health centres and 11 health points. Health centres provide outpatient consultations, pharmacy services, and referrals for hospitalization where required. To ensure access to subsidized secondary health care for Palestine refugees in Syria, the Agency maintains agreements with 23 hospitals across the country.

In November, UNRWA provided primary education to 46,597 grade 1 to 9 students (23,123 girls and 23,474 boys). Of the 101 schools, 46 are UNRWA schools and 55 are UNRWA-managed schools in government buildings. 95 per cent of schools continue to operate on double-shift curriculums while 3 per cent operate on triple-shifts.

Through its Environmental Health programme, UNRWA maintains regular garbage collection, rehabilitation of sewage systems infrastructure, equipment and provides spare parts and fuel to camps and host communities. The Agency also ensures the delivery of safe drinking water to areas where water access remains particularly difficult. In November, 7,271 hygiene kits were distributed to Palestine refugees in collective shelters and at distribution points across Syria. 620 packs of baby diapers, 8,610 packs of adult diapers, and 2,352 sanitary napkins were also provided to those residing in collective shelters.